

THE KENNEDY GAZETTE

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SUMMER 2008



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Membership Report

Sue Kennedy, Membership Chair

The date was August, 2008.
The place was Fergus – it was really great!
The Kennedys came from far and near,
From places with names like Guelph,
Mississauga, Alliston, and Kitchener.
We met in the tent and it began to rain,
Our predicament soon became plain!

We would have to visit
and get to know one another,
And soon we discovered
we even liked each other!

Visitors came in and signed the roster
At the end of the day, we had ten
new members to foster!
We welcome all the new Canadian members
And are happy you've joined
our Kennedy group
And here in a nutshell is the scoop...

As far as membership goes,
the weekend was a huge success!
And with new family members,
we are truly blessed!



Above, John A. Kennedy, Chieftain, Canada Region, with granddaughters Olivia Creighton and Gillian Bradshaw; at the KSNA post-AGM dinner and ceilidh, Fergus ON, in August. (See p. 5 for a full report.)



Left, Lord Ailsa elevated Randy Peterson to Chieftain, Mountain Region, at the Fergus dinner. Randy will host the 2009 AGM in Estes Park, Colorado.

From the Chief



Great Summer and on we go into a wonderful Fall. Lots of news and activities in this issue of the Gazette. Our Editor is doing a wonderful job with the newsletter. Remember to send in your notes & pictures for publication of births, weddings, birthday or anniversary parties.

Our second AGM 'off the mountain' was conducted at Fergus, Ontario, Canada. John A. Kennedy with family and friends put on a GREAT party. It started Saturday morning with light showers that blossomed into a rain forest downpour. This was done with great planning, (on John's part) with a lot of help from his maker. The falling liquid that John had ordered forced all of us Kennedys into close proximity, and to become very knowledgeable of those around us in the oversized clan tent. Ten, that's right, ten new members joined over the weekend.

We gathered in a meeting room for the Board of Directors meeting and later in a very large room for the AGM. Minutes of the AGM are on our web site for your viewing but I do wish to address a couple items: Randy Peterson from the mountain region has been promoted to Chieftain of that region, and he will host the 2009 AGM at Estes Park, Colorado. (Make your travel plans early, and if you want to partner-up in the lease of a 5-6 bedroom Chalet, arriving Thursday AM, departing Monday AM (4 nights) let me know.)

Sherry Kennedy Frady was appointed to Chieftain Southeast Region, and her husband Mike Frady to Co-Chieftain, Southeast. Col. Gene Kennedy was appointed to Vice-Chieftain, and his wife Linda to Co-Vice Southeast as well. These folks have worked very hard in their respective regions. Many thanks to each of you for a job well done.

The Scholarship Fund has acquired a beautiful trophy that will be displayed at the AGM and at all games the Vice-Chief attends, as he has the responsibility of keeping the trophy. The Scholarship fund needs your donations. The Society is placing 10% of all Membership

dues and renewals into the fund. This is not enough for a liquid fund, so I'm asking for special donations to be sent to the treasurer, please write your check payable to KSNA and for SCHOLARSHIPS. We continue to look for someone who is legally-minded to assist in setting up a tax deductible trust for scholarship donations. If you are that person or know that person, contact me.

The 2010 AGM location has not yet been decided. If you would like to host the AGM in your area contact me ASAP. Our planning committee will assist you in any way they can to host it, and the earlier you volunteer the longer you'll have to put it together — you could have 24 months. We don't have to be the Honored Clan; we just need for our Chief to be an Honored Guest, and to have a small meeting room for the Board meeting on Friday afternoon, and a larger room for the AGM on Saturday afternoon. Of course we would like to hold the traditional society dinner (menu and location your choice, \$30.00 or under per adult person.)

The Fergus Game may have been rained out but it didn't dampen our the spirits at the dinner party, in the basement of the local Masonic Hall. Guests came in between showers & downpours but all arrived on time and in great spirits. The hall was decorated magnificently with white tablecloths and beautiful table decorations. The food was prepared and served by beautiful ladies that would that would make the chef of the "Château Fleur de Lys" jealous. All enjoyed a few before-dinner drinks served by a very special bartender, Ray Bradshaw, one of Chieftain John's son-in-laws then dined on food fit for a Lord provided by Mary Lloyd and Bentley House Catering. After dinner, award certificates (created by yours truly) were presented, and Lord Ailsa recognized our newest Chieftain, Randy Peterson, and instantly put him on the spot, asking him to give the **Kennedy Battle Cry**.

Music was supplied by John's Nephew & Great-nephew and everyone danced the night away. John and family did a wonderful job hosting the Fergus AGM.

Congratulations to you and your family John, on a job well done!

— *Nomon*

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Visit the Kennedy Society web site,

<http://www.kennedysociety.org>

To print a membership form (renew today!) view news, pictures, events calendar, and more.

Kennedy Society Yahoo! Group

Join the [kennedy_society](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kennedy_society) group at groups.yahoo.com to keep up with the latest news and activities.

Blairsville Games

By Chris and Sue Kennedy

June 14 and 15 found the Kennedys at the Blairsville Highland Games in Blairsville, Georgia. Unfortunately our usual tent conveners, Eddie and Laura Pittman, were absent, suffering from a stomach virus. Substitute conveners Nomon and Nancy Kennedy and Sue and Chris Kennedy were "manning" the tent in their place.

The forecast was for rain and indeed it rained most of the day. Attendance was down, but still we saw several Kennedys and received a couple of renewals at the tent.



Pictures from the Games:

above, our granddaughter Emily Rhoads dances a baby Highland Fling, and right, Chris, member Kelli Pirkle, and her daughter Caitlyn line up for the parade of Tartans.



Greenville Games

By Gene Kennedy, Southeast Vice-Chieftain

My wife and I set up the tent at the Furman University, Greenville Games on June 7th, with help from our son-in-law, Christoph Kresse. The day became extremely hot, causing the crowds to be somewhat smaller than last year.

The Kennedy Tent was visited by Clan Chief Nomon Kennedy and his wife Nan, Karen Kennedy, The Cassillis Family, The Farleys and the Keys, owners of Heeland Hound. We had a really good time visiting with one another in spite of the temperatures and added one new member, Timothy D. Kennedy of West Virginia.

We are planning to attend the Stone Mountain games in October.

Campbell Games, Pleasanton Games

By Michael Kennedy, Chieftain, Western Region

Greetings to all! It seems that over the last several years, the games we've represented have coincided with a heat wave. For instance, at the Campbell Games the day started at 103 F at 10:00 in the morning, and progressed to thunder-showers at noon. This culminated into humidity like North Carolina. It was the strangest day we've ever experienced in California. It may account for the low attendance, but we did get several interested parties.

The Pleasanton Games were very different, with temperatures in the 80s. The day before was 109 F! We had a good turnout with 10 interested Kennedys on the guest list. Among the visitors was Ian Kennedy from San Clemente who has joined us for many years. He has invited my wife and I to represent Clan Kennedy at the Costa Mesa Games in 2009, where he lives.

Our future plans for this year include Kennedy clan shirts available for purchase. Hope to see you all at the AGM next year in Colorado.

Flowers of the Forest

We express our sympathy to Suzanne Kennedy Huff and her family, on the recent death of her beloved grandfather, Herbert Cyrus Cravey, who died on July 10, 2008. He was the one who instilled in her great love of Scotland and its heritage.

May he rest in peace, and rise of glory.

—Father David Kennedy *Fr.*, KSNA Chaplain

Kilt Night in Atlanta

Sue Kennedy

On April 26, Scots and 'wannabe' Scots descended on a local Irish pub in Roswell, Georgia,, The Harp. We had a good crowd for this first-time event, as we were 70 strong. Among the clans present were Kennedys, Fraziers, Smiths, and Gunns. We were all dressed out in our kilts and Scottish attire. and I have to say we looked good!

There to entertain us with Scottish ballads and requests was our own Jordan Cannaday from Cranston, Rhode Island, and we had our own piper, Bobbie Harwell, from Snellville, Georgia. Jordan and Bobbie played their hearts out and the crowd knew that this night would not be soon forgotten! Adding to the festivities was our own Lord Ailsa, who was stateside for the Loch Norman games, and as he would tell you, "I don't like to miss a good party!" Also joining us were Nomon and Nancy Kennedy, our US Chief, from Sweetwater, Tennessee.

Our next Kilt Night is scheduled for October 11, 8:00 p.m. at The Harp Irish pub in Roswell. We hope even more Scots will join us!



Kilt Night revelers, above left, Martha Carver and daughter Laura Pittman; center, Sue Kennedy and Jordan Canaday; right, piper Bobbie Harwell; top right, Karen Kennedy and Jordan Canaday.



Welcome to New Midwest Members!

Left, Lord Ailsa recruited new Michigan members Betty Galici and family at the Detroit Games.

Right, Mary Mosher and her mother Kathleen Mosher joined at the Brigadoon Beltane Games, Hartville, OH.



Fergus, ON Games & AGM

By John A. Kennedy

On August 8th, 9th, and 10th the Kennedy clan was the featured clan at this year's Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games in Ontario. On Friday, we met at 2 p.m. in a conference room in the Community Centre on site, and held our Board of Governors meeting. Present were Lord Ailsa, Nomon and Nancy Kennedy, Chris and Sue Kennedy, Bill Kennedy, and John A. Kennedy. A number of items were discussed and approved.

Friday evening the VIP tent hosted Lord Ailsa, Nannette Payne, Nomon and Nancy Kennedy, Chris and Sue Kennedy, and John A. Kennedy. A buffet lunch with complimentary drinks of all sorts was laid out for us. During this time and ongoing concert was performed by several bands, and later we watched a military tattoo presented by the 48th Highlanders of Canada and the brass band of the Royal Regiment of Canada. A biplane flyover thrilled the crowd, highland athletes demonstrated their strength, and a candlelight closing ceremony as held at the end of the evening.

On Saturday our clan tent was manned by a number of members but due to the constant rain, visitor traffic at all of the clan tents was slow. During this weekend we signed up ten new members, which I am told is a record for new members joining at any one games. At 3 p.m. we held the Annual General Meeting in the Community Centre, and several new members attended (*see Chief's report on p. 2 for AGM details.*)

On Saturday evening we attended a dinner and afterwards held a ceilidh in a local hall in Fergus. Pipe music was provided by member J. Paul Kennedy, and my grandson Justin Goddard, who is just learning to play. A performance of Highland Dancing was presented by my granddaughters Olivia Creighton and Gillian Bradshaw. Julie Kennedy sang a Gaelic song, and Bill Kennedy told a story. Music for dancing was provided by my nephew Leo Cameron and his son, Scott, both of whom came from Sudbury for the occasion. Awards were handed out by Society Chief Nomon Kennedy and Lord Ailsa. A good time was had by all.

Above, members line up for dinner in Fergus, Saturday night. Center: Ron, Nomon, Bill, Frank, John, and Randy Kennedy put on the kilts for dinner and dancing. Left, Chris Kennedy and Lord Ailsa highly recommend the service at The Bredalbane Inn, Fergus.



From the Editor: As was the case last year, we received so many great AGM pictures that only a few appear in this issue. Watch for more in upcoming issues of the *Gazette!*

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

Mike and Sherry Frady, Southeast Chieftains

I can remember in times past that the walkways between the tents at GMHG would be so crowded that you had to constantly weave in and out to get anywhere. It did not seem as busy to me this year at the games, although I have been told it is busier now than ever.

The Kennedys were represented on Thursday night at the calling of the clans by Michael Frady, with his usual thanking of our heroes of the past for our freedom. At the time I was a little busy attempting to get back down the mountain—this was the first year that I attempted "The Bear" (5-mile run from Linville to the top of Grandfather Mt.) My goal was to finish, no matter where I placed, and I did finish. (Will there be a repeat? Believe it!)

A torrential downpour started just before opening cere-



monies, with me a mile down the mountain and running, Mike at the ceremony. Even with the rain, it was the best-attended opening I have seen. The rest of the weekend went well, with a few current members stopping at the tent and signing in, and one new member joining. We welcome Carolyn to the Clan. The tent was well-manned by Chief Nomon and Lady Nan, Chris and Sue, and Mike and myself. We received many pointers on running a tent, and will be hosting the tent at GMHG next year, with Janet Kennedy, who has graciously accepted our request for help, and will be bringing friends with her. All hands are welcome.

We had an honored guest that visit our tent, Margaret Kennedy Mackie Wimberly, who visited with Sue and reminisced about when Margaret used to be Lord Ailsa's playmate when they were children. It was a pleasure meeting Margaret, and we hope she to see her again.

Mary Ann Kennedy also visited the tent, who is from Scotland just north of where Lord Ailsa lives. She shared that a lot of the clan there still goes by MacUlric. She is here in the states teaching Gaelic and we wish her a safe

journey.

Caitlin placed third for girls in her age range in the children's' games on Sunday, We are most proud of the fact that she ran the whole race without stopping or walking!

The games ended just as they had begun, with a downpour an hour before the games were to end. We saw the clouds coming and had already packed most of the tent. Everyone left tired, but happy.

Triad Highland Games

Sherry placed second and third respectively in Lassie events, and Mike tied for second in the Bonnie Knees competition. Although it's a small Games, we could have a Kennedy tent there next year, and would like to hear from volunteers. We also attended the Greenville, SC Games, sharing our time between S.A.M.S. duties, the Kennedy tent, and cooling down from the 100-degree heat. The tent was set up **very** nicely, and staffed by Gene Kennedy and his wife, and other members (*see report on p.3*).

Caitlin placed second in field athletics and third in the kilted run. Unfortunately Sherry and Caitlin had to return to the motel before the heat caused them to completely melt down.

KSNA Scholarships Awarded

Joan Kennedy, Scholarship Committee Chair

The KSNA Scholarship Committee granted three \$100 Scholarships this year:

Gillian Bradshaw, granddaughter of Chieftain John A Kennedy of Alliston, Ontario, is 10 years old and has been dancing with The Jennifer Low School of Highland Dance in Bracebridge, Ontario since she was five and competing since she was six. Last summer she took home medals from many dances she performed at the Highland Dance Competitions in Ajax, Pickering, Uxbridge, Georgetown and Fergus. Gillian advanced to Intermediate at the Fergus Games this August, and won 1st for her fling, 1st for sword dance, and an trophy for overall excellence.

Olivia Creighton, also a Granddaughter of Chieftain John A Kennedy of Alliston, Ontario, is 10 and has been dancing since she was 4. Olivia is a student at the Cicci School of Highland Dancing in Alliston. She has completed three examination levels, First Steps in 2003, Pre-Bronze in 2006, and Bronze in 2007. (*See a photo of Gillian and Olivia on p. 1*)

William D. Kennedy of Hampton, Virginia, has been piping for 3 years, and will attend Piping School at The Valle Crucis Conference Center. He will be hosting the Kennedy tent at the Williamsburg Scottish Festival at Williamsburg, VA, and will enter the piping competition as a novice.

Brigadoon Celtic Beltane Festival

The **Brigadoon Celtic Beltane Festival** was held at Maize Valley Winery in Hartville, OH, and benefited Pegasus Farm, a therapeutic horse riding ranch for the disabled. We are happy to welcome new member Mary Mosher who joined KSNA at that event (see picture on p. 4.) Not only is Mary a Kennedy, but she is a long-time friend of my wife Julie and also a friend of mine. We'll relate an interesting story about Mary's Kennedy ancestors in the next issue. Good thing she has delved into her genealogy and can call herself a "Wild and Mighty Kennedy"!

Ohio Scottish Games

The clan village at the **Ohio Scottish Games** was back in the Beef and Dairy Barn this year, due to inclement weather. We actually like it there. No wind to blow papers away, shade from the sun, and who cares if it rains. The Kennedy Society welcomed two new families as members, **Deborah and John May**, above right with Bill Kennedy, Justin Kennedy-Snodgrass and John Snodgrass, and **Maggie Spangler** and family, at right.

Detroit Games

The **159th Highland Games in Detroit** was a wonderful experience, and having Lord Ailsa as the honored guest was the highlight. With perfect weather Lord Ailsa lead the clan procession in the beautiful setting of rolling hills at Greenmead Historic Park. About 36 clans marched with Lord Ailsa in the pass and review.

The weekend started Friday evening with the St. Andrews Society of Detroit's Ceilidh, which is the premier Scottish concert for the metro area. The event was a great kick off for the Highland Games with outstanding entertainment. Pipe Bands from MI and OH were represented and performed brilliantly. Bands from Ann Arbor, MI and Celtic Eagle from Medina, OH won 1st prizes and awards were given out by Lord Ailsa.

Betty Galici (at right, about to be inducted by Lord Ailsa) and her son and daughter with spouses and grandchildren (see picture on p. 4) are the newest members of the Kennedy Clan. Betty's grandfather was from Ayr, and she was thrilled to attend the event and to meet Lord Ailsa. Six families visited the Kennedy tent and signed in, expressing interest in genealogy and Kennedy history.

Cleveland, Ohio Burns Night, Jan. 24, 2009

Contact Bill Kennedy to reserve seats at the Kennedy table. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Croatian Hall, Eastlake, OH. Haggis, dinner, dancing, pipe bands and Highland Dance exhibitions.

John Snodgrass, Vice Chieftain, Mid-West
Bill Kennedy, Chieftain, Mid-West



(Longs Peak, continued from p. 8)

Longs Peak will be the site KSNA 2009 Annual General Meeting. Make your reservations NOW, as they go very quickly. It is best to stay in Estes, as Longmont and Loveland are a 1-2 hour drive. See the Games web site for admission prices to the games and links for lodging:

<http://scotfest.com>

Keep an eye out for e-mails and updates on the KSNA web-site for more information about the 2009 AGM.

—Keep the fire and passion for our Celtic history going!

Randy Peterson, Chieftain, Mountain Region

The Kennedy Gazette

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Kennedy Society of North America
www.kennedysociety.org

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Elizabeth Celtic Festival

By Randy Peterson, Mountain Chieftain

We had a Kennedy Tent for the first time at the Elizabeth Celtic Festival in Elizabeth Colorado, a great small games with lots of living history and reenactment groups, Scottish athletes, great traditional food, great bands, and of course great friends!

My wife Lisa, daughter Rachel, and our 2-year-old Western highland terrier, Akira, joined the Westie Rescue group in a parade of Dogs of the British Isles, and marched with me in the parade of clans. It was a very hot games and we did not have a lot of visitors to the Kennedy tent, but a few curious Celts came by. We participated in the calling of the clans torch ceremony, which was quite inspiring, and made S'mores on the fire afterward (yum).

We joined the Kirkin' of the Tartan and somehow I got roped into participating in the Bonnie Knees contest at the Pub. We will attend this festival again next year, so I hope a few more Kennedys will join the fun.



Longs Peak Highland Festival

We wrapped up the game season in Colorado with the Longs Peak Highland festival in Estes Park CO, over the weekend of Sept. 4th through the 7th.

We had a good turnout for the parade down the main street of Estes Park on Saturday morning, with eight Kennedys marching; my mom Elaine (left) at the front of the parade and other bell ringers announcing the coming of the **Kennedy AGM** next year. It was a cold weekend, but full of fun and family.

We had many visitors to the clan tent. On Friday member Mary Donahue stopped by to chat, on Saturday we had Mike Kennedy say hi, and signed up two new members, Darren Kennedy and Dave Kennedy. There was a lot of interest in Kennedys, and we heard some great family stories and handed out several applications. I have faith that several of those interested will soon be joining the family of our society. It has been a great year and I look forward to next season.

(continued on p. 7)