

# CLAN MACRAE SOCIETY of CANADA

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting May 22, 2010 - Victoria, British Columbia

### MINUTES

#### Attendance

**Honorary President** Marigold MacRae, Gracious Lady of Eilean Donan Castle and President of the Clan MacRae Society of the United Kingdom (Scotland)

**Honourary Guest:** Baroness Miranda MacRae-Van Lynden (Scotland)

**President:** The Ven. Dr. Robert D. MacRae (Victoria, BC)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Owen C. MacRae (White Rock, BC)

**Members:** Approximately 40 members were present

**Regrets:**

Peter MacRae	(Toronto, ON)	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Douglas C. MacRae	(Calgary, AB)	Treasurer
Leslie A. McRae	(Calgary, AB)	Web Master
Linda MacRae	(Toronto, ON)	Secretary
Barbara Duff	(Hamilton, ON)	Membership Sec'y
Sterling MacRae	(New Glasgow PE)	Director
Judy MacRae-Hickman	(Truro, NS)	Director

Various members from across the country sent messages of regret for absence.

#### **1. Call to Order and Welcomes**

Following a tour of Christ Church Cathedral and a refreshing cup of coffee, President Robert MacRae called the meeting to order at 10:30 am in the Chapter Room of the Cathedral.

In her native tongue and as a Git'ksan from the Gitsegukela people of the Skeena Valley, BC, **Dolly McRae** (Port Alberni, BC) gave a First Nations' welcome to the Clan MacRae. She wished peace and happiness to all MacRaes.

**Honorary President Marigold MacRae** also offered welcoming remarks. Marigold highlighted how pleased she was to be in Canada, noting that this is the third annual Gathering she has attended. She commended the Society on its growth and its success in

linking MacRaes “across this vast country”. Marigold made special mention of President Robert D. MacRae noting that his initiative and enthusiasm has been a great inspiration to all MacRae Clans. She commended his dedication to the Clan MacRae in Canada.

Marigold presented gifts to Robert MacRae, to Owen C. MacRae and to Anne Brand (North Vancouver, BC) in appreciation for their efforts to organize the AGM Gathering.

On behalf of the Clan MacRae Society of Canada, President Bob presented gifts to our Honorary President, Marigold MacRae and to Miranda MacRae Van-Lynden. The gift of a photo book records the pictorial record of Clan MacRae gatherings in Scotland 2000, 2005 and 2009 and Gatherings and AGM in Canada since the Canadian Society’s inception in 2000.

Ken McRae, in his role as mayor of the city of Port Alberni, BC, presented a gift to our Honorary President Marigold MacRae.

Cynthia MacRae (Russell, ON) was elected as secretary of this meeting in the absence of Secretary, Linda MacRae (Toronto, ON).

## **2. Minutes of 2009 Annual General Meeting**

**Appendix #1**

**MOTION** - Moved by: D. A. Bruce MacRae (Waterdown, ON), seconded by: Owen C. MacRae (White Rock, BC), that the Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting in PEI be accepted as circulated. **CARRIED**

The President expressed the Society’s appreciation of the work of our Secretary, Linda MacRae, for carrying out the secretarial duties of the Clan MacRae Society of Canada.

## **3. President’s Report for 2009**

**Appendix #2**

President Robert presented key points from his report, a copy of which was circulated to the members.

2010 marks a decade since the inception and incorporation of the Clan MacRae Society of Canada. Dr. MacRae has served as president since the founding. He announced his intention to resign as president last fall and has assured members he will continue to be closely associated with the Society. He underlined his pride in the growth of the Society, its diverse membership and the variety of countries represented in its members, as well as the many activities undertaken during the past ten years. He also noted that he has personally benefited greatly by gaining new friends in Clan MacRaes all over the world.

The President presented the following initiatives for future consideration by the Board of Directors:

- **Connecting Clan and Country:** Create a Canadian network of guest-houses, bed and breakfasts, house exchanges, or other accommodation in the homes of MacRaes across Canada and that might be offered to MacRaes at a reasonable discount and that would serve to expand the growing awareness of MacRaes in our history in Canada and possibilities of genealogical connections.
- **The Clan MacRae DNA Project and Genealogy:** Promote the DNA project and establish a Canadian Clan Genealogist.
- **Connecting the Clan Societies:** Further advance links between Clan MacRae Societies in other countries via correspondence, Gatherings and the use of the internet and exchange of the journal and newsletters between the Societies.
- **Confusion in the names of two Clan Societies:** Consider how to approach the “Clan MacRae Society of North America” to request consideration of a change of its name to reflect its USA base and national identity.
- **Getting Our Identity Known in Canada:** Make it a priority to promote awareness of the Clan MacRae Society of Canada to Canadians. In this context, the website should be given sufficient attention and resources. Other opportunities through public events, media, etc. should be sought as occasion and opportunities arise.

#### 4. Greetings to other Clan MacRae Societies

**MOTION:** Moved by: Darrell J. MacRae (Calgary, AB), seconded by: Daniel MacRae (Niagara Falls, ON) that greetings be sent by the Secretary to other Clan MacRae societies, i.e.: UK, AU/NZ and USA. **CARRIED**

#### 5. Treasurer’s Report for 2009

**Appendix #3**

The Treasurer’s report was circulated and showed a healthy balance in the accounts. The President gave special thanks to members for their financial gifts and donations received beyond the regular membership fees. Appreciation was also expressed to Treasurer, Douglas C. MacRae (Calgary, AB) for his dedication to this role.

**MOTION:** Moved by Kenneth J. MacRae (Calgary, AB), seconded by Anne Brand, that the Treasurer’s Report for 2009 be adopted. **CARRIED**

#### Signing Officers

The president recommended, and it was agreed, that the signing officers for the Clan MacRae Society of Canada will be:

**President, treasurer, past president and senior vice-president      AGREED**

## 6. Reports for 2009

The Membership Report by Barbara Duff (Hamilton, ON) and the Web Master Report by Leslie A. McRae (Calgary, AB) were circulated. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the Membership Secretary and the Web Master.

### a. Memberships Secretary Report for 2009

Appendix #4

Currently, 191 households are on the membership list. It was noted that the Board of Directors decided during 2009 that the mailing of *Kintail* be suspended to those whose membership dues have lapsed (since 2007). The meeting recommended that a clear message be sent to members to indicate when their last *Kintail* is mailed/delivered unless membership dues are up-to-date.

The Board of Directors also decided that if a lapsed member of the Society rejoined, there would no requirement to pay dues for past years.

**MOTION** – Moved by Owen C. MacRae and seconded by Ken W. McRae that we record our appreciation for the work of the Membership Secretary, Barbara Duff.

**CARRIED**

### b. Web Master Report for 2009

Appendix #5

There was a good discussion about the success and the positive value of the Clan MacRae Society of Canada website. Among the ideas that arose, it was suggested that opportunities be examined to capitalize upon the excellent website to serve as a means to facilitate communication between members and with other societies. It was noted that special skills are required to maintain the website and that the Society is fortunate to have an expert, Leslie McRae, who offers his extensive skills to the Society free of charge.

**MOTION** - Moved by R. Douglas MacRae (Williams Lake, BC), seconded by Doreen Powell (Calgary, AB) that our thanks be extended to Leslie A. McRae for creating and managing the Clan MacRae Society of Canada website.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION** – Moved by Ken W. MacRae seconded by Emerson MacRae (London, ON) that the Membership and Web Master Reports be accepted.

**CARRIED**

## 7. Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

## **8. Budget 2010 and 2011**

**Appendix #6**

President Robert MacRae presented proposed budgets for 2010 and 2011. The practice of preparing two forward looking budgets (as opposed to just the current year) will assist in planning. The President pointed out the following:

- A new item, “Travel Reserve” has been added to build an account which would support travel by the President beyond the annual meeting, e.g. on occasion in Scotland for a Clan Gathering.
- The current inventory of merchandise is depleted and the Board of Directors may wish to consider reintroducing merchandise in the future.
- Enlisting an archivist should be a future priority and funds to support this work would need to be considered.

**MOTION** – Moved by Darrell MacRae seconded by Allen McRae (Nanaimo, BC) that budgets for 2010 and 2011 be adopted as presented. **CARRIED**

## **9. Proposed Changes to By-Laws**

**Appendix #7**

Proposed revisions to the by-laws of the Clan MacRae Society of Canada were circulated. These ranged from simple clarification of wording to an expansion of the number of Board of Directors to offer wider representation.

**MOTION:** Moved by Daniel MacRae, seconded by Dolly McRae, that all proposed revisions to the by-laws of the Clan MacRae Society of Canada be accepted. **CARRIED**

## **10. Nominations to the Board of Directors**

**Appendix #8**

**President:**

**MOTION** – Moved by Anne Brand seconded by Daniel MacRae, that Owen C. MacRae be nominated to the office of President of the Clan MacRae Society of Canada.

**CARRIED**

A discussion ensued on expanding the representation of the Board of Directors to ensure regional representation. While on-line communication may facilitate sharing information across distances, many felt that occasions to meet face-to-face are important and that as the Society grows there may be opportunities for regional get-togethers of the type planned in PEI this summer: a picnic.

**MOTION** – Moved by Daniel MacRae seconded by Patty Dunn (Coquitlam, BC) that the office of Vice-President immediately be expanded by two places – and eventually by four – to represent the regions of Canada: Pacific, Western, Central and Atlantic and that these changes be incorporated into the new By-Laws. **CARRIED**

It was recognized that members from any Territory would be included in the provincial regions adjacent to their territory. As membership of the Society increases, the categories may need to be reviewed.

**MOTION** – Moved by Owen C. MacRae, seconded by Anne Brand, that Darrell J. MacRae be nominated to the office of Vice-President – Prairie region. **CARRIED**

The new Board of Directors for the terms 2010-13 were announced **See Appendix #8**

## **11. Other Business**

### **a) 2011 Gathering and AGM**

Those present favoured the 2011 meeting to be in Ottawa with a target date of early June. It was suggested that it would be best not to be too specific on details until some preliminary research is undertaken in the Ottawa area re. dates and feasibility.

**MOTION** – Moved by Allen McRae seconded by Hope McRae (Nelson, BC) that the 2011 Gathering and Annual General Meeting of the Clan MacRae Society of Canada be in Ontario. **CARRIED**

### **b) President’s proposed initiative “Connecting Clan and Country”**

There was a positive reaction to this proposal and members advised that they would like further research into how a network for travellers could be established.

**MOTION** – Moved by Hope McRae, seconded by Doreen Powell (Calgary, BC) that the Board of Directors pursue the idea of establishing an accommodation network for MacRaes across Canada. **CARRIED**

### **c) Special Presentation to the President**

On behalf of all members of the Clan MacRae Society of Canada, Anne Brand expressed heartfelt gratitude to Robert MacRae for his instrumental efforts in initiating the Society and for his ongoing contribution to build it into a vibrant and professional organization. Due to the dedication of Dr. MacRae a strong foundation has been established which will ensure that many more generations of MacRaes will benefit from their association with the Clan MacRae Society of Canada.

Owen C. MacRae, on behalf of the Society, present a gift of a ball-point pen to Robert MacRae and the membership joined in applause.

**MOTION** – Moved by Anne Brand and seconded by Owen C. MacRae that that a Life-time Membership in the Clan MacRae Society of Canada be granted to Robert D. MacRae in recognition of his role in creating the Society. **CARRIED**

## **12. Appreciations and Adjournment**

The President expressed appreciation to Owen C. MacRae and his Committee for organizing a very enjoyable 2010 annual gathering in Victoria, BC and to all members who assisted with the morning meeting, the coffee hour and the events of Thursday and Friday.

**MOTION** – Moved by Dot MacRae (London, ON), seconded by Daniel MacRae that the meeting be adjourned. **CARRIED**

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**Cynthia MacRae, Secretary**

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**Robert MacRae, President**

### **APPENDICES**

- #1 Minutes 2009**
- #2 President's Report for 2009**
- #3 Treasurer's Report for 2009**
- #4 Membership Secretary's Report for 2009**
- #5 Web Master's Report for 2009**
- #6 Budget for 2010 and 2011**
- #7 By-Law Changes**
- #8 Nominations/New Board of Directors**