

*Inspired by Jane MacMillan;
edited, at her request, by old family friend David Ward;
this volume gathers together a selection of rhymes and poems
composed by our chiefly bard over the last half century.*

AD HOC

Occasional Verses



by
George MacMillan of MacMillan

**“This book has been produced to raise funds
for the MacMillan Clan Centre at Finlaystone”**

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Clan MacMillan International Centre, Finlaystone, Langbank, PA14 6TJ, Scotland.



**Clan MacMillan
International Magazine**
Issue No. 5
Nov/Dec 2005



The Clan MacMillan International Centre at Finlaystone

Chairman: George Gordon MacMillan of MacMillan and Knap. **Trustees:** David Brown, Scotland; Peter MacMillan, England; John B. McMillan, Canada; Lamar McMillin, USA; Connall Bell, USA; Phillip McMillan, USA; Margaret Pool, New Zealand; June Danks, Australia. **Genealogist & Editor:** Graeme Mackenzie. **Centre Curator:** Pauline Simpson.

The Clan MacMillan International Magazine is published twice a year, and is sent free to all members of Clan MacMillan International, the worldwide organisation based at the Scottish home of Clan Chief George MacMillan. Subscriptions to CMI – which is open to all McMillans and sept-name bearers – help fund the work of the Clan Centre “...to collect, preserve, display and disseminate material about Clan MacMillan and its Septs for the benefit of clan members and other interested people; and to assist the chief, clan societies and individual clanspeople around the world in the promotion of the clan and its ideals” (Clan Centre Mission Statement drawn up by the Clan MacMillan Conclave in June 2000).

The annual subscription for 1st January to 31st December 2006 is UK £15 or US \$25. Cheques – in UK pounds or US dollars only please – should be made out to *Clan MacMillan International* and sent to: **Clan MacMillan International Centre, Finlaystone, Langbank, PA14 6TJ, Scotland.**

For more information about the Clan and the Centre go to: www.clanmacmillan.org

Clan MacMillan International Magazine, Issue No. 5, Nov/Dec 2005

CLAN MACMILLAN IN THE UK is in a state of flux. While the clan goes from strength to strength overseas, in this part of the world interest is more difficult to find. This has resulted in a decline in active UK membership of all three Clan MacMillan bodies in Scotland: The Clan MacMillan Society (of Scotland), the Glenurquhart Macmillan Society, and Clan MacMillan International (Centre). Fortunately Clan MacMillan International benefits from many members in other parts of the world who are keen to support the work of the Clan Centre so it's been in a position to offer some succour to the remaining members of the other UK bodies as they debate their future. Last year the Scottish Society took the initiative and approached the chief, as Chairman of the Trustees of CMI(C), to discuss the possibility of their depleted membership merging with the Centre's international members – using their remaining funds to ease the pain of transferring from the Scottish subscription of £5 to the International subscription of £15.

Various options were considered by the Trustees and suggested to the Scottish committee. Eventually it was agreed that a proportion of the Society's remaining funds be used to pay the Clan Centre £17.50 per person to cover International membership for the rest of 2005 and for 2006, leaving individual members to decide for themselves – having enjoyed the benefits of International Membership for 18 months – whether to continue as CMI(C) members paying the full subscription in 2007. The balance of the Society's funds (about £200) are to be donated to *Macmillan Cancer Relief*, thus fulfilling the charitable intentions written into the constitution of The Clan MacMillan Society from its foundation in 1892. The CMI(C) Trustees agreed on their part that the historic title of the clan's first society should be retained alongside the International body's name – as given on the new Clan Directory to be found elsewhere in this issue of the magazine.

It's hoped that the active leadership of the old Scottish Society – and of the Glenurquhart Macmillans if they decide to merge with CMI(C) in a similar way – will be able to work with the UK Trustees under the umbrella of “Clan MacMillan in the UK” to find local “Conveners” to help recruit new members and organise events in the various areas of Scotland with a historic McMillan presence. The watchword for the new clan organisation in the UK will be “flexibility”, with the intention being to allow all local groups as much autonomy as the numbers and interest of members in their area can support. The same is proposed with regard to publications, with as much space as local groups can fill – subject to cost considerations – being made available in at least one issue each year of the International Magazine.

With regard to the Magazine we would like to apologise to some of our subscribers on the west coast of North America for the inordinate amount of time that Surface Mail seems to take to get to you from the UK. It may be possible to return to the regular use of Airmail if we are fortunate enough to attract continuing sponsorship of the Magazine.

Finally we have pleasure in pointing out that the recovery of the US dollar against the UK pound in the last few months means that the dollar price of CMI(C) subscription for the year 2006 has been lowered back to \$25 (from \$30 in 2005). Please renew for next year right away!

Clan MacMillan's Community of the Tonsured Servant (CTS)

Supporting CMIC and providing educational materials & events for Clan MacMillan and Sept members around the world.

CTS GRANTS: In the year 2005, CTS has granted **\$4,907.00** to various organizations as noted below.

INVESTITURE SERVICE: SUNDAY 14 AUGUST, 2005: At the CMSNA Gathering in Ontario eight candidates were invested into CTS: Rev. Andrew K. Moore (by proxy), Neil Johnson, Dr. Susan MacMillan Kains, Deborah (Dee Dee) Terrell & Thompson (Chip) Terrell IV, Flower MacMillen & Glenn MacMillen, and Donald McMillen. Flower, Glenn and Donald joined CTS in 2002 but were unable to attend the Iona Investiture. The service took place in the rural Knox Presbyterian Church, Kintyre, built on a McMillan farm in Aldborough Township, near London ON. Jane Strauss of Northport, Maine, daughter of Laura & Peter Strauss, joined CTS during the Gathering and we presented her with her regalia at the gala banquet on 18 August. A huge thank you to our new CTS members. See investiture photos elsewhere in the magazine. A grant of \$2,000.00 was made to CMIC in May 2005.

BLOORVIEW MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL: Our offering from the Investiture Service amounted to \$507.00. It was sent to Bloorview MacMillan Children's Foundation which raises funds to support world-class medical care, research and education for kids with disabilities. It's a hospital in Toronto, Ontario which is named after Dr. Hugh A. MacMillan. He was the first assistant medical director of the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre, later renamed the Hugh MacMillan Medical Centre and now called Bloorview MacMillan Children's Centre. Our offering from the CMSNA Gathering in PEI in 2001 also went to Bloorview MacMillan Children's Foundation.

REV. CANON A. MALCOLM & SALLY MACMILLAN TRIBUTE ENDOWMENT FUND (2003): *The interest which has accrued to date on the invested endowment from this fund amounts to \$400.00. It was a decision of the CTS meeting on 14 August in London ON that this money should be granted to Mike McMillen of Minnesota, USA, who's designing CDs of Clan MacMillan information for the Branches & Societies to use in promoting Clan MacMillan. He's the founding president of the North Central States Branch and his line of work has been advertising and graphic design. This is a new venture and we're excited to be helping with it. Visit Mike's website at: www.mcmillen-design.com/pages/misc/misc4.html*

JANE (SPURGIN) MACMILLAN TRIBUTE FUND (2005): *It was Jane's inspiration to create CMIC and people have responded very generously to this CTS appeal. Thank you very much. The total for this fund now stands at approximately \$20,000.00 US (other currencies are converted to US dollars). The \$20,000.00 is made up of two categories; bequests and cheques. The bequest total is \$10,000.00US (two bequests of \$5,000.00 each). The cheques total is very close to \$10,000.00US equivalent. Our appeal sent in June 2005 stated that the Tribute would have two parts:*

- 1) “Special Projects Fund” to be used for research, genealogy, displays & promotion of Clan MacMillan. As a start, CTS has sent **\$2,000.00** to CMIC - more to follow next year. These funds will be used as approved by Chief George.
- 2) An “Endowment Fund” where the income will be used for projects supporting the mission of the clan as determined by the CTS Trustees. CTS has invested **\$5,000.00** in an Endowment Fund.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE JANE (SPURGIN) MACMILLAN TRIBUTE FUND (in approximate order money received)

Glenn & Flower MacMillen, John B. & Blanche McMillan, Ian & Loretta MacKay, Ernie G. MacMillan, Rhonda M. Kemp, Donald & Irma McMillen, Robert E. & Joyce Mullin, Emily McMullen Williams, Peter & Barbara MacMillan, Larry & Beatrice McMillan, Edythe Wade, Diane S. Mather, Mona F. MacMillan, Virginia K. West, Sharon W. Stoneman, Jean M. Bennion, Stan & Judith McMillan, Elizabeth Heath, Lillian de Giacomo, Mary MacKay MacMillan, Margery Acres, Anne Neuman, William MacMillan Jr., Hugh P. & Muriel MacMillan, Eric & Ollie Bogdon, Don & Marlene MacMillan, Duncan D. & Donna McMillan, Steven McMillan, Dr. Lamar, Carol, Ashley, David & Stephen McMillin, Fred & Judith Young, Sir John & Belinda MacMillan, Alastair & F. Macmillan, Aubrey & Hilda Bell, Robert W. McMillan, Jerry and Karen Pilkington, Clan MacMillan Pacific Branch, Dr. John & Patricia Whitehead, Betty M. MacDonald, William & Bernie Cowan, Miss M. McMillan, Sam & Louise Blue, Alex & Caitriona Macmillan, Dr. Andrew & Berta MacMillan, Alexander F. MacMillan, Eleanor Mincher, Dr. John & Rhea M. Barker, Martha M. Parker, Christy E. McMillan, John M. McMillan, James R.M. McMillan, Ralph & Rowene Conn, Wallace & Ethel MacMillan, Duncan MacMillan MBE, Caledonia Society of Arizona via Charles W. Mullen, Harry & June Nicholson, Connall & Patricia Bell, Douglas & Janet Macmillan, Albert & Anne Skinner, John & Pauline MacMillan, Laura C. Strauss, Wade & Sara McMillan, Jean Casper, Dr. Alistair & Lesley Macmillan, Andrew & Kitty Macmillan, W. B. & Anne C. Williams, William & Sheila Howard, Frank & Bonnie MacMillan, Paul & Barbara J. MacMillan, Dr. Ralph & Allison MacMillan, W. Dugal MacMillan.

To make further donations to either Tribute Fund, please make cheques payable to Clan MacMillan and send to Blanche McMillan, 5364 Salem Rd, Burlington, Ontario, L7L 3X3, Canada. E-mail: jbmcmillan@sympatico.ca; Ph: 905-637-3395

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The Clan Directory is published every Nov/Dec according to information received by the Clan Centre. Please keep us updated.

This information is also available on the Society/Branch pages of the website; see www.clanmacmillan.org/Organisation.htm



Graeme Mackenzie (pictured left at Sherbrooke Pioneer Village in Nova Scotia after the CMSNA Gathering) returned from Canada in August to plunge straight into a move to Inverness, which is about 15 miles from Drumnadrochit where his grandmother Catherine Macmillan was born. Being back in his ancestral homeland will allow Graeme to update and finally print his history of the Glenurquhart Macmillans, the publication of which may now be held back to coincide with the “The Year of Highland Culture” in 2007 when he hopes the local Macmillans may be able to host the rest of the clan in Inverness. His work on the second volume of his new history of the whole clan will continue, though it’ll be some years before the research, let alone the writing is completed. In the meantime Graeme promises a warm welcome to any M’millans who wish to come north from Finlaystone to visit “The Capital of the Highlands”. Email him via Graeme@clanmacmillan.org.

Bob McMillan (Inverness-shire, Scotland) is a keen ornithologist who lives at Elgol on the south west coast of the Isle of Skye, and he’s recently published a beautifully illustrated book called “Skye Birds”. Details can be found at www.skye-birds.com

Mark B. McMillan (Texas, USA) – pictured right with his family in London (the English one!) on his visit to the UK in June – has been busy back home searching out Scottish Gatherings and Highland Games within reach of his home city of Austin. He reports that he’s already got together with Gary and Sherrell McMillian, who also visited Scotland this year, and they’ve begun to spread the word at these Scottish events about the possibility of creating a Clan MacMillan society in Texas. Anyone there who would like to help Mark and Gary, or just get more information, can contact Mark through this email address: mmcmi@ev1.net



Hammy and Janet McMillan (Galloway, Scotland), who kindly sponsored a recent edition of the Clan MacMillan International Magazine, have continued expanding their very successful business. In addition to their four original hotels in Galloway in recent years they’ve acquired both the Hydro and the Park Hotels in Peebles (in the Scottish Borders), and Glenapp Castle in Ballantrae (South Ayrshire). This year *McMillan Hotels* were awarded “Hotel Group of the Year” at a ceremony in Edinburgh where the judges – who included the Chief Executives of *VisitScotland.com* and the *Scottish Tourism Forum* – said that “the group’s hotels are distinctive and have a charming lack of uniformity”. If you’re interested in staying with the McMillans on a visit to Scotland see www.mcmillanhotels.co.uk



A Trans-Tasman M’millan Summit (pictured left) took place in September 2005 when New Zealand Society founder Margaret Pool met with Committee Members of the Australian Society whilst on holiday in Melbourne, Australia. Our photo, kindly sent by Margaret Pool, shows – from the left – June Senior (Treasurer, Australian Soc.), June Danks (President, Aus. Soc.), Debra Vaughan (Committee Member, Aus. Soc.), Margaret Pool, and Kaye O’Reilly (Webmaster, Aus. Soc.). While Margaret was in Melbourne, the Australian Society Vice-President, Mick McMillan was in Scotland, and made at least two visits to the Clan Centre. Margaret Pool reports that the New Zealand Society will be gathering at the Waipu Highland Games in Northland on 2nd January.

The Appalachian Branch of Clan MacMillan continues to expand its presence at Highland Games in the Southeastern United States. The list for 2005 was: April: Loch Norman, NC. May: Aiken, SC; Gaitlinburg, TN. June: Glasgow, KY. July: Grandfather Mt., NC (AGM); Aug: Triad Games, NC. Sept: Charleston, SC; Tulsa, OK; Alexandria, VA; Williamsburg, VA. Oct: Red Springs, NC; Radford, VA; Stone Mountain, GA; Richmond, GA. President Robert Bell reports that this year the MacMillans once again won the “Most Outstanding Clan” award at Stone Mountain – for the third time.

Lilian De Giacomo, VT, USA, has very generously sponsored this issue of the Clan MacMillan International Magazine. Lilian is pictured right at the CMSNA Gala Dinner in London, ON, where she and Jane Strauss, ME, USA (who’s standing behind Lilian in the picture) received their CTS regalia from Abbot Blanche McMillan (on the right of picture).



Dr. George Armour Bell OBE, JP, BSc, MB, ChB, FFCS



Dr George Bell, who died in February 2005 aged 84 years was a well-known and highly regarded doctor for 33 years in Bellshill, Lanarkshire, where he was born. He was a well respected member of his local community whose door was always open to his patients to the extent he was virtually available 24 hours a day.

Dr Bell qualified in medicine at Glasgow University in 1942 and immediately volunteered for service in the Royal Air Force. He became Medical Officer for the 609 (West Riding of Yorkshire) Squadron and served with them in the UK and in NW Europe until the end of hostilities. In these days the "Doc" was as much an integral part of the Squadron as the pilots and ground crew. He published in 2001 his dramatic insight into the lives of these men in a moving and very readable book "To Live Among Heroes". In it, he records instances of drama, bravery and fear together with moments of humour and laughter. It is probably the only wartime book written by a Squadron MO.

Retiring from his medical practice in 1980, he became a member of the Lanarkshire Health Board for 10 years, chairing its Finance Committee for 7 years. In 1993 he was appointed Chairman of the newly established Monklands and Bellshill Hospitals Trust, a post he held until he retired in 1995. George Bell was Chairman of his local Community Council and of the Bellshill and District Crime Prevention Panel. He was also a Justice of the Peace, serving in a busy District Court. He was Chairman and a Vice-President of *Tenovus – Scotland*, a charity organisation involved in fundraising for medical research.

On retirement from his medical practice he became an active and valued Council Member of The Clan MacMillan Society of Scotland, of which the Bells are a Sept. George Bell was appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in recognition of his services to the community in Lanarkshire.

In 1943 he married Elizabeth, a childhood sweetheart and nurse, who died in 1997, and is survived by their two sons, Malcolm and Duncan and three grandchildren.

Sir Graham Macmillan, Bury St. Edmunds, England.

Pauline Simpson, Clan Centre Curator reports:

We've had a steady flow of visitors to the Clan Centre between the beginning of August and the end of November 2005 and the following signed the Visitors' Book: *Margo Leighton & Holly Duff, Longridge, W. Lothian, Scotland; Robert & Susan Bell, Greensboro, NC, USA; Reg & Ann McMillan, Basingstoke, England; Diane Wardlaw, San Luis, CO, USA; Robert McMillin, Virginia Beach, VA, USA; Michael & Grace Hynden, Fredericksburg, VA, USA; Bonnie McMillan & Jim Solberg, Eldorado Hills, CA, USA; Sue & Walter Thompson, Kilsyth, VIC, Australia; Bev McMillan, Daly City, CA, USA; Elizabeth Marshall, Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland; Marion Carruthers, Bearsden, Glasgow, Scotland; Christopher Hill, Washington DC, USA; Gil & Gail Evans, Lombard, IL, USA; June Danks, Kew, VIC, Australia; Elizabeth McMillan & Harry Petras, Elwood, Vic, Australia; Mary Anne & Mick McMillan, Belgrave, VIC, Australia; Theresa Vanderzand, Alto, MI, USA; Mavis & Anne Moritti, Rockford, MI, USA; Shirley Chadwick, Suranac, MI, USA; Amy McMillan, North Tamborine, QLD, Australia; Gareth & Carol Dew, Skelmorlie, Ayrshire, Scotland; Margie & Charlie Cheatham, Wilmington, NC, USA; Carole Bishop, Lansdale, PA, USA & David Pickens, Knoxville, TN, USA.*

The many donations we've had this summer – often in memory of Jane MacMillan – will be listed in the next issue of the Clan MacMillan International Magazine, along with the annual contributions of branches & societies to the Conclave Challenge. We extend in the meantime our grateful thanks to all who have helped put the Centre's finances in better shape (a summary of the accounts for 2005 will also be published, as usual, in the next issue).

Sponsorship of an issue of this magazine remains a very good one-off way of helping the Centre. Since the cost of each issue varies depending on its size and the membership numbers at the time the Trustees settled on the fixed sum of UK £500 (aprox US \$850 at the current exchange rate) per issue as the sponsorship target. Commercial sponsors will be recognised with a full page advertisement, and acknowledgment on our website, and individuals will be recognised and thanked in the magazine (unless they wish to remain anonymous). Cheques should be sent to the Centre and made out to *Clan MacMillan International*.

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Jane MacMillan – a personal appreciation



Cecilia Jane Spurgin, daughter of Captain Arthur Spurgin of the Indian Army and Frances Clare, was born in London in 1931. Her degree in Botany at Oxford was but an early step in a lifetime devoted to plants – as the gardens at Finlaystone plainly show – but her care for people too took her into further studies in Social Work at the London School of Economics before taking up a post as Almoner (a medical social worker) at St. Thomas's in London. It was whilst working at this busy hospital in the centre of the capital city that she met George MacMillan – then an “usher” (i.e. teacher) at Wellington College in Berkshire – and they were married in 1961. Two years later Jane and her first son, Arthur, accompanied George to Toronto where he'd been given a post as “Visiting Professor in Religious Studies” at Trinity College. Their sojourn in Canada gave Jane the chance to meet, and no doubt to charm instantly, many of the Mcmillan “cousins” that George had been getting to know since his father had been recognised as Clan Chief in 1952.

From 1965 George and Jane and their sons lived in Durham where George was a Lecturer in Religious Studies at Bede College, before “retiring” in 1974 to help Sir Gordon and Lady MacMillan run Finlaystone, the estate left to George by his maternal grandmother. As George and Jane gradually took over at Finlaystone they started the process of opening up the gardens and woods as a visitor attraction, and at the same time George shouldered more of the burden in the clan by travelling extensively as his father's representative to gatherings abroad, where Jane's willingness to join in everything that was happening ensured her a place in all MacMillans' hearts. It was at Jane's initiative that the Clan Centre was created at Finlaystone in 1991, and it was shortly after that when I first met her and George – having come I thought simply to deposit some Glenurquhart Macmillan genealogies in the new archives. Needless to say my first sight of the couple was as gardeners – then laying the lawn in the newly converted walled garden – and an invitation to tea ended up with my moving to Finlaystone to take charge of the Clan Centre.



Right: One of my favourite pictures of Jane – taken during her visit with George to the Grandfather Mountain Games – which we used on the cover of the November 1998 Clan Centre Newsletter.
Below: Jane and George in characteristically jovial mood during a later visit to North America.



I often ask myself how it happened – and the best answer is simply that I was swept along by Jane's overwhelming enthusiasm for the Clan Centre and what it might achieve (as well, of course, as by George's flattering charm). To live in their house and to be treated virtually as a member of their family was both moving and instructive – and indeed, when it came to seeing the workload borne by Jane, fairly awe-inspiring. Because of George's eye-disease Jane had to do most of the paperwork, as well as running a big house in which, though she had some help with cleaning, she did all the provisioning and cooking herself (catering for everything from intimate dinner-parties to huge clan functions). On top of all that she was out every day with her fork tending the herbaceous borders, organising the rangers, or repelling “bandits” (vandals from the nearby Port Glasgow housing schemes who would swarm in on a warm summer's night in search of whatever mischief they could find).

When not at work in the gardens Jane would be fulfilling her duties on the board of Erskine Hospital (an institution caring for old soldiers with which Sir Gordon MacMillan had been closely involved), raising money for *Macmillan Cancer Relief*, or helping any number of other charities. As to all that Jane did for the clan, there's probably little I can say that's not already known to our readers; after all so many of you became “Friends of the Clan Centre” – now “Members of CMI(C)” – and therefore receive this magazine because of Jane. Many of you have sent in your memories of her and there simply isn't room to print them all – but they've all been read and greatly appreciated by George and his children. The story told in this simple testament from Roy MacMillan in Vancouver, Canada, is one repeated over and over again and thus can stand for all:

My father and I were visiting Scotland, as he wished to see where his Great Grandfather had lived. In the course of the trip we decided to look into Finlaystone House as tourists, nothing special. When we were there we bumped into George who we originally thought was a grounds keeper. But he was not. He introduced us to Jane, who insisted on inviting us into their house and providing us with lunch. This was a most spectacular event for my father, and was the highlight of our trip. Jane was so gracious, that the memory will live with us the rest of our lives.

Knowing Jane was a huge privilege for me, as I know it was for so many of you – and we'll all miss her very greatly.

Graeme Mackenzie



Chief's Recollections of the North American Society Gathering



George at Fergus with other chiefs and local VIPs

For Graeme, Pauline and me, the Gathering began auspiciously: we were wafted by John B. from Toronto Airport to Fanshawe College in London. Though no one – not even the Mayor, an alumna of the College – could tell us who or what Fanshawe was, the students' accommodation bordered on luxury. Our first engagement was attendance at the Fergus Games. The weather was temperate with glimpses of the sun – almost miraculously, considering it has previously been very hot and humid, and, within the week, Fergus was to experience a tornado.

Clan MacMillan was by far the largest presence for the March Past of Clans. Being near the end of the queue, and therefore safely out of sight from the grandstand, they had ample opportunity to socialise during the interminable self-congratulatory speeches from various political figures, so, when it was time to march, they marched with noticeable spirit. As often happens, more time was spent around the tent than watching the games – and with good reason, as it turned out: we were surprised to receive a delegation from the Organisers, who told us that our tent was the best on the field. The prize was a nice whisky decanter (empty, but later filled by Duncan, and returned to its original state soon after). That the Games were a big success is proved by the fact that my grandsons (who, with their parents, had joined us for the day) were loath to leave.



George's grandson Hugo prepares to lead the clan in the parade at Fergus



The focal point of Sunday was a C.T.S. investiture in the ancient Presbyterian Church at Kintyre, to whose building many local Macmillans had contributed. The Rev. Chris McMullen preached with characteristic eloquence to a full church and eight Candidates. This large number witnesses yet again to the charisma and organisational skills of the Abbot, Blanche, with her husband and helper, John.

Left: Rev. Chris McMullen (right) is congratulated by Robert Bell as CTS have another memorable day

Regular gatherers have come to know that no bus-ride with Duncan is a mere progress from A to B. This time, however, there was a difference: while Duncan provided the commentary, complete with interesting material on the War of 1812 and the doings of Talbot, his mother, Catherine was at his elbow to keep him straight on geography.

Right: Duncan's mother Catherine shows us a photo of her wedding which also took place in the Knox Presbyterian Church at Kintyre..



Eldon House in downtown London, ON

The following day we went to the Fanshawe Pioneer Village, which was a short bus ride from the College. We'd plenty of time to stroll around in glorious sunshine taking in the picturesque churches, log cabins and schools of days gone by. I was seduced by how pretty it was quite forgetting the hard work involved in just existing through hard winters, hot summers, and putting food on the table. In the afternoon we visited Eldon House, London, a Victorian townhouse, the opulence of which was a stark contrast to the minimalist pioneer existence. Late that same afternoon we headed for the Officer's Mess at Duncan's headquarters for a BBQ around the outdoor swimming pool.

At the Wolsley Barracks I sat sedately on the edge of the pool swirling my feet around in the water to cool them off. After all no one was going to see *me* in a swimsuit – unlike Nigel Macmillan and Susan Kaines who, having brought their cozzies, took full advantage of the opportunity to swim a few lengths and to cool down. I was embarrassed however to have to confess to my husband and children that I did in fact end up in the pool later on in the evening – though I'd dived in fully clothed! Why? Well, Donna said she would jump into the pool fully clothed to raise money for the Gathering and when I went round with the hat, I was challenged to do it too! Bearing in mind my promise to participate fully, what else could I do? I must thank Colin Heath for providing me with dry trousers and tee-shirt – what a hero!



Contemplating a dip in the pool?



Above: Duncan and Donna with other members of their family at the Dinner

Scottish Country Dancing – how I *hated* it at school. Being tall, and there being a significant dearth of boys without two left feet I always had to dance as the man. Well, with my promise to Duncan firmly in mind I went along to the Country Dance workshop with Neil Johnson on Thursday morning and I was “fair jiggered” even before we'd finished warming up. It was far better fun than I was expecting however – and Neil, I did *genuinely* pull a calf muscle just before the coffee break – it was just coincidence that we had discussed feigning injury then and bailing out before the second half....ssshhh don't tell Duncan!

All too soon our week was nearly over and it was time to dress up for the Gala Dinner set in the magnificent Great Hall of the University of Western Ontario. This was where we had the opportunity to put our new found country dancing skills to the test. Duncan and Donna, and all their family and helpers did a magnificent job organising an interesting and varied programme which culminated in the actual event itself. They did this with good grace and humour and it was a privilege to be there. Thank you.

Pauline Simpson

A Curator in Canada



I was determined to go to the CMSNA Gathering in Canada after hearing of it first in 2002 at our own Great Return. The sheer luxury of participating in something that I wasn't involved in organising appealed greatly since I'd helped to put together the Clan Conclave at Finlaystone in 2000 as well as GR2002. The prospect of meeting up with friends made at both these events was another plus point; but there was a minus point too, since I was to make myself useful and give a lecture on the Clan MacMillan International Centre - a daunting prospect. The whole idea of going across the Atlantic for an unseasoned traveller like myself was very exciting and I'm extremely grateful to Duncan for making the trip possible. The flight was effortless since I had George and Graeme for company, and we were met at Toronto and delivered to Fanshawe College by John B. MacMillan (there are definitely perks to be had when travelling with the Chief - I recommend it!). The accommodation in Fanshawe college was very comfortable and I was delighted to be sharing my "suite" with Anne MacMillan from Nanaimo, BC, who I'd met in Scotland the year before. We had a lot of fun.

Left: Pauline & Anne MacMillan in Stratford

Saturday, our first day, we went to the Fergus Highland Games which was a couple of hour's bus drive away from the College and was another opportunity to get to know people (I'm not one for sitting quietly for any length of time). I'm ashamed to admit that I've only once attended a Highland Games in Scotland so I don't feel qualified to make any comparisons, although I did find it strange that a cup of coffee was almost impossible to find. However Barry McMillan, a fellow coffee addict and I did manage to track down the one and only vendor. I found the humidity very oppressive and wondered how all the athletes, pipers and dancers could give of their best in such conditions. The service on Sunday was very moving as tributes were paid to Jane MacMillan, and I'm sure I wasn't the only one with tears running down my cheeks. The Knox Presbyterian Church had a very Scottish feel, and the fellowship and hospitality of the congregation of nearby Duff Church in Largie who provided lunch was reminiscent of home too. The evening was spent doing a "recce" of the college lecture theatre back at Fanshawe to make sure I knew how the equipment worked for the following day.

Left: George with the presentation copy of the "Lament for Jane MacMillan" written and played by Robert Bell in the course of the Sunday service and CTS Investiture in Kintyre ON



The Minnesota Three- from left: Barry, Mike, Neil

Fortunately I was first up on the Monday lecture programme so I got it over with early, although I'd had a sleepless night worrying about it and had been up at the crack of dawn trying to come up with my introductory spiel. I was comforted by the fact that I'd met most of the audience and had had a great deal of support and encouragement from Duncan, Graeme and the Minnesota contingent of Mike, Barry and Neil. With the aid of slides I wanted to bring the Clan Centre to life for those who haven't been there and to explain its role in relation to the Clan Societies & Branches worldwide. That evening we had a Ceilidh, and having promised Duncan that I would participate fully in events I volunteered to read the two poems by Hugh MacMillan which were featured in the CMIC Magazine. Hugh was a classmate of mine at Dumfries Academy, where he is now Head of the History Department. The strangeness of being in an area with so many British names became quite surreal on Tuesday when we went to the Festival Theatre in Stratford to see a very slick, funny production of "Hello Dolly" which I enjoyed enormously.



John B. MacMillan and Elgin County family historian Don Pederson at the McMillan farm visited after lunch at the church in nearby Largie

I almost forgot to mention the barbecue in the luxurious surroundings of the Royal Canadian Regiment's Officers' Mess. The barbecue could easily have stood on its own; but it will probably be remembered for a spectacular sponsored plunge, fully clad, in the swimming pool by Donna and Pauline. To my relief, dry clothes appeared from nowhere. This gathering, like many others, was an excellent blend of leisure and activity, giving plenty of food for thought and the time to savour it. I'm sure the organisers, Duncan, Donna, and, to some extent, their son Neil, will have noticed some minor hiccups; but they were not apparent to their guests. In spite of a severe shortage of sleep, they maintained an amazingly cheerful front. For all their huge efforts they deserve our great gratitude. Duncan will hand over the Presidential office in December to Connall Bell, who also deserves our thanks for taking it on.

The rest of our week was an excellent mix of social, cultural and intellectual stimuli. We had four interesting lectures - Pauline on the Clan Centre, Graeme on early Clan history, and two from Canadian lecturers - all of excellent quality. We travelled to Stratford for a first-rate revival of 'Hello Dolly'. We got a good idea of life in earlier times by visiting a magnificent early town house and an open-air museum village. We enjoyed a ceilidh which, though it was sustained by a professional group, also allowed plenty of scope for amateurs. We rounded off the week with a banquet in what had once been the Students' Cafeteria for the University of Western Ontario - a most impressive building. By way of an appetiser, we were treated to some excellent piping by the local Shriners' band - in Ancient Macmillan tartan.



George enjoying the pioneer village with - from left - Ann Neuman (ON, CAN), Margaret McMillan (MA, USA) and Jane Strauss (ME, USA)



Left: Donna McMillan exhibits the vase that George presented to her and Duncan with thanks for organising the gathering - watched by sons Neil & Steven (below). Right: Connall Bell, (CA, USA), the next President of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America



CANADA 2005 IN PICTURES



Left: The clan waiting to parade at the Fergus Highland Games with Hugo's mother Barbara – centre in hat – and Scottish Soc. President Gordon Macmillan with the chief's standard. Right: Duncan and George receive the prize for the best clan tent at the games.



Left: The Clan's "Hospitality Room" at Fanshawe College
Right: The Pool at Wolsley Barrack's Officers' Mess
Below: Glenn & Flower MacMillan enjoy their wedding anniversary in the Officer's Mess



Below: Dancing after dinner

Above: Robert & Sue Bell
Below: Jerry Stubbings & Susan Drinkwater



Above: Knox Presbyterian Church at Kintyre, scene of the Sunday Service and the CTS Investiture



Above: Companions of the Tonsured Servant invested at the Knox Church – from left: Donald McMillen (MI, USA), Glenn & Flower MacMillan (NY, USA), Dee Dee & Chip Terrell (GA, USA), Susan Kains (SD, USA), Neil Johnson (MN, USA), with Andrew MacMillan as proxy for Rev. Moore



Above: Duff Presbyterian Church at Largie.
Below Left: The nearby C. M. McMillan Farm



Above: Robert Bell piping in the Chief



Above: Neil Johnson and Kitty MacMillan at the Gala Dinner



Above: Pauline with Sybil Barbour



Above: Hugh P. MacMillan with Anne MacMillan & Virginia Handley
Below: Chris Wittenburg & Mike Drottar



Above: Nigel & Gordon Macmillan
Below: Chris & Valda McMullen with their sons Ian & Daniel

Above: Dugal MacMillan, CMSNA Bursar, & 91 year old Robert McMillan
Below: The bus back to Fanshawe



Above: Pauline enjoys the rural charms of Elgin County, Ontario. Her ancestors came from Elgin County – now Morayshire –back in Scotland.



Above: Signs of true English eccentricity in Stratford-upon-Avon, Middlesex County, ON. Right: Mike McMillen makes a point to Chief George whilst visiting the Fanshawe Pioneer Village outside London, ON. Left: The clan at the Village.

