



# Clan Donnachaidh News

ROCKY MOUNTAIN Branch

APRIL 2006

## FRAE THE PRESIDENT

By Becky Robertson

Its springtime and about time! We need fair travel weather to get us out of our homes and attending clan events. And what a line-up of events! The council was very productive at our last meeting, March 3rd, and set a schedule of activities that will take us through November. So get out your calendars and mark these dates.

We have gaps in our schedule that will accommodate a northern and southern get together that I am interested in arranging. We're considering Cheyenne/Ft. Collins and Colorado Springs to bring together the members in these areas. Give me a call if you are interested in arranging or hosting an event. It can be a backyard BBQ, picnic at a park or a meal at a local restaurant. I am will to help in the planning. While the weather holds out, these two events can be arranged for late spring, summer, or early autumn to include most of the "centrally" located clan members.

As many of you know, our dear Jennifer Duncan passed away from lung cancer just before the Burns Dinner. She was an active member of the clan for several years, clan treasurer, and entertained us with her wonderful fiddle playing at many of our events. She will be greatly missed. Much of the memorial service for Jennifer was planned by Jennifer with the love and joy she created though out her life. Her memorial service was well attended by family, friends and included nine of our clan members. Much love to Jennifer who loved our clan deeply! (January 22, 1961--January 13, 2006).

That's it for now. I am hoping you will attend the events, get involved and give me a call if you have questions or suggestions.

Becky Robertson  
President

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## 2006 2007 MEMBERSHIP FEES CHANGE

I wanted to let everyone know who couldn't attend the AGM in October that membership dues were discussed in length by those who could attend.

It was pointed out that our dues had not been increased to keep up with the additional costs incurred annually by the clan.

Currently, roughly \$20.00 of the \$30.00 collected for dues is sent to Scotland for the member's international membership. This leaves just \$10.00 to help support our local clan functions/activities.

It was proposed, voted upon and accepted, that we would increase the cost of dues for the 2006-2007 year to the following:

Renewing members:	
(dues received <b>by</b> 10/31/06)	\$40.00
(dues received <b>after</b> 11/1/06)	\$45.00
New Members	\$45.00

Mindy Bolen  
Treasurer



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 3rd's** council meeting was an eventful and busy meeting, and lots of planning took place! Please read ahead for the schedule of many of the events taking place this year! The council worked hard to plan something for everyone, and nearly everywhere! Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

**April 8th** – Colorado Tartan Day celebration, see the letter from Larry Augsbury for more details

**May 7th** – Dinner and social at Country Buffet, 3:00 pm  
7475 Park Meadows Drive (303) 799-0455

Council meeting will start at 2:00, and then the feasting begins at 3:00. All are welcome!

**June** – We would like nothing more than to have gatherings close for everyone, so we are looking for suggestions for both our northern cousins, and southern cousins, what would you like to do in your neck of the woods?? If you are interested in hosting an event, or know of any great events happening in your back yards, let us know, so we can gather in your area, and save you the commute!

**June 24th** – Knights Templar C&I, St Andrews Church, Sheridan and Dartmouth

Dave Robertson would like to invite all clan members and their friends to attend the 2006 C&I. More details will follow, please call him at 720-290-6267 if you would like details before the next newsletter.

**July 8th & 9th** – Irish Fest – Clement Park, Littleton  
Similar to the Highland games, come see the many Irish folks doing what they love, having fun! Great music, food and drinks, with lots to see...

**July 23rd** – Ice Cream Social at Dave and Amanda Robertson's 172 Pegasus Dr (303) 790-9456, or (720) 291-6267  
Another Council meeting at 12:00 and then Ice Cream, good food and good friends start arriving at 1:30. Come share your favorite potluck side dishes, and plan to have a great time! We will have lots of back yard space, and if it's too hot, central air!! The kids have a great time, and the grown up's do too!

**August 5th & 6th** – Highlands Ranch Highland Games  
Come join many other clans in the area for a day of great food and fun, lots of booths to shop at, and tons of people to talk to and spend time with. There will also be opportunities for everyone to work the booth, and tell everyone who comes by what a great time we all have together!

**September 7th – 10th** – Estes Park Highland Games

Many of you know how this one works, but for anyone who has not had the pleasure of experiencing the Estes Park games, you gotta see it, the big mama of them all... Clans, pipes, men in Kilts, food, drink, it's got it all, and in the scenic town of Estes Park, it is worth the drive every year! Make hotel reservations fast, and if you have any questions, call one of us, we can go on for days about what a good time we have, and where the best place to stay is.

**October 15<sup>th</sup>** – Annual General Meeting  
Details to follow

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Yule Party**  
Details to follow

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

May 7<sup>th</sup> – Country Buffet, 2:00

July 23<sup>rd</sup> – Ice Cream social, 12:00

September 15<sup>th</sup> – Mindy Bolen's home

November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mindy Bolen's home



## THE SALTIRE AS THE SYMBOL OF SCOTLAND:

I found this while reading a history of Scotland and thought it was interesting. The Scottish flag, according to Walter Bower's history of Scotland, came from a Pictish warrior king named Unust (729-761).



He was on the losing end of a battle against the Northumbrians, when St Andrew appeared to him in a dream and promised him victory.

This, along with another supernatural omen, that of a large cloud against the blue sky in the shape of a saltire (diagonal cross, the crux decussate, on which Andrew was said to have been crucified); turned the tide of the battle in favor of the Picts.

Bower puts forth that the adoption of St Andrew as the patron saint of Scotland and the blue and white saltire banner as the symbol of Scotland's nationhood comes from this historical battle.

Mindy Bolen

## ROBERT BURNS NIGHT JANUARY 21 2006

Wow! For those who were unable to attend this year's annual celebration of Robert Burns birthday, you missed a great time! We met at the Radisson-North again this year and started the evening by socializing with old friends and welcoming new friends. The haggis, (made especially for us by the chef at the Radisson), was piped in with all proper fanfare as befits a good haggis by guest piper John Bergquist. Donald Robertson recited Burns' "Address to the Haggis" in both old and modern English and then gave us the "Selkirk Grace" to start us off for dinner.

Rather than having one entrée, the Radisson prepared a buffet for us with three main selections, which was well received by all. Dennis Smith found that one of the desserts was especially tasty once a "wee dram" was sprinkled over the top. (OK, everything is better with a wee dram added!) During dinner, clan members recited many a Burns verse, which kept us laughing and toasting. Great job Rich and Alice for the selection!

After dinner, Bob Robertson toasted the troops/president and Sue Rubalcave toasted the Queen, both doing a fabulous job. Each year we choose to honor the troops, president and Queen as a sign of respect for the often difficult decisions each must make, regardless of our personal feelings towards the group or person.

As a new addition to the evening, we added both a raffle of hand-crafted items made by our own clan members and a silent auction for a basket of select Celtic items donated by the clan officers and council members. Everyone was excited by both the raffle and silent auction, as the ticket sales and bids on the basket climbed beyond all expectations. For those who don't know, Jeanne Fiske-Swanson, who beat out David Robertson in the last seconds of the auction, placed the basket's winning bid. Way to go Jeanne! All the clan officers and council members wanted to express their deep appreciation to all who so generously participated in the raffles and silent auction. I've said it before, and will continue to say that we have one of the best clans with the most generous and loving members around.

Our entertainment this year was a trio of Celtic musicians who played selections until the end of the

evening. For those who still had the energy, we adjourned to the Jester's Pub and continued the evening until the proprietor threw us out around 1:00-1:30 am.

I personally wanted to take a moment and thank Kathleen Cahoon for her excellent work (again) in organizing the entire affair. We hope everyone who was able to attend enjoyed themselves and hope to see you and your family again next year!

Mindy Bolen



## SOMETHING NEW THIS WAY COMES□

For those of you who weren't able to attend the Burn's dinner, you missed the unveiling of a new promotional item for the clan: A 16 oz "pub style" glass etched on opposing sides with the clan crest and name. Thanks to Nancy Bigley's efforts with the vendor, the clan is able to offer these glasses to you for just \$5.00 each. If you'd like to purchase one or more of these glasses, please contact Mindy Bolen at [info@rockymountainscots.com](mailto:info@rockymountainscots.com) to get a total including shipping charges. Please include the complete "ship to" address to calculate the correct amount for you.

Many of you may also have noticed that the clan has begun holding drawings for assorted Scottish themed items at all of our clan functions to help supplement our coffers. Previously offered items include, assorted Scottish books, a year's worth of Whiskey Magazine, handcrafted etched Celtic theme candleholders by Nancy Bigley, handcrafted Celtic tea towels by Charlene Sullivan, 15 yr old Glen Fiddich by Ray and Robin Ward, a handcrafted, framed, cross-stitch Scottish thistle by Shelly Smith, just to mention a few... The clan officers and council members have donated the items so far to date. If you have some unique Scottish themed item that you'd like to donate to be offered up in a drawing to your fellow clan members, please contact one of the clan officers or council members. We will try and have a minimum of two items per clan function. What a way to share our combined love of our Scottish heritage!

Mindy Bolen

## NEWS FROM NANCY MACBRIDE

Congratulations to Nancy and Roger MacBride for becoming grandparents for the sixth time. Nancy and Roger's daughter Maria and her husband Matthew have a new baby named Lauren Renee Falk.



She was born February 9, 2006 at 6:09 p.m. and came into the world at 7 lbs. 5 oz and 19 1/2" long. Lauren has blue eyes and peach fuzz on her head.



## CLACH NA BRATAICH "Stone of Good Luck"

By Rich Matthews

From Donald's lesson on Clan History we have this information:

Donnacha Reaver in Gaelic means Stout or Fat Duncan. He was chief of the Robertsons in the early 1300's. Because Robert the Bruce became King of Scotland at this approximate time, he was chased by the English in Clan country around Loch Rannoch. After the Bruce moved to the west coast of Scotland he went into a cave hiding near the seashore. While in the cave he noticed a spider trying to build a web. The spider had a difficult time constructing the new web and Bruce observed him trying time and time again before finally completing the web. It gave Robert the courage to try again to conquer Scotland from the English. Eventually he fought for the freedom of Scotland in 1314 at Bannockburn against Edward II who was not near being the hammer of the Scots as Edward I had been. He came into Scotland across the English northern border and destroyed castles and churches at will, laying waste to towns as well. It was a horrible time for Scotland. Our Clan traveled from Loch Lomond and Mt. Shiehallion with fighting men and their women as well. It was a long trip to Bannockburn on the night that they camped, they stuck the Clan's flagpole into the earth.

When they removed it the following morning they found that the staff had pierced a jewel like stone that had affixed itself to the staff. This was a very good signal to the Clan and became known as Clach na Brataich or Stone of Good Luck.

From an article sent to me by Angie Earle "The Clach na Brataich – the Stone of the Standard" we find that such stones were around for a long time in many cultures. The Clach na Brataich's main function was healing. Water in which the stone was placed had curative properties for both man and beast. It could also be used to foretell the future. Before I received this information from Angie, my favorite "rock hound" Bob at Earth Love Gallery had told me exactly the same thing concerning the stone. According to Bob many cultures have used smokey quartz as a healing stone. I purchased a smokey quartz from Bob, it just felt right to do so. The stone that I bought from Bob is 2 ¼ inches in diameter. Bob Robertson has seen the Clach na Brataich in the Clan Museum, according to Bob, the stone that I purchased is about the right size but the stone in the museum has a lot of cracks in it. Who knows where it has been and what it has gone through!

The following is from "The Curious Lore of Precious Stones" by George Frederick Kunz (Dover Publications):

The scepter of the Scottish regalia is surmounted by a crystal globe, two inches and a quarter in diameter,



and the mace by a large crystal beryl. In former times these stones were regarded

as amulets and their use was traced back to the Druids. Sir Walter Scott tells us that in his time they were still known among the Scottish Highlanders as "Stones of Power"

Alice has started work on a "cage" to put the stone that I purchased in so that we can affix it on the top of our standard.

## COLORADO TARTAN DAY – APRIL 8TH

The Colorado Tartan Day Council would like to inform you all about the Colorado Tartan Day festivities planned for the Denver area on April 8, 2006 at Hyland Hills at 9650 North Sheridan Blvd in Westminster. Please see the attached and recently updated PDF file flyer for a summary. Also please see attached an MS Word file flyer about the kilted golf tournament. Please forward this message on to your members and friends, and make hard copies of the flyers to distribute if you would like to help us spread the word. There's lots to do throughout the day, all at the same location! Just park and enjoy the fun. No bus ride, really! And parking is free too!

There's fun for the entire family, with much of it free. There is no admission price for the day either, and there are discounted prices for putt putt, go carts, dragsters and a whole lot more, with an economical banquet planned and a Ceilidh, so bring out the entire family for a fun filled day and celebrate your Scottish and celtic heritage!

Please go to our easy to navigate one page web site for more details at [www.coloradotartanday.com](http://www.coloradotartanday.com). While there you can conveniently pay online with your credit card through PayPal, its fast, easy and secure! The golf tournament and highland tea require advanced payment, but if you prefer to pay by mail, please send your checks made out to CTDC to:

4575 West 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Westminster, CO 80031

You can also prepay online for the Banquet and Ceilidh together or separate, for adults and children on the web site too, or of course by mail as well if you prefer. We've made it easy for you. You will receive a confirmation number for all online tickets via email. Or we will have your ticket payment information at all the events, so you don't need to hassle with buying tickets or remembering confirmation numbers. Life's too short and busy, so pay online and we'll keep track of the details for you. It's really that simple!

If you have any further questions, or you have trouble opening either file or trouble with the web site, just send me an email at [Lapa333@comcast.net](mailto:Lapa333@comcast.net) or call me at 303.460.8736 and I'll be happy to serve

your needs!

See you at Hyland Hills for the Colorado Tartan Day celebration!

Larry Augsbury  
Colorado Tartan Day Council, Treasurer



## A SCOTTISH CHUCKLE

In honor of Robbie Burns....

Tony Blair is visiting an Edinburgh hospital. He enters a ward full of patients with no obvious sign of injury or illness. He greets the first patient and the patient replies,

"Fair fa' your honest sonsie face,  
Great chieftain o' the puddin' race,  
Aboon them a' you take your place,  
As lang's my airm."

Tony is confused, so he just grins and moves on to the next patient and greets him. The patient responds,

"Some hae meat and canna eat,  
And some wad eat that waant it,  
But we hae meat and we can eat,  
So let the Lord be thankit."

Even more confused, but trying not to show it, Tony moves on to the next patient who immediately begins to chant,

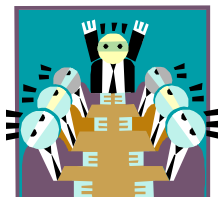
"Wee sleekit, cowerin, tимерous beasty,  
Thou needna start awa sae hastie,  
Wi' bickering brattle."

Now alarmed, Tony turns to the accompanying doctor and asks, "What kind of facility is this? Is it a mental ward?"

"No" replies the doctor, "This is a serious Burns unit."

# CLAN BOARD 2006

**President:** Becky Robertson



**Vice President:** Richard Mathews

**Treasurer:** Mindy Bolen

**Secretary:** Amanda Robertson

**Newsletter:** Dennis Smith

Nancy Bigley

Kathleen Cahoon

Nancy MacBride

David Robertson

Maureen Silva

Charlene Sullivan

Ray and Robin Ward

## PAST PRESIDENTS

Mark Donnachaidh,  
Curtis Roberts,  
Bob Robertson,  
Charlene Sullivan

## TREASURER'S REPORT Q1 2006

It's that time again to let you know what's in the clan coffers and what expenses we see in the future.

Paid Clan Members: 41  
Current Account Total: \$1,690.37

### EXPECTED 2006 EXPENDITURES:

Burns Dinner (room etc) \$550.00  
(Room \$300.00, Entertainment \$125.00, Centerpieces \$75.00)

Clan Annual Advertisement \$130.00

Summer Potluck Activity (entrée) \$50-\$75

Highlands Ranch Clan Booth \$150.00

Estes Park Clan Booth \$250.00

Newsletter (annual expenses) \$150.00

(we could really use paper/stamps!)

AGM Entrée \$150.00

Extra Mailings \$ 30.00


(cards/reminders)

Raffle items \$???.??

(all have been previously donated by council members. )

Total expected expenses: \$1,285.00  
(approximately)

We continue to monetary members and the raffles promotional supplement functions



rely heavily on donations from our from proceeds of and sales of items to the activities and each year... Yes, I'm begging again! We need your support to continue to meet expenses and fund our. If you have an item to donate for the raffle, paper or stamps, or just good old cash, please contact either myself or one of the other officers or council members and let us know. We'll be happy to pick it up!

Mindy Bolen, Treasurer

## NEW CLAN WEBSITE

<http://www.rockymountain Scots.com>

We have been in the process of developing a new website for our Clan. We are trying to keep it updated with all the current events and happenings for our area. Please take a look and let us know what you would like to see. We will be adding our promotional items for sale on the website in the near future. The newsletters are also available for download.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact:

Dennis Smith  
[dennis@rdsmith.us](mailto:dennis@rdsmith.us)



## SITES OF INTEREST:

### COLORADO TARTAN DAY

Scottish Tartan Day for Colorado

<http://www.coloradotartanday.com/>

### THE SCOTTISH LION

An online catalog of fine Scottish, Irish, English and Welsh products

<http://www.scottishlion.com>

### TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH RECIPES

Here is a collection of traditional recipes from Scotland

[http://www.rampantscotland.com/recipes/blrecipe\\_in dex.htm](http://www.rampantscotland.com/recipes/blrecipe_in dex.htm)

### SCOTLANDS PEOPLE

One of the largest online sources of original genealogical information.

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

## TRIP TO SCOTLAND

By Ray Ward

Selecting just one thing to write about from our week long trip to Scotland has proved to be more difficult than learning to drive on the wrong side of the road. Rather than bore everyone with a travel diary of our trip, I thought I would share one of the colorful, interesting, and historical stories we learned during our stay in Edinburgh.

In the shadows of Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile is the Grassmarket area, a place made famous as the traditional place of public execution in the 1700's. It was in the Grassmarket gallows that Deacon Brodie, the inspiration for Stevenson's "*Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*" novel, met his fate. It was also in this place that a woman named Maggie Dickson was made famous. Never heard of her? Well, I'll attempt to fix that.

Maggie (Margaret) Dickson was hanged in the Grassmarket in 1728. The heinous crime she was found guilty of was concealing the death of her illegitimate baby. She was hanged, pronounced dead, and her body carted away for burial. As the cart passed over the cobbles of the city streets, her attendants heard noises from the coffin. They quickly opened the coffin to examine Maggie and found her very much alive! The official view was that it is simply impossible to hang someone who was already pronounced dead. Therefore, Maggie was set free and was tagged with the nickname "Half-Hangit Maggie". The neat part of the story is that "Half-Hangit Maggie" went on to live 30 more years, died of old age, and successfully bore many more children.

There is a pub in the Grassmarket that bears her name just across the street from the Apex Hotel where Robin and I stayed. This is just one of the many interesting stories we learned while on one of the several walking tours we took of the city during our stay. (I should point out that on two of these tours Robin was accused, tried and found guilty of being a witch...this is something I have been saying for years!)

Ray.....

# DONNACHAIDH INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

5 FEBRUARY 2006

## 2006 AGM in Pitlochry

The large turnout of overseas members at last year's AGM in Pitlochry was heavily influenced by bus tours to places of historical interest. With that in mind, this year's tentative schedule includes tours to Ardblair Castle, Glamis Castle, Sterling Castle and the Culloden Battlefield.

The schedule of events is:

### Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October

A bus will leave from Fisher's Hotel at 9:00 a.m. for Glamis Castle, with a stop at Ardblair Castle for a private viewing of the most extensive collection of Bonnie Prince Charlie's memorabilia in Scotland.

A second bus will leave at the same time for Sterling Castle.

### Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> October

A bus will leave at 9:00 a.m. for Culloden, where a private guided tour of the battlefield has been scheduled for Clan Donnachaidh.

### Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> October

At 2:00 p.m. all those interested in the Clan Donnachaidh Y-DNA Surname Project are invited to a meeting at the Westland Inn, Pitlochry.

### Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> October

Annual General Meeting at Killicrankie

### Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> October

Church service at Struan Kirk

Additional events will be posted on [www.donnachaidhinternational.com](http://www.donnachaidhinternational.com) as they are confirmed.

Those planning to be with us in Pitlochry this year are urged to make flight arrangements sooner rather than later. Shortages of aviation fuel are causing a shrinkage of the number of flights into the UK, and thus the number of seats available.

It's anticipated that a reduced-rate package will again be available at Fisher's Hotel in Pitlochry for Clan Donnachaidh. The package will include dinner, bed and breakfast. I'll confirm the rate this year when Cheryl and I are in Scotland for the April Council meeting.

## Clan Donnachaidh Y-DNA Surname Project

Our Y-DNA Surname project, with more than 170 participants, is now one of the largest of the family groups tested by FamilyTreeDNA, itself one of the largest DNA testing laboratories in the world.

Stephanie Robertson, co-administrator of our project, has conducted an in-depth study of the results and reports that very interesting patterns are beginning to emerge, especially when compared to the oral history of our clan. These results will be discussed at the meeting in Pitlochry on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, and will be followed by a report on these pages.

Within the next few weeks we will implement a genealogical database, into which each Y-DNA Surname Project member will be able to upload his/her known genealogical history using GEDCOM files and TNG 5 (The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding V5), declared by Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and others to be the best software out there for those who want to create a personal genealogical website.

## Youth Membership Program



We now have almost 200 youngsters from around the world enrolled as Clan Donnachaidh Youth Members, and the feedback from sponsoring parents and grandparents has been enthusiastic. The children receive the certificate shown above, and are urged to read articles about Scottish history and our clan which appear quarterly on our website, [www.donnachaidhinternational.com](http://www.donnachaidhinternational.com). Our hope is that, later in life, when family and fortunes permit they will become active in our Society.

For those not familiar with the program, it's offered without charge to children until their 21st birthday. Sponsoring relatives do not have to be Clan Donnachaidh members, although we urge non-members to send a positive message by joining.

To sponsor a child go to the Youth Membership Page at: [www.donnachaidhinternational.com](http://www.donnachaidhinternational.com)

Click on the thistle icon for a printable application. Then either type or print the requested information, and email, snail mail, or drive it up to us in Maine (which might net you a wee dram).

Be sure to let us know if you want to deliver the certificate or have us send it direct to the child.

Bill Robertson  
International Vice Chairman  
[cbthistle@gmail.com](mailto:cbthistle@gmail.com)



## Proclamation



### The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

The Priory of the Light & Commandery of St. Longinus & the Holy Lance

### DR. PRIOR CHEVALIER JOHN BLACK, GOTJ, PH.D.

Requests the pleasure of your company at a Convent and Investiture of the Order  
Saturday, June 24, 2006  
At 12:00 pm

1:00pm Grand Procession at

#### St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

3096 South Sheridan Boulevard  
Denver, Colorado

A mite will be collected from the Knights and Dames of the Order

Followed by a reception  
At the

Lakewood Holiday Inn  
7390 West Hampden Avenue  
Lakewood, Colorado

4 pm Social Hour

6 pm Dinner Service

10 pm Carriages Depart Formal Attire - Black Tie  
Military Mess Dress or Highland Evening Wear with  
Decorations

**Dinner is \$45.00 per person with a cash bar**

*It is very important to RSVP with the number in your party by the 16<sup>th</sup> day of June to*

Chevalier Dale F. Baird, Sr., KTJ, KSG  
2708 South Hooker Street  
Denver, Colorado 80236-2508  
Home-303-834-3382  
E-mail [dalebairdsr@comcast.com](mailto:dalebairdsr@comcast.com)