Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association

LORD OF THE ISLES CAMP #191

New Westminster
British Columbia

1899 - 1999

Highlights of the First Hundred Years
SONS OF SCOTLAND BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION
LORD OF THE ISLES CAMP #191
New Westminster
British Columbia

1999 Officers

Chief
Past Chief
Chieftain
Chaplain
Recording Secretary
Senior Marshall
Junior Marshall
Standard Bearer
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Senior Guard
Junior Guard
Organist
Trustees

Auditors

Sick Visiting

Chris Main
Marjorie Ferguson
Charles MacBeth
Jennie Bell
Morag Baxter
Bill McRae
Ian Blake
Betty Nuttall
Kathy Todd
Mary Fox
Shirley MacKenzie
David Todd
Robert Nicolson
Angus Macdonald
Alex Hughan
Lynn MacRae
John Todd
Robert Nicolson
Nan Morrison
Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association

LORD OF THE ISLES CAMP #191

New Westminster
British Columbia

1899 - 1999

Highlights of the
First Hundred Years
# CONTENTS

1999 Officers
Foreword and Acknowledgements
Introduction
New Westminster in 1899
Lord of the Isles Camp #191 Begins
First Chief, George Adams; Roll of 1899 Camp Officers
Lord of the Isles Camp #191 Charter Members
Our Many Homes, Part of our History up in Flames
Concerts
Excursions
RV Club, Car Rallies
Lord of the Isles Young People's
Burns Night, Tartan Ball
Golf, Fishing Derbies, Cribbage
Highland Games Advertisement from 1969
Hogmanay, The Games
Ladies Auxilliary, Sister Members
District Competitions: Highland Dancing, Curling, Bowling; Winter Carnivals
Odds 'n Ends
More Odds 'n Ends
Lord of Isles Anniversary Celebrations
Sons of Scotland in B.C.Through the Years
Personalities
  Past District Chief Joyce Kolibas (nee Rennie)
  Brother Thomas Reid, M.P.
  Past Grand Chief Chris Main
  Past District Chief Rev. Brother A.E. Vert
  Past Chief A. Wells Gray
  Past Chief W. A. Robertson
  Sister Rose Phillips
  Past Chief R. C. MacDonald
  Past Grand Chief Dr. George Nicolson
Sons of Scotland Song
Honour Roll of Camp Chiefs

Inside front cover  1
Inside front cover  2
  3
  4
  5
  6
  7
  8
  9
  10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 22
 22
 22
 23
 23
 23
 24
 24
 24
 25
 25
 26
Inside back cover
FOREWORD

OUR HUNDRED YEARS

It is with sincere appreciation that I have the opportunity of presiding as Worthy Chief of Lord of the Isles Camp at the commemoration of our 100th anniversary. The Camp was formed one year after New Westminster's Great Fire. We started building at the same time as New Westminster started rebuilding, and both the City and Lord of the Isles are still with us. Over the years we have had many outstanding members who have helped us to promote our Scottish heritage through Highland Games, Burns Suppers, St. Andrew's Nights, Tartan Balls, picnics and many other endeavours.

We have been fortunate to have Bro. Angus Macdonald volunteer to research the minute books to help produce this history of the Camp. We also thank Dale and Archie Miller of A Sense of History Research Services for their help in researching and writing this booklet. I hope that you enjoy reading these highlights of our history and will recall many of the good times we have all had through our association with the Sons of Scotland. Lord of the Isles can be proud of its members' charitable contributions to many worthwhile causes and our continued promotion of things Scottish. I wish the Camp continued success.

Worthy Chief
Past Grand Chief

Chris Main

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Some of the information for this record of historical highlights was obtained from the Camp Minute Books. Some of it comes from the newspapers from 1899 to present, and some comes from the photographs and memories of members.

The initial research was done by Brother Angus Macdonald assisted by his wife Honourary Past Chief Velma Macdonald.

Further research was done by Dale and Archie Miller of A Sense of History Research Services Inc. This new material was added to the information compiled by the Macdonalds and formatted into this book. In any project of this kind, difficult decisions have to be made about what to include and what to leave for another time. We apologize for any errors or omissions - they were unintentional.
INTRODUCTION

Excerpt from the Sons of Scotland World Wide Web page:

The Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association is an organization which offers a unique opportunity for people to join together to benefit themselves while benefiting others. Our mission is to establish and conduct a fraternal association for Scotsmen, wives of Scotsmen, Scotswomen and husbands of Scotswomen, sons, daughters and descendants of Scotsmen and Scotswomen, or wives and husbands of members, by preserving the great traditions of Scottish history, music and literature, and by providing insurance for death and maturity benefits later in life.

Active since 1876, Sons of Scotland has branches (known as camps) from Montreal to Vancouver Island. When you are a member of one camp, you are a member of them all and you have a group of friends ready to welcome you wherever you travel across Canada.

As Sons of Scotland, we are proud to be Scottish Canadians. We believe that it is important to maintain the uniqueness of our culture. Active in Scottish Highland and Country dancing, piping, the Highland games and the wearing of our Scottish attire ... keeps our heritage alive and kicking!

One hundred years is a major milestone in the life of any organization and deserves to recognized and celebrated. What better way to do that than to capture some of the memories and highlights of the last century. By publishing this booklet, Lord of the Isles Camp #191 hopes to revive memories and rekindle friendships, educate and entertain, but most of all, to honour and pay tribute to all those members who played such vital roles in shaping not only our group, but also the community as a whole.
1898 was a big year for New Westminster. It had an impressive commercial district and its industries were growing in size and importance. Even with the Klondike gold rush drawing both human and economic volumes through Vancouver and Seattle, it was still thriving. It was a city known for its residential areas and its social and cultural amenities were second to none. It had made its mark in a number of sports and its Exhibition was the toast of the entire Province. New Westminster, the Royal City, was doing very well. And then, in a few short hours during the early morning of September 10/11, much of that changed as a fire of dramatic proportion and strength destroyed all of the downtown of the City.

New Westminster began to rebuild overnight with construction commencing amidst the smouldering ruins. By the beginning of 1899, much had been rebuilt and by midyear, the City was well on its way to regaining what it had lost and then some. During this time, a number of like minded Scots set out to form a group dedicated to the love of things Scottish. They would take their place in a town rising above adversity - a town getting ready, in just a few short months, to enter the twentieth century.

By the end of 1899, New Westminster had a population of nearly 7,000. Notwithstanding the fire, she had gained nearly 500 people during 1899. Most industries which were destroyed had been re-established, as well as several new ones. The city now had three large sawmills, two sash and door factories, the only automatic can factory in British Columbia, two extensive cold storage and salmon freezing establishments, three foundries and machine shops, the only successful farmers' market in British Columbia, a creamery, a condensed milk factory, a large brewery, a cigar factory, a flour and oatmeal mill, a $10,000 veneer basket works under construction, and also several minor industries. The Provincial Hospital for the Insane, the BC Penitentiary and Provincial Jail were also located in New Westminster.

The city had an electric tram service, water works system, electric lighting plant, telephone service and two telegraph systems. The water works and electric light plant were owned by the city and were as good institutions of their kind and size as there were in America. There were thirteen churches in the city, four of which were destroyed in the fire, but all of which had since been rebuilt or were under construction. The educational institutions in the city were two colleges, a high school, four public schools, two kindergarten schools, a convent and a seminary.

And the Masonic and Oddfellows Halls had been rebuilt and upstairs, in the latter, above George Adam’s store, the Sons of Scotland, Lord of the Isles Camp, would meet for the first time.
LORD OF THE ISLES CAMP #191 BEGINS

The front page of The Columbian of July 29, 1899 carries the following item:

SONS OF SCOTLAND
LORD OF THE ISLES CAMP
ORGANIZED HERE LAST NIGHT.
OFFICERS ELECTED AND INSTALLED

The organization of a local branch of the Sons of Scotland is fait accompli with the institution last night in the Oddfellow's Hall of Lord of the Isles Camp #191, the work of initiation being done by the following officers of Royal Scot Camp, Vancouver: P.C. Bro. Smith, organizer; P.C. Bro. Clark; Chief, Bro. D. Robertson; Chieftain, Bro. Rae; and the following brethren were also present from Vancouver: Sayer Smith, McKinnon, W.A. Wilson, John McLennan, James Firth, R. Lundy, and W. McLennan.

At the conclusion of the initiation ceremony, the following were duly elected as officers of the new lodge, and installed into the respective chairs for the ensuing term: Chief, Bro. George Adams; chieftain, Bro. J.C. Whyte; chaplain, Bro. Rev. A.E. Vert; secretary, Bro. W. Wallace; financial secretary, Bro. J.D. Rai; treasurer, Bro. James Muirhead; marshall, Bro. David Adams; standard bearer, Bro. George Sutherland; senior guard, Bro. Parks; junior guard, Bro. Wm. Muirhead.

After the installation by Bro. J.B. Smith, and a short address by the Chief, the brothers from Vancouver gave some very interesting speeches, and outlined the work of the order in Canada. Addresses were also delivered by Bro. Alex. Henderson, M.P.P., Bro. Rev. A.E. Vert, and Bro. J.C. Whyte, and proceedings closed by singing "Auld Lang Syne".

The organizer and his party were then escorted to the train, which was in waiting, and, at 11:30 pm, they returned to Vancouver.
First Chief George Adams
(1866 - 1940)

Born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1866, George Adams came to Canada in 1885 engaging in the grocery business in Burk's Falls, Ontario. He arrived in New Westminster in 1890 and went into the same line of business here, buying out W.A. Dashwood-Jones' grocery on Eighth Street. He continued to do business in various locations. At the time of the Great Fire in 1898, he was on the corner of Columbia and Eighth Street. While New Westminster surveyed its smoking ruins, he was one of the first to get under way again, operating in a hastily built shack on library square.

In 1912, Mr. Adams sold out his business and with his family, spent six months visiting Europe. On his return to New Westminster he was engaged by the Bank of Montreal to close out a business in Vernon. That done, he went into business in that Okanagan centre, but after four or five years, returned to the coast and opened the Reliable Grocery at Crescent Beach, operating that until he retired in 1932 on account of ill health.

As well as being the First Chief of Lord of the Isles Camp, he was a member of the School Board, City Council, IOOF, Knights of Pythias, Woodmen of the World, Royal Agricultural & Industrial Society, Board of Trade, Westminster Club and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Roll of Camp Officers
For Year 1899
(taken from 1899 Minute Book)

Chief: Geo. Adams
Past Chief: J. C. Whyte
Chieftain: Rev. A. E. Vert
Chaplain: John Forrester
Physician: J. D. Rae
Rec. Sec.: Jas Muirhead
Fin. Sec.: David Adams
Treasurer: Geo. Sutherland
Marshal: J. R. Parks
Standard Bearer: Wm. Muirhead
Senior Guard
Junior Guard
CHARTER MEMBERS  
(taken from first Camp minute book)

George Adams  
D. Barclay  
Hugh Gunn  
Alex. Hamilton  
Frank Birrell  
Jas. Muirhead  
M. Sinclair  
George Sutherland  
J. C. McArthur  
John Forrester  
Jas. Marshall  
P. D. Roy  
Wm. Muirhead  
L. M. Grant  
Albert E. Vert  
John Dennison  
Simon D. Murchison  
John H. Galbraith  
W. Currie  
Wm. Sclater  
Philip C. Watt  
Alex. Lamb  
R. Anderson  
George McKenzie  
John McNiven  
James Dennison  
David Melville  
Thomas Oswald  
George Durie  

D. E. MacKenzie  
Jas. McLeod  
G. T. Johnston  
Jas. J. Currie  
C. T. Richmond  
Jas. D. Rae  
Alex. Adams  
Wm. D. Wallace  
George Jenson  
Wm. Sutherland  
George Simpson  
George McKay  
James S. Grant  
John McGlashan  
Angus Munn  
George Robson  
D. McAskill  
J.C. Whyte  
T. Turnbull  
M. McDonald  
David Adams  
Robert May  
R. Macfarlane  
James N. Aitchison  
Wm. George Chalmers  
R. Gunn  
T. Gifford  
Hugh Wilson  
James L. Galbraith  

The following names are also listed as Charter Members in a 1949 Camp programme

J. R. Parks  
Alex. Anderson  
John Linn  
Angus Munroe  
F. J. McKenzie  

I. S. Hall  
W. A. De Wolf Smith  
Robert Kennedy  
Alex. Cruickshank  
Peter Peebles
OUR MANY HOMES

Over the hundred years that the Lord of the Isles Camp has met in the Royal City, we have occupied a large number of halls and meeting rooms. It all began in the Oddfellow's Hall in 1899, then we moved to the Knights of Pythias' Hall in 1900, paying rental fees of $5.00 per month, with meetings the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Through the ensuing years, the Camp met on different days, in different places, including the Nordic Hall, the Fraternal Centre (see below), the Carpenters' Hall, and the Masonic Hall at 508 Agnes Street. We moved into the Masonic Hall in 1975 and it was home for the next twenty-one years.

Then 1996 - 1997 brought "the year of the moves". The Masonic organization advised us they were selling the building and we would have to move. We tried the new Loyal Orange Hall on Sixth Street, but it was too small. We then moved to the I.O.O.F. Hall on Edmonds Street in Burnaby, but since that hall did not have storage facilities, we had to rent a storage locker, and since the dining area was too small for a large meeting, we were off again. This time to the Elks' Hall at 56 Sixth Street. The Masons did not sell after all, and if they renovate - who knows - we may end up back there.

PART OF OUR HISTORY UP IN FLAMES

Up until April 25, 1974, the Fraternal Centre at 620 Royal Avenue was used by the twenty-two fraternal groups in New Westminster, including the Sons of Scotland. The building, built in 1952, housed the Big Chief Moving and Storage Co. Ltd. on the ground floor at the rear; a caretaker's suite; the New Westminster Commercial College as well as two beautifully furnished meeting rooms.

In the early morning hours of that day, a fire alarm was turned in, signalling a huge blaze, battled for over four hours by the New Westminster Fire Department before bringing it under control. Unfortunately, the building was gutted. While the loss of a meeting place was a major blow to all the organizations which had used the building, the greater tragedy for many groups was the loss of their minute books, records and regalia. The Charter, Past Chiefs' scroll and the regalia of the Sons of Scotland were all saved from the fire and are still in use.
CONCERTS

October, 1906
This concert, part of the Provincial Exhibition, held in Queens Park, was labeled “a fitting climax to Scottish Day at the Fair”. Of Jeanie Fletcher from Glasgow, the papers said “her numerous press notices prove her to be one of the really great singers; the quality and range of her powerful mezzo-soprano voice has rarely been equalled”. The other featured performer, May Meldrum of Scotland, was referred to as “a violinist of the highest order, well and favourably known on the West Coast”. They were accompanied by a troupe of dancers and a piper. The committee placed 350 chairs around the platform and charged a nominal fee of twenty-five cents per chair. The evening was a great success with the chairs soon filled and standing admirers taking every vantage point. The Vancouver Pipe Band led off the evening's entertainment followed by the performers as billed.

Of the Scottish Day in general, the following article appeared in the Columbian. “The Scotchmen held sway at the fair yesterday. The skirl of the pipes, the bright tartans of the kilts, and the pronounced burr in the conversation were much in evidence. Those who attended the fair in the afternoon had their choice between horse races and Scottish games, dancing and piping, in fact many were able to enjoy the best of both as the oval was kept clear for the sports and those in the grand stand or around the track could get a good view. The Games were under the direction of Lord of the Isles Camp #191, Sons of Scotland, and the varied programmes, and excellent way in which they were carried through gave general satisfaction.”

January, 1916
The following notice appeared in the local paper on January 19, 1916. “The birthday of the immortal bard will be celebrated on Wednesday evening next by a Burns Concert to be given in the Opera House by the Western Triple Choir, under the auspices of the Lord of the Isles Camp No. 191, Sons of Scotland. The proceeds will be turned over to the War Relief and Prisoners of War funds.” The day after the concert, the paper reported that, in spite of bad weather and snow, “the Scottish residents of this city and other lovers of the magic and songs of that country, and especially Burn's works, turned out in fair numbers at the Opera House and an excellent programme was rendered.”
Victim of Our Own Success

The Sons of Scotland picnic excursion aboard the SS Beaver July 2, 1906 was successful beyond anyone's wildest dreams - or was that nightmares? The Beaver had been chartered for the occasion and from the previous year's experience, they thought the capacity of 300 would be sufficient. Quite a number of tickets were sold in advance, more sold at the wharf, and when the day dawned sunny and hot, all with tickets wanted to go. The result was that the Beaver was soon crowded to capacity and a couple of hundred couldn't get on board.

The Ramona, which was chartered for F.J. Hart & Co.'s picnic to Pitt Lake came to the rescue and agreed to take as many as possible. Almost 200 went on the Ramona, though quite a few changed their plans when they saw the crowd.

The excursionists had provided themselves with well-filled lunch boxes and the day passed happily. A programme of sports was run and keenly contested. There was great interest in a tug-of-war in which a Langley team outpulled the New Westminster Scots. Winners in other events were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Men's winners</th>
<th>Women's winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members' race</td>
<td>J. Henderson, A. Matheson</td>
<td>Fat Women's race:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Mile, open</td>
<td>J. Henderson, H. Atley</td>
<td>Married Women race:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married men</td>
<td>W. Gray, F.J. McKenzie</td>
<td>Married Women race:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Jump</td>
<td>W.J. Anderson, W. Gray</td>
<td>Ladies schottische:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pole Vaulting</td>
<td>W.J. Anderson, W. Gray</td>
<td>Hammer Throwing:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Under 8</td>
<td>Peter Spence, James Adams</td>
<td>Putting the Shot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Under 10</td>
<td>Francis Vert, James Skeene</td>
<td>Girls Under 8:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sack Race</td>
<td>Francis Vert, Lewis Sangster</td>
<td>Girls Under 10:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Running Long Jump:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the return trip, the Ramona could not call at Langley, so those who went by her in the morning were taken on the Beaver to Hammond where they took the train home. A member of the committee went with them and paid their fares. Because of the emergency arrangements which had to be made to accommodate the larger than expected crowd, the event was not as profitable as hoped, but all involved enjoyed the day immensely.
RV CLUB

This club started about 1974 with members from all Camps who had Recreational Vehicles. They would start their treks about April and continue until October. Their longest trek was to the Grand Camp meeting in Edmonton, something they were very proud of. For entertainment there would be horseshoe competitions, crib games, etc. and the men would even cook breakfast.

Trekkers from our Camp included PDC John Gray and Muriel, Bro. and Sis. Al and Maisie Allan, Bro. Aubrey Coutts, and others who joined in whenever they could. This was a very happy group. Unfortunately with the population growing so rapidly and many people with R.V.'s, it became difficult to book a camp ground for so many of their members. The last record we could find in the minute books was for an outing in 1989.

CAR RALLIES

PC Bro. John and Sis. Muriel Gray were doing well. Muriel was navigator, her head down reading instructions to pilot, John. Everything was going along just fine until Muriel said “Now, John, go ahead for one mile.” John replied, “Look where we are!” To her surprise, they sat on the Surrey docks looking across the Fraser River at New Westminster.

Terry and Vi Mitchell and their children were coming up to a check point. The printed instructions were, “Please stay in your car until called to move forward.” However, nature calls and all children bailed out to the wee house on the hill. This bail out resulted in a deduction in points and, to this day, the two organizers are reminded that the Mitchells should have won and that “kids are kids”.

Alan and Nan McMahon were enjoying the route when Nan, as navigator, read the instructions incorrectly and went through the U.S. Customs - with their dog asleep. Realizing they had made a mistake, they returned to the border. The dog was now awake and the Customs people asked for the dog’s shot papers, etc. Nan, with her broad Dundee accent got excited. Her brogue sure didn’t help the cause until she showed the Customs officer our car rally instructions. He then let them back into Canada. The inspector said on their leaving his post, “Where on earth did you ever get that accent?”

As the population in the area was increasing and more cars were on the roads it was decided not to hold any more rallies for safety reasons. June 7, 1992 saw the end of the Lord of the Isles car rallies.
LORD OF THE ISLES YOUNG PEOPLE'S

In the mid '40s, Lord of the Isles Camp welcomed several young members. Some had been juvenile policy holders and others joined because of friends, and in 1945 they formed their own group. This was a very innovative bunch. They worked on various committees, competed in dance competitions, held dances for which P.C.s Bill and Meg Robertson provided the music gratis, enabling these thrifty young Scots to charge a minimal fee. Over the years they sometimes provided the entertainment for Past Chiefs' Nights. For example, there was their rendition of CKNW's Roving Mike broadcasts with Bro. Don Macdonald as interviewer, with hilarious questions and answers. Then the men acted out a German band and practiced "The Dance of the Flowers" without even their wives knowing about it. The ladies were practicing the Can Can. Both presentations brought much amusement and some shock to some members. Picnics, parties, etc. were held, Car Rallies were started, Christmas Cards were sold and the proceeds donated to charities. They donated their time to repairing the Y's Men's Club's camp for underprivileged children.

They were well represented on the Highland Games committees and their older children acted as runners for the various committees. In 1959 a new pedestal was designed by Bro. Angus Macdonald, and with help of P.G.C. Chris Main and P.C. Alex Hughan, it was completed and presented to the Camp. Later, a cart for the Camp's silverware, etc. and ash trays with a Lord of the Isles decal were also presented to the Camp.

The Young Peoples group provided seven Chiefs, three District Chiefs, one long time District Secretary, and one Grand Chief. Now the group is composed of eight couples, five of them originals, most with over fifty years of service and others close to that amount. Four of the couples met and married through the Camp, the others brought their intended mates in.

As their children got older, it was decided the name should be changed to the Thistle Club and another Young Peoples was formed from their children. P.G.C. Bro. Dr. George Nicolson arranged for this group and any other young person interested to bowl at the Riverview Hospital's bowling alleys. They had a few parties and other activities, but for some reason, the club did not survive.

Two of the original group's couples are celebrating fifty years of marriage in 1999, two in 2000, and the rest soon thereafter. They meet once a month at each others homes for dinner and games, they support most of the Camp functions, are available to work on committees and truly typify the meaning of "brothers and sisters".

An excursion and games possibly to Langley

Lord of the Isles Camp #191
1899 - 1999
The first Burns Night was held January 23, 1900 and was advertised as “A Nicht Wi’ Burns”. It was held in the Oddfellows Hall and each member was allowed to invite two friends. Among the various numbers on the programme was a reading, “The Last of a Highland Brigade” written in memory of the brigade which had met a disastrous reverse in South Africa under General Wauchope a few weeks before. Expenses were $13.25, and income totalled $6.75. The next record of a Burns Night is on January 26, 1916 in the Opera House. This event yielded a profit of $92 which was turned over to the Camp War Fund.

From 1975 to 1985, the event was held in the Arenex in Queens Park. Many times there were more than 400 patrons. However, in 1985, we really brought the roof down. Whether from the merriment of the crowd or the age of the building, the insulation in the ceiling came down on our heads - it was time to find a new building. Since 1985 the event has been held in the Italian Centre, Gizeh Temple, Royal Towers Hotel and Bonsor Hall in Burnaby.

A Burns' Supper begins with The Immortal Memory, a series of anecdotes from Burns' life and speeches in his honour along with a sprinkling of his poems and songs. Several toasts then follow, most notably the Toast to the Lasses and Toast to the Haggis, which Burns himself immortalized as the “Great Chieftain of the Puddin’ Race.”

The entertainment has been varied and the music for the dancing lively with the floor overflowing with happy dancers. Some of the very hard working committee have been doing this since its inception in 1973 and have made every evening a success both financially and socially. P.C. Bro. Bill Lyon has been carrying in the Haggis and is to be commended for his efficient handling of the magnificent beastie and the wee dram thereafter.

TARTAN BALL

With the revival of the Highland Games in 1963, it was felt that we should have a Tartan Ball to raise funds to defray expenses of the Games. This idea turned out to be a very successful venture with the aid of the City's newspaper. In The Columbian's search for local activities we received a good deal of publicity and pictures to promote the Games and the Tartan Ball. When that occurred we gained new members, some of whom did not know we existed as a Scottish organization locally. Who knows what can be accomplished by advertising when the bait is entertainment.
GOLF

There were District golf games and our own Camp Games for many years. Golf Fun Nights were arranged by PGC George Nicolson at Maple Ridge. These were fun nights for both experienced golfers and for duffers, and after each game everyone enjoyed a good steak dinner.

Peace Portal Country Golf Club held many a happy golf game for all members of the Association. On the final day before winter, a gathering was held to recognize individual golfers' accomplishments during the season. One particular trophy, the “Groucher's Trophy” was awarded to the one with the most problems. One year it was presented to PC Bro. Alex Hughan. He won it for being so frustrated at one of this shots. He swung his club and, unknown to him, a tree crept up behind him and his club was attacked by the tree. The late Bro. Charlie Wilson had his own special pencil for keeping score. We all endured Charlie as he was a nice fellow but his pencil could not add. Bro. Colin Black would play the ball regardless of where it landed (other than in water). One day, it went into a deep dry swimming pool. Needless to say, he played it off the four walls while others whooped and hollered at his Gaelic vocal endeavours. It's a wonder he wasn't a victim of his own golf ball. PDC Don Macdonald won a bottle of Scotch as a prize and, to this day, the bottle remains “aging”, unopened, in his trophy case.

Later PC Archie Miller took on the responsibility of finding suitable links for Sunday morning games. Probably the most memorable one was in 1986, the year of Expo, when the Grand Camp officers were here and swelled the numbers to fifty golfers. Afterwards a barbecue was held at Bro. Archie's home. According to the minutes, the Sunday morning games continued on until 1990, the last game being held on June 17th at Coyote Creek Golf course with a barbecue at Archie’s house. It was becoming very difficult to obtain tee off times on a Sunday morning for so many people, and the prices were getting so expensive that the interest was not there and these reasons caused the demise of the Camp Golf games.

FISHING DERBIES

In 1961, Bro. Arthur Anderson was instrumental in the Camp having fishing derbies on the Fraser River sand bars. Many families took advantage of the outings although no one ever caught many fish and those that were, were on the small side, probably because the children were having such a good time running up and down the sand they scared the fish away. These outings eventually evolved into travelling to more exotic locations, even to weekends at Manning Park. These weekends were greatly enjoyed by the fishermen and others who just enjoyed the company and being out in the fresh air.

CRIBBAGE

For over forty years, Lord of the Isles cribbage players met with their counterparts in Vancouver and enjoyed many wonderful evenings. Names that come to mind are PC Bro. Bill Robertson, PDC John and Sis. Muriel Gray, Sis. Effie Titterington, who was convenor for our Camp players for many years, and many others. At one time we had fourteen players and fourteen spares. From the Camp minute books, they won and lost many times, but there are no records of when and what, except for 1978, when our “D” team was first, and Glamis second. The last mention of the combined Camps is in January, 1979. Evidently, Lord of the Isles tried to continue on its own but the last game was in October 1979.
Hoot, Mon! Let's All Go to The
NEW WESTMINSTER
HIGHLAND GAMES
Queens Park Oval
(COVERED STANDS)
SAT., June 14th
9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
Chieftain of the Games, R. C. MacDONALD

Record Entry In Competition For:
HIGHLAND PIPING and DANCING
ENTRIES FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Official Opening by Chris Main, Grand Chieftain
HOGMANAY

The camp had many Hogmanays over the years including one on a very stormy winter night. Nearly all other organizations and hotel functions were cancelled due to the heavy snowfall. Then, over the radio came the announcement: “Lord of the Isles' Hogmanay is going ahead”. The announcer said, “Only crazy Scotsmen would go out on sic a nicht”. Only one couple did not show up. The rest had a wonderful time. The snow stopped during the festivities and everyone arrived home safely in the morning.

Another year a member volunteered turkeys at wholesale price. Sister Pearl Johnston volunteered to cook them. The turkeys arrived at the Johnston's in the late afternoon - frozen solid. Tom and Pearl had turkeys “thawing” over the hot air registers, in the oven - any place warm, but to no avail. Pearl then took the turkeys to a local restaurant and had them cooked, sliced and packed. Everyone had a wonderful time, the hall was packed, and only the Social Committee knew of the near disaster.

When Camp meetings moved to the Masonic Hall, so did Hogmanays. Bro. Archie Miller, with his sound system and collection of tapes, provided music for other very successful nights. When the Masonic Hall closed, no other hall with a suitable dance floor could be found, and members then drifted off to other facilities for their celebrations.

THE GAMES

The Sons of Scotland Highland Games can be traced back to 1886 in the City of Vancouver when the St. Andrew’s Caledonian Society hosted the first Caledonian Games. In 1906, the camp decided to hold the Scottish Games in Queens Park in conjunction with the Provincial Exhibition which was held there each fall until the buildings were destroyed by fire in 1929. It wasn’t until 1963 that, with the efforts of former MLA Bro. R.C. MacDonald, the Highland Games were renewed in Queens Park.

In the 1970’s Bro. Bob McCaig of McCaig Travel had a caber sent over by air freight from the Braemar Games. Every competitor at the Games tried to toss it but failed. They began to think it was filled with lead. The Games continued until 1983, when it was no longer financially possible for the Camp to continue them. The Braemar caber was tried unsuccessfully at various other Games until the 1998 Langley Games when Doug MacDonald correctly tossed it.

Two competitors of the 1909 Scottish Games comparing old times while watching the 1976 New Westminster Highland Games (P.C. RC Macdonald on the left and P.C. Wm Robertson on the right). In 1909 R.C. won Tossing the Caber and held it until 1915. Bill played in the pipe band at the same games.
LADIES AUXILIARY

On October 25, 1935, the ladies of the Camp joined together as a “Ladies Auxiliary”. In December of 1935 they donated $35.00 to the Camp and $10 to the Social Club. On January 24, 1936 they disbanded, turning their earnings ($16.25) over to the Camp.

At the start of the Second World War in 1939, they reunited to provide comforts for the Armed Services. After the war they stayed together. There were bake sales, craft sales, raffles and, later on, even garage sales. All their proceeds were donated to worthy charities in and around the city. They also provided the Camp’s Birthday Night in June with a beautifully decorated birthday cake and helped finance the Children’s Christmas Party.

In 1991, they donated $1050 to the Variety Club to help provide a van for transporting children in need. The van was decorated with the Sons of Scotland crest on the doors designating them as donors.

Each June they had a happy dinner party as a good restaurant and always reported having an excellent dinner and a very good evening.

Unfortunately in December of 1991, after some fifty-five years of meritorious service, they decided to disband for reasons known only to themselves. However, these ladies are still ready to assist the Camp whenever needed.

SISTER MEMBERS

Since sisters were brought into the Camp in 1927, they have added very much appreciated input. The first recorded sister members, Mary J. Smith (Piper) and Agnes Smith, both joined March 31, 1927. They were followed on April 29th by Jessie Dunbar, wife of Bro. John Dunbar, and on May 13th by Margaret Robertson, wife of Bill Robertson. She was later to become our first sister Chief in 1932.

In more recent times, PDC Marjorie Ferguson is always willing to take on a task nobody else will volunteer for. She has worked diligently in just about every office and committee the Camp has. PC Shirley Mackenzie has chaired many committees and served on the Burns Supper event for over twenty-five years. Sis. Shirley Kenyon was Camp secretary for many years and did an excellent job.

In 1989 PC Sis Carol Grant designed and built a District Float which was entered in many regional parades and took prizes in most. She carried on doing the rounds of parades for several years with much success. Difficulty in finding a place to store the float, workers to work at the parades, etc. led to its discontinuation in 1996.

There are so many sisters who have contributed to the Association over the years it is impossible to mention them all, but without them, it is doubtful that Lord of the Isles would have survived.
DISTRICT COMPETITIONS

Lord of the Isles entered into its first Scottish Dance competition in 1946. The dancers tried very hard but, because it was an all Sisters team, they lost points. In 1947, their instructor, Sis. Annie Bruce, called on the young people of the day to supply male dancers. Little did she realize the frustrations and headaches she would have. The Brothers' feet did not work like the Sisters' did. So Annie sent the fellows to the Scottish Ladies Dance Organization for instructions on how to do the steps the correct way. This move reduced the coaches' strain and the teams began to produce results. This resulted in winning the David Glenn Trophy in 1948 and Seaforth, Healthier Bell, Lochnagar, and Montrose Camps all sent congratulations.

The competitions continued for many years with teams made up of old and new members. In the latter part of the 1950's, Sister Greta Smith, newly arrived from Scotland, took over as coach. Donald and Ishabel Ross, P.C. Bill and Betty Lyon and members of the Thistle Club competed against Vancouver Camps with much success.

Highland Dancing

In 1977 a competition was organized for children of Sons of Scotland members. This brought many new members into Lord of the Isles Camp. The competition closed in 1986 and evolved into an open competition in May, which evolved into the present day Highland Games.

Curling

The District had curling teams from 1964 to 1984. At one time, we had three teams from Lord of the Isles, with many competing quite successfully. In the latter years the problem was trying to get curling sheets at a time which would be suitable for all members.

Bowling

Lord of the Isles has had several competitive teams. One of the most successful was made up of PC Jack Monks and his wife, Marion, their son Mike, P.C. Jackie Grist and her son and sister, Sis. Liz Catto. Bro. Jack placed first in High Singles and third in High Three. Sis. Marion and Liz placed in all categories, High Average, High Three and High Singles.


WINTER CARNIVALS

These weekends started in 1977 and were enjoyed by many families. Actually it was very difficult to organize because reservations had to be made the previous year and the different convenors must be complimented for their efforts.

On one particular year there was too little snow, another so much snow fell overnight the only way to find the cars was by the aerials sticking out of the snow. These weekends were lots of fun and complete families from little children to grandparents attended. The event in 1991 attracted 95 members and their families. The last mention in the minutes was 1996.
ODDS 'N ENDS

Camp Matchmakers

The following are marriages between members of Lord of the Isles Camp.

1934  Archie Miller and Agnes Black
1936  Arthur Miller and Flora Mackie
1949  Alex Hughan and Helen Carlin
1949  Angus Macdonald and Velma Boyle
1950  Henry Bromley and Jennie Lightbody
1948  Terry Mitchell and Violet Campbell (Montrose)
1975  John Simmons and Joan O'Donnell
1982  Pat Monks and Willina Collins
      Robert Catto and Linda Bains
      James Grist and Myrna McLean

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION


Camp picnic to Pitt Lake on S.S. Delta
July 1, 1931
MORE ODDS 'N ENDS

From The Columbian, January 26, 1917

“Attended Banquet
A deputation from the local camp of the Sons of Scotland attended in Vancouver last night the Burns Celebration of the United Scottish Societies of British Columbia when over six hundred people sat down to supper! Hon. M.A. Macdonald was the orator of the evening. Among those who attended from New Westminster were Messrs. D. Lightbody, A. Adams, J. Hyslop, S. White, D. Webster, J. Kirkland, D. Ferguson and A.G. Kidd.”

Moonlight Cruise

The minute book of 1931 records a moonlight cruise and dance on a barge being towed down the Frasr River by a tug. What a wonderful evening that must have been - and it was very successful financially too! It made a profit of $6.45 - the highest amount recorded since 1899.

$1000 Beneficiary Certificate

Issued October 10, 1899 for Duncan Edwin MacKenzie,
signed by George Adams, First Chief of Lord of the Isles Camp #191

(Original certificate 12" by 19")
LORD OF THE ISLES
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS

50 Years - 1949

The Lord of the Isles' Golden Jubilee was held May 27, 1949 at the Legion Hall on Begbie Street in New Westminster. A huge birthday cake was piped in by A. Duncan and presented by the Ladies' Auxiliary to Mrs. W. A. Robertson, wife of the camp's financial secretary. In a brief ceremony, Mrs. Robertson addressed the members and did the cake-cutting honours.

The Chief, W.C. Alex Walker, chaired the evening, and along with Grand Chief Alex. H. McDonald and District Chief D.M. Irwin, made a presentation to the Loyal Protestant Home for Children. Mayor J. Lewis Sangster spoke about Our City, followed by a violin selection by Sis. Jennie Lightbody, our Early History by P.D.C. H.O. McDonald, a piano solo by Sis Barbara Carroll, Past and Present by P.C. Wm. A. Robertson and a song by P.C. R. Dey. The evening concluded with dancing and Auld Lang Syne.

75 Years - 1974

We celebrated our 75th anniversary on Saturday, June 15, 1974 at the Gizeh Shrine Temple, 3550 Wayburne, Burnaby. The event was chaired by the Chief, W.C. Robert Nicolson, with the assistance of Grand Chief, John Burman and District Chief, Betty Barrett. After a smorgasbord, the Ladies' Auxiliary presented a 75th anniversary cake. Vocal selections by Tom Westwater and Delaine Holden, accompanied by Margaret Frederick on the piano, as well as the performance of the Royal Scottish Country Dancers, South Vancouver Branch, entertained members. The evening came to an end with dancing and Auld Lang Syne.

100 Years - 1999

Plans are for our 100th anniversary celebrations to extend over the weekend of June 4 - 6th. The Grand Chief, Mrs. Margaret Newton and the Executive Board Members will be in attendance at the Camp Meeting on June 4th and at the 100th Anniversary dinner on Saturday, June 5th. On Sunday, June 6th, the District 16 Church Parade will be at St. Savior's Traditional Anglican Church in Richmond. Rev. Robert Redmile of Lord Tweedsmuir Camp will conduct the service. Lord of the Isles' tartan will be kirked in honour of our one hundredth year.
# Sons of Scotland in British Columbia
## Through the Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Opened</th>
<th>Closed</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Royal Scot Camp, #172</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>September 1895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord of the Isles Camp #191</td>
<td>New Westminster</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td></td>
<td>July 28, 1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speyside Camp #184</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>June 20, 1902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>January 1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluny Hill Camp #187</td>
<td>Kamloops</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>June 27, 1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>January 1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waverley Camp #169</td>
<td>Nanaimo</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>December 19, 1907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>July 1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallace Camp</td>
<td>North Vancouver</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>1907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castle Douglas Camp #110</td>
<td>Ladysmith</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>date unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ailsa Craig Camp #71</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>April 4, 1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord Tweedsmuir Camp #209</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td></td>
<td>April 1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glamis Camp #210</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glengary Camp #212</td>
<td>Burnaby</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td></td>
<td>November 1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seaforth Camp #201</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montrose Camp #203</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>October 1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kildonnan Camp #166</td>
<td>Vernon</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td></td>
<td>May 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balgownie Camp #204</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td></td>
<td>November 1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Caledonia Camp #219</td>
<td>Prince George</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraser Glen Camp #220</td>
<td>Chilliwack</td>
<td>Opened</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 1988</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lord of the Isles Camp #191**
1899 - 1999
Past District Chief Joyce Kolibas (nee Rennie)

Joyce joined the Camp in 1945 and was Chief in 1952. For many years she was Recording Secretary of Lord of the Isles Camp.

In 1974, Joyce and her family moved to Sechelt, BC and she became involved in that town's politics. She was elected alderman/councillor in 1976 and later became the Mayor of Sechelt from 1983 to 1986. She retired from council and donated her time to other local organizations and causes. In 1990 she was chosen "Good Citizen of the Year". When told she had been chosen and the presentation would be made at a banquet and dance she had only one request. That was for a Scottish band for her to "have a fling". She later returned to municipal politics and served another term on Council.

Brother Thomas Reid, M.P.

Born in Cambuslang, Scotland, Thomas Reid arrived in Canada in 1909. He entered politics in Surrey and served as Reeve of Surrey for seven years. He was elected to the House of Commons for New Westminster in 1930 and re-elected to Parliament from 1935 to 1949.

He was appointed Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Fisheries and, in 1948, Minister of National Revenue. In September of 1949, he was summoned to the Senate. Tom always said that this was to keep him quiet. Evidently he was very vocal and when he was frustrated with the other Members of Parliament, especially for their attitude that Canada ended at the Rocky Mountains, he would parade through the halls of Parliament playing the bagpipes.

Tom owned a farm in Surrey and often offered that land for Camp picnics and other gatherings. For entertainment at some Camp meetings, he would tell of the goings-on in Ottawa. One particular evening he gave a blow-by-blow account of an organization wanting to form a Glasgow Jewish Pipe Band. We have no knowledge of its outcome or whether he had been set up by his fellow parliamentarians.

Past Grand Chief Chris Main

Brother Chris is a local boy, born November 11, 1926 in New Westminster. He joined Lord of the Isles in 1944 and played the drums in the local Pipe Band when P.C. Tom Johnston was Pipe Major. Chris took immediately to Camp life and in 1950 brought his lady love, Norma, who was from Edmonton, into the Camp. They were married in 1951. Chris was Chief in 1953, District Chief in 1960, and Grand Chief in 1970.

Chris served his apprenticeship with the Canadian National Railway at Port Mann, after which he joined the Great Northern Railway who sent him to Everett then Spokane. He was later in charge of the mechanical division for that region and then transferred back to the Seattle area. All this time, Chris was still very much involved with the Sons of Scotland. He was elected to the Board and became Grand Chief while still residing in the U.S.

When he retired, he returned to Canada to play his favourite game, golf. He was elected Chief of the Camp for 1999 and the Camp's 100th birthday celebrations.
Past District Chief Rev. Brother A. E. Vert
1869 - 1936

Albert Edward Vert was born in Scotland November 1, 1869. Graduating from Edinburgh University, he emigrated to Canada and studied for the Ministry in Knox College, Toronto. Prior to moving to British Columbia, he held ministerial posts in Ontario and Nova Scotia. He was inducted as Minister of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in New Westminster September 2, 1897. He resigned in 1903 and took up the role of chaplain of the BC Penitentiary, a position he held for twenty years.

He joined Lord of the Isles Camp #191 at its inception as Chaplain and held the role of Chief in 1900, Financial Secretary in 1913 and Chieftain in 1918. He was the First Deputy District Chief in 1906 and was chosen by the BC representatives to Grand Camp. On June 27, 1930, Worthy Chief G.D. McMurphy called on Rev. Bro. Vert as the oldest Charter Member and the first District Chief to invest the Officers with their new sashes and broaches.

He and his wife, Nettie, had two daughters, Mary and Margaret, and one son, Francis (Frank). He died April 19, 1936 in St. Mary's Hospital after a long illness.

Past Chief A. Wellesley (Wells) Gray
1876 - 1944

Wells Gray was born in New Westminster October 6, 1876, son of Mr. & Mrs. T.W. Gray who had come to BC from Ontario the previous year. From 1897 until 1911 he was salesman for Royal City Planing Mills. Then he turned his attention to real estate and insurance with which he was identified for many years.

He was Mayor of New Westminster all during World War I. At the end of 1919, the first year of the postwar period, he decided not to accept renomination for Mayor. However, he had established a reputation as one of the best informed men on municipal affairs in the province and one of the most efficient administrators. The Provincial Government appointed him administrator of South Vancouver which was in turmoil and had appealed to the Province for help. For 18 months he was reeve and council, school board and police commission all in one.

In 1927 he was re-elected Mayor of New Westminster and also elected liberal candidate to the Provincial legislature. He continued in the dual role until 1933 when he resigned as Mayor and became Minister of Lands and Municipalities under Premier Pattullo, continuing in the same position under Premier John Hart until his death in 1944.

He joined Lord of the Isles Camp on September 04, 1906 and was Chief in 1909.
Past Chief William Alexander (Bill) Robertson  
(1886 - 1988)

Born in Marnock, Aberchinder, Scotland, Bill emigrated to Canada in 1907 as a carpenter. He found Winnipeg too cold so he continued on his way to British Columbia. He settled in New Westminster and joined the Lord of the Isles Camp January 5, 1909. He became Camp Piper in 1910 and Chieftain in 1912. In 1914, he served as Chief for four months before he left to work in Alaska. He returned to join the 29th Regiment as a piper and went overseas in World War I.

Times were getting tough in the Dirty Thirties so, in 1935, Bill took over as Financial Secretary and would walk the streets calling on members for their premiums. If any members were sick he paid them a visit. The success of Lord of the Isles was partially due to his unending effort in the early days.

On May 13, 1927, when he was Chieftain, his wife Margaret (Meg) joined the Camp. In 1932 she became the first lady Chief. Past Chiefs Bill and Meg added further energy to the camp with Meg on the piano and Bill on his “go to me go from me” button accordion playing by the hour for many dances and concerts. Incidentally, Bill could not read a note of music but he had a fantastic memory.

Bill was always interested in the Camp, even after he had moved into a care home very late in his life. His memory was excellent and he took pleasure in recalling tales of Camp history and members of bygone days. He helped many a Chief with his knowledge of the Constitution and Camp room procedure. He passed away peacefully on July 16, 1988 at the amazing age of 102 years.

Sister Rose Phillips

The headline in the Herald newspaper of Tuesday, February 20, 1978 reads, “Secret Admirer Nominates Rose”.

The Governor General presented the Queen’s Jubilee Medal to Rose Phillips, psychiatric nurse, for her outstanding service in the field of mental health and care of patients for thirty-five years. Rose felt her job was a challenging one because every day was different. She retired from Riverview Hospital as a “Nurse 3”, which is the equivalent of Head Nurse in a General Hospital. She stated “we all work as a team, you just can’t do it yourself.”

Rose is always ready and willing to serve. Quoting Rose, “I wonder who it was who chose me? I have asked almost everyone I know and no one locally or provincially seems to know anything about it.”
Past Chief Roderick Charles “R.C.” MacDonald  
(1886 - 1978)

Roderick Charles MacDonald was known to everyone as “R.C.”. He was born in Invernesshire, Scotland and came to Canada in 1907. He joined the Camp on September 1, 1908 at the age of 22.

R.C. was very interested in the Sons of Scotland. In 1918 he became Chief and retained that title until 1927. When times were tough in the '20s, meetings were called and held in the back of his shoe store. (Wonder how they did the floor work?)

He was very interested in politics and was a counsellor for Coquitlam in 1922 for two years. He was Reeve of Coquitlam from 1924 until 1941. He entered provincial politics and was Minister of Mines and Municipal Affairs until 1952.

His most persistent fight (against the BC Electric Railway Company) resulted in the reduction of electric light rates after he took the case to the Supreme Court and then to the Privy Council in London. The final decision reduced the rate from seven cents to five cents per kilowatt hour, saving the area citizens thousands of dollars. Next he won the fight against the tolls on the Pattullo Bridge and established it as a “free” bridge.

He was proclaimed “Good Citizen of the Year” twice, in 1942 and again in 1954. For his long standing service to the Municipality of Coquitlam, the new R.C. MacDonald Elementary School was officially opened in his honour in 1977.


Past Grand Chief Dr. George Nicolson

George Nicolson was born in Victoria in 1917. He received his M.D. in Toronto in 1943 and worked as Pathologist and Director of Laboratories at Riverview Hospital as well as operating his own lab in Port Coquitlam. After about thirty years he resigned and worked solely out of his own lab.

In 1965, Chief Shirley and Brother Ramsay introduced George and his wife Chris to the Camp, and they in turn brought their three sons and one daughter in. Their second son, Robert, was also a Chief and District Chief and has represented our Camp at Grand Camp. Robert has also been the Camp pianist for many years.

George is a family man. His favourite pastimes are playing cards, particularly “Dimes”, horseracing, and buying raffle tickets. George did not buy one ticket, he bought books and he usually won something. It became quite a joke, “If you are buying tickets, George, I won't because I don't have a hope of winning.” Many charities were richly benefitted by his generous nature.

After being Chief, and Camp representative to Grand Camp, George was elected to the Board and became Grand Chief in 1979. In 1978 he was chosen to receive the Queen's Jubilee Medal by the Governor General, after being nominated by his medical colleagues.
Sons of Scotland
Centennial Song

It was eighteen hundred and seventy six
when the Sons of Scotland began
And the aim of the few that formed it
Was to help each other along

Chorus
So let's keep on singing their praises
Let us shout it across the land
And say with pride we are members
Of the Sons of Scotland so grand.

In the land of the Maple Leaf they proudly kept
Scotland's cultures and customs alive
And today we still preserve them
Through the years they will always survive.

Chorus

You will always find a welcoming smile
When you walk through the Camp room door
A hand stretched out in fellowship
And friendships for evermore.

Chorus
SONS OF SCOTLAND BENEOLENT ASSOCIATION
LORD OF THE ISLES CAMP #191
New Westminster
British Columbia

HONOUR ROLL OF CAMP CHIEFS

1899 George Adams 1933 Wm Steele 1966 Ken Matheson
1900 Rev. A.E. Vert 1934 Joe Buchan 1967 George Nicolson
1901 John Forrester 1935 Wm. Bell 1968 Joyce Kolbas
1902 George Sutherland 1936 John Cameron 1969 Jack McCrae
1903 Alex Adams 1937 James Watson 1970 Alan McMahon
1904 James N. Aitchison 1938 James Watson 1971 Robert Munro
1905 Angus Munn 1939 Muir Watson 1972 Wm. Lyon
1906 John McNiven Jr. 1940 P. Nicolson 1973 Jack Monks
1907 Dan Barclay 1941 John Wilson 1974 Robert Nicolson
1908 Wm. Sutherland 1942 R.W. Adams 1975 Karen Nicolson
1909 A. Wells Gray 1943 Tom Johnston 1976 Jackie Grist
1910 Andrew Halcrow 1944 Tom Johnston 1977 Ian Macdonald
1911 A.D. McRae 1945 Wm. Bell 1978 John Todd
1912 Fred McIntosh 1946 Anne Bruce 1979 Marjorie Ferguson
1913 James Muirhead 1947 Robert Dey 1980 Tom Blair
1914 Wm. A. Robertson 1948 Don Macdonald 1981 John Todd
1915 J. Hyslop 1949 Alex Walker 1982 Charles McBeth
1916 D. Lightbody 1950 P. Nicolson 1983 Ken Nicol
1917 D. Lightbody 1951 John Duncan 1984 John Gray
1918 R.C. MacDonald 1952 Joyce Rennie 1985 Jim Collins
1919 R.C. MacDonald 1953 Chris Main 1986 Archie Miller
1920 R.C. MacDonald 1954 Don Macdonald 1987 Archie Miller
1921 R.C. MacDonald 1955 Tom Johnston 1988 Marjorie Ferguson
1922 R.C. MacDonald 1956 Albert Duncan 1989 Karen Macgregor
1923 R.C. MacDonald 1957 Jean McCrae 1990 Karen Macgregor
1924 R.C. MacDonald 1958 Vern Smithman 1991 Jim Wilson
1925 R.C. MacDonald 1959 Vern Smithman 1992 Ron Fox
1926 R.C. MacDonald 1960 Tom Johnston 1993 Tom Blair
1927 R.C. MacDonald 1961 John Gray 1994 Carol Grant
1928 Wm. A Robertson 1962 Alex Hughan 1995 Blair Anderson
1929 George McMurphy 1963 Chrissie Anderson 1996 Jacqueline Blair
1930 George McMurphy 1964 Jean McCrae 1997 Ron Fox
1931 James Watson 1965 Shirley Mackenzie 1998 Marjorie Ferguson
1932 Margaret Robertson