



## Société Clan MacKinnon-Québec

Clan MacKinnon Society

<https://www.themackinnon.com/>

Clan MacKinnon-France

<https://www.mackinnon-france.eu/>



## September Issue

The Clan MacKinnon Society in Quebec, Canada has undergone some changes. Tommy McKinnon, the former Commissioner has moved to British Columbia and Kathleen McKen was asked to take his place. We firstly thank Tommy for all the work that he did as the pioneer Commissioner in Quebec and for getting others involved. We wish you the best of luck in your new adventure.

Kathleen took over the helm as of July 2019. Her first duty was to assign her partner Ewen Booth as the secretary of the Society, and to translate the McKinnon family document for Quebec into French. No there is no misprint. We use the spelling "McKinnon" as the early family members who arrived in North America used this spelling. "Mac VS Mc" is a modern argument. Kathleen liaised with Robert Amyot, Commissioner for Clan MacKinnon-France for many documents and discovered his roots in Quebec as well. Surprisingly they are from different branches of the clan but did live in the same small town in Quebec for a period.



Ewen and Kathleen (Ewen wearing an officer's uniform of the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders)

In September the Ville de Quebec held their Celtic festival, so a display was custom made for the event and will become a long-term travelling display. The display's theme is "Are you a descendant?". The display was done up to promote those descended from any McKinnons or from former members of the 78<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot (Fraser's Highlanders). To take a step back in time; the 78<sup>th</sup> regiment were raised in Scotland in 1757 along with the 77<sup>th</sup> Regiment of foot (Montgomerie's Highlanders) for service in North America during the Seven Years War against France. (aka; the French and Indian Wars). 1400 Frasers travelled to North America and between 1757-1763 participated in numerous battles including the fall of Louisburg, Quebec City, and the surrender of Montreal. The regiment was garrisoned in numerous villages and parishes along the St-Lawrence river east of Quebec City between 1760-1763.



These soldiers, when not soldiering, assisted the local habitants with farming, fishing, hunting, and other daily chores. They also lived in the same homes and socialized with them. In 1763 the regiment was disbanded, and the soldiers were offered land grants if they remained in North America or travel back home. Over 300 Fraser Highlanders remained in North America, and married local habitants, and others returned to Scotland to return later to North America with family members. The 77<sup>th</sup> Regiments also were disbanded and were offered the same options. Unfortunately, most of the soldiers never received these land grants, and had to work hard to survive in the new world. The stories of these soldiers will be published later.

The display was amongst the other clan tents, and over the two days, hundreds of visitors attended, and the descendants of 13 Fraser highlanders were discovered, including two McKinnons. Another McKinnon was found who is from the same family as Robert Amyot in France, so it truly was a success. Robert has an interesting family in that his McKinnon married a Reid in Scotland, and their children came to North America and ended up living with the French south of Montreal in the 1600s.

<http://www.robert-amyot.com/musicien/Amyot-solo/Amyot-solo.html>

While preparing for the display, research found a Whiskey distilled by Lohin-McKinnon in British Columbia, Canada. A bottle was purchased locally and was offered as a door prize, along with a bottle of Drambuie. Lohin-McKinnon were contacted and supplied some items for the door prize and are excited to work with Clan McKinnon for further projects. A MacKinnon Brothers Brewery was also discovered in Bath, Ontario and albeit their product is not available in Quebec, they were added to the display.



The house with the front partially renovated.

Kathleen and Ewen happen to live in a residence which is known to have been owned by Donald McKinnon in 1767. He was a merchant, businessman and a Tavern owner. He was a former Fraser highlander who settled in the town of Montmagny, Quebec. He sponsored his brother; Lauchlin McKinnon to travel to North America, and it is assumed that Lauchlin was also a former Fraser Highlander, and a Culloden veteran. Lauchlin had children, who lived in the Matane area, and contributed to the McKinnons in Quebec today.

The other “patriarch” for the McKinnons in North America is another Donald McKinnon. He was also a former Fraser Highlander and settled in Berthier-Sur-Mer, also having many children. He ran a bar (cabaret). He happens to be the ancestor of Kathleen and Tommy, and numerous other descendants that Kathleen and Ewen have found during the past two years. Ewen is involved in a project along with three other historians called the “78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlander Descendant’s project”. It is a lengthy undertaking to track down the history of the soldiers of the regiment, and during these searches he has found the McKinnons that we have the history for today. It has also been found that a Jacques McCann who resides in Ontario, Canada also is descended from the same Donald McKinnon, and has been researching the McKinnons in Canada for the last 30 years. The names McCann and McKen and numerous other variants are all direct descendants of McKinnons. The names were simply changed by the parish priest who recorded the name after listening to them and wrote them phonetically. He also did the same thing for French names, so the Scots were not targeted as per popular belief. Most early Scots also spoke Gaelic, so some translating of names is required in order to find out who is who. (Some examples of this is Augustine = Hugh, Guillaume = William, Dennis = Duncan, Ignas = Angus, Donald = Daniel) This does make the searches for individuals challenging at times.

To get back to the house, Kathleen and Ewen have lived there the last two years and have undertaken a life-long project of restoring it and preventing it from further deteriorating. A historical architectural engineer quickly examined the house and stated that she would not be surprised if the house dated back to 1690. Being a wood structure, it is in dire need of repair. This will be covered in further publications.

Recently Geoff DeLuca from Ontario, visited the house and he is a descendant of Lauchlin McKinnon, the brother of Donald, who is the former owner of the house. No doubt his descendant walked within the walls of the house.



Geoff DeLuca and his wife



One project that will be undertaken is to have a bilingual web site for Quebec, to attract the French speaking McKinnons. There is a whole population of Clan MacKinnon in Quebec who are not aware of their own roots, and many of them think they are Irish. With the recent reunions of cousins, all descended from the same Donald or Lauchlin McKinnons, Tears were shed when people found out “who they are”. In today’s world a family connection is getting more and more important.



Kathleen at the Quebec City Celtic Festival. (Yes, it was a cool damp weekend)



An emotional family re-union. A McKinnon finds out her ancestry first-hand for the first time. (Unfortunately, she did not leave her contact information)



The clan tent



Lyne Joncas discovers her roots

The "Maison Donald-McKinnon" 1895 era.  
(The St-Lawrence river is in the background to the North)

