



# Clan Donnachaidh News

*Clan Donnachaidh of the Rocky Mountains*

*February 2008*

## Frae the President

By Nancy Bigley

January 26, 2008 started our year with a wonderful night of toasting, feasting and tributes as we celebrated Scotland's legendary bard, Robert Burns at our annual dinner at the Graystone Radisson in Thornton, CO. The room was filled with merriment, friendship, music and humor. The haggis was tasty (so I'm told) and the buffet was filling as well.

We must say thank you to Kathleen and Mindy for coordinating with the hotel and catering; Robin for being our Toastmistress; to all those that assisted with graces and toasts; Dennis for set up of clan items; to the Gobs O' Phun for our musical entertainment; John Bergquist for our piping; Alice Woods for being our featured artisan; to Jim Reid for our Valentines and to all of those who donated auction items: Mindy & Dennis, Alice, Doni, Nancy B, Angie, Maureen and Ray & Robin.

A big thank you to Ray for once again sharing an informative and humorous tribute to Robbie Burns and his kind and endearing Toast to the Lassies. It was fun to give the response with a Toast the Laddies.

This year's major drawing of the beautiful Thistle wall hangings were especially a hit. Thank you Hope for you terrific idea. Thank you to all those that gave their time and talents to making squares: Hope, Maureen, Jesse, Jane, Nancy M, Nancy B, Robin, Alice, Mindy, Kathy, Angie, and Brian. And without fail an enormous thank you to Mindy for her sewing skills and time to finish these fantastic items. (The pictures of the quilts can be seen at the end of the newsletter.)

The council this year awarded our first ever "Lifetime Honorary Member" award to Donald Robertson. This means that the membership will cover all of the future membership dues. Robin and Mindy created the certificate and the officers and council members we will be delivering this soon.

Thank you to everyone who assisted in any manner with the evening events. Without your donations, hours of coordination and support the evening would be vastly different.

In addition to many of our members there were many guests from neighbor clans, friends and family that joined us. I tried to say hello to everyone but I am sure I missed some

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but know your presence also made the evening's event a success.

The pictures taken at our dinner will be loaded on to the website. If you would like a print of them please let me (Nancy Bigley) know and I'll work out the details with you.

Our year will be filled with a variety of old and new events. We will continue to utilize our website as well as e-mail and US mail to inform and promote our regional events so be sure to take a look often.

Please be sure to get your reservation in as soon as possible for the Scotch tasting event in March and mark your calendars for future events. It's going to be a fun and busy year so we hope to see you often.

Warmly,  
Nancy Bigley, Branch President



*Dennis Bolen, Nancy Bigley, and Ray Ward at the Robert Burns Supper*

## Clan Donnachaidh/Robertson 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Yule Party

By Mindy Bolen

The Clan Donnachaidh/Robertson held their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Yule party at Dennis and Mindy Bolen's on December 1, 2007. The weather was fair, the lights were lit both inside and out, and the house decorated with literally hundreds of Santas. Clan members and their guests came from all over the metro area as well as Ft. Collins and Wyoming to join in the festivities. It was certainly nice seeing all the familiar and not so familiar faces, and meeting some new folks as well. As we visited, we held drawings for two Scottish Santas, a Scottish Nutcracker and a peppermint candle set raising a total of \$73.50 each for the General Operating and Memorial funds.



*A Beautiful Castle  
Cake made by  
Nancy for the Yule  
Party.*

## Treasurer's Report by Mindy Bolen

Wow, what a busy year 2007 was! We attended lots of functions as a clan, gained (and lost) members, and had great successes with the drawings held at each event. (As a reminder, the funds supplement our General/Operating fund as well as our Memorial funds. If you'd like to donate an item for any of our events, please let any council member or officer know. The item doesn't have to be of Celtic origin or even new! Anything is welcome and helps our clan.) Our most recent event, the Annual Robert Burns Dinner, was a huge success, with over \$700 raised from the drawings! That will certainly help defray some of the costs throughout the year such as the clan booth rentals, entrees for the ice cream social and AGM and newsletter costs. Kudos to all those who submitted squares for the two wall hangings... you did an awesome job. As Nancy, Hope, and I looked at each square, it was amazing that even though all were thistle themed, each one was unique due to the medium and style used to create it. So, with that said, be prepared for another group project for next year's dinner to be announced in a future edition of the newsletter.

I also want to take a second to thank the donor who remains anonymous for the donation to help fund the Longs Peak Festival booth. It is very much appreciated by all those in the clan, enabling us to attend the games and have enough room to spread out!



Way to go everyone who participated, and congratulations to those who won! As the evening progressed, folks filled up on the fantastic shepherd's pie, snack trays, casseroles, deserts (the castle cake was fabulous!), with the clan providing b-b-q ribs and sandwiches. Nancy brought out the favorite Chisholm Crème to which many of us are addicted for a wonderful toast. All in all, a good time was had by all, with a spirit of togetherness, comradery and family permeating the evening. Every year, as I'm sure most will agree, the gathering gets better and better. We hope to see everyone again next year on December 6<sup>th</sup> for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Yule party!



*The guys in  
their kilts!*

### 2008 Membership

42 paid members  
1 Lifetime honorary member  
2 Youth members  
General Fund: \$2,013.88 (Burns  
Dinner costs have been deducted)  
Memorial Fund: \$791.44 (this is  
wonderful considering we started  
the fund in October 05!)

## Treasurer's Report continued

OK, now to the information you really want... How many of us are there, and how much money do we have? I'd like to start the year by adding our honorary members, both Lifetime and Youth. So, if some of you have registered your children/grandchildren with Bill Robertson, our International Vice-Chairman, and have received the wonderful certificate showing their membership, please email or call me and let me know so I can add them to our roster. If you'd like more information on the free Youth membership, please see the article entitled Youth Membership Program.

Remember to visit the official website for Clan Donnachaidh of the Rocky Mountains. We now have Donnachaidh apparel available!

[www.rockymountainscots.com](http://www.rockymountainscots.com)



## 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 nonmembers 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

So, if you haven't done so yet, please visit Bill at the web site above, print out the application and give you child/grandchild the gift of their Scottish heritage.



*Take a look at two of our honorary youth members, Hunter and Peyton with grandpa and on the swing in their kilts at Dennis' birthday in September.*



# Clan Scotch Tasting - March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Announcing our 2<sup>nd</sup> Clan Scotch tasting! Come join your clan officers and council members as they present six different selections of Scotch. The scotch tasting will be held at Dennis and Mindy Bolen's on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 1:00 pm. Each of six council members will present a bottle from one of the regions in Scotland along with some of the history from the distillery. The tasting notes and histories will be available for all those attending. The cost will be \$25 per person, which includes a light snack after the tasting. There will be a fund raiser drawing for six vintage Scottish "wee dram glasses", the book "Whisk(e)y" by Stefan Gabanyi and an Irish Coffee themed basket. There is limited space, so please get your reservation and check in

early. Please see below for the registration form. Please fill it out and send it to the address on the form. Please respond by March 15! We need a head count for the food. Thanks.

Whisky Selection for Tasting

Speyside - GlenFiddich Solera  
Lowlands - Glen Kinchie  
Highlands - Balblair  
Orkney Islands - Scapa  
Islay - Bunnahabhain  
Campbeltown - Springbank



Whisky Tasting Reservation: March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1:00 pm held at:  
3604 E 88<sup>th</sup> Cir. N., Thornton, Co

I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).

I have enclosed a check for a total of \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_ for the following participants:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail the completed form and a check made out to Clan Donnachaidh to: Mindy Bolen 3604 E. 88<sup>th</sup> Cir. N, Thornton, CO 80229. We need your filled out form and payment by March 15, any reservations made after March 15, will be \$30.00.

**Clan Board 2007/2008**

President: Nancy Bigley  
[nabigley@msn.com](mailto:nabigley@msn.com)

Vice President: Ray Ward  
[wycots@msn.com](mailto:wycots@msn.com)

Treasurer: Mindy Bolen  
[mindybolen@hotmail.com](mailto:mindybolen@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Hope Charles  
[Hcharles1086@hotmail.com](mailto:Hcharles1086@hotmail.com)

Newsletter: Robin Ward  
[Cymru1969@msn.com](mailto:Cymru1969@msn.com)

**Council Members**

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[Sulliva100@aol.com](mailto:Sulliva100@aol.com)

**Past Presidents**

Bob Baskins  
 Mark Donnachaidh  
 Curtis Roberts  
 Bob Robertson  
 Becky Robertson  
 Charlene Sullivan



**Upcoming Clan Events 2008**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| March 7       | Council Meeting at the Bolen's                             |
| March 22      | Scotch Tasting at the Bolen's                              |
| April 6       | Tartan Day   |
| May 2         | Council Meeting at the Bolen's                             |
| June 21       | Ice Cream Social   |
| June 27-29    | Wyoming 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Celtic Festival in Cheyenne |
| July 11       | Council Meeting at the Bolen's (tentative)                 |
| July 12-13    | Irish Festival in Denver                                   |
| August 2-3    | Renaissance Festival in Larkspur                           |
| September 4-7 | Highland Games in Estes Park, CO                           |
| September 12  | Council Meeting at the Bolen's                             |
| October 19    | AGM  |
| November 7    | Council Meeting at the Bolen's                             |



Here are some pictures of the quilts that were auctioned off during the Burns Supper. Thanks to everyone who helped!





Robin Ward  
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Cheyenne, WY 82009