



The Clansmen Rugby Club

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

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Clan Website at Clanrugby.com

In the Beginning...

When we founded the Leprechauns back in 1962, there was an imbalance in the Edmonton Rugby Union. There were only five teams; the Leps, the Tigers, the Pirates, the Druids, and the University of Alberta. Two other teams had folded in the preceding years; the Wanderers and the Barbarians. Note I said teams, as there was no second division.

We still played twenty-two leagues games per season including an interchange with the Calgary clubs, the Saints, the Rams, the Hornets, the Saracens, and the University of Calgary. All this information is laid out in *Paddy Lamb's book, "The History of Rugby Football in Edmonton" (which is still available).

Due to the odd number of teams a "Bye" came up every now and then which pissed me off. I thought nobody should go without at least one game per week, remember there was no substitution allowed. I volunteered to leave the Leprechauns and try and get the Edmonton Husky Canadian Junior Football Club to add a rugby side to their organization, having been impressed by the Vancouver Meralomas Athletic Association, who ran a variety of sports under their wing. This would have balanced our league, and supplied an outlet for the Canadian Junior Football players, who had to retire from Football at age 21.

It was 1965 when I started out with this idea. I did eventually get an invitation to make a presentation at a Husky meeting. I showed a film of England versus South Africa, gave them my spiel, emphasizing the fact that their Footballers, who converted to Rugby, would still be active members of their organization. It seemed to go well, until I, with all the fervour of a rugby convert at 26, proclaimed that most of those present were still young enough to get involved in the joy of playing rugby! They thanked me, and several days later I received a polite rejection letter. My reaction was "Bugger It," I will just start a new Club!

**Paddy Lamb, the Artist, formerly known as the Writer
Next edition "The Founding of The Clan"*



Rugby Canada have informed us that The Vancouver Sevens (11-12th March 2017) is rapidly selling out. The Clan Old Boys have sold our allocation of thirty, kudos out to Archie who did a great job. If you want to go just get a hold of Steve Baron at sjbaron@telus.net and ask him for tickets in the Clan section. Most of "The Known Offenders" are going down on the wednesday, 9th.March, to participate in the other numerous Rugby Events that are being staged that week, returning Sunday night. The Intelligencia are mostly booked into a gaff known as the "Blue Horizon Hotel", on Robson.....a presentable dive not minutes from the stadium, with a strategically placed curry house right across the street. Any one else who can get booked in there can join the party.



Sheila McKeage, Jenn McDonald, and Kym McDonald. The brains behind the Clan Women's contribution to the 50th Anniversary planning.

Planning is Underway!

Planning for, as opposed to promotion of, the Clan's 50th celebration got under way last month at a meeting in the Bear's Den. Chaired by Kirby White and attended by 14 other worthies, it outlined a program and allocated some responsibilities, see below.

Nothing is cast in stone yet, except perhaps the date, so **if you have anything to add to the outline below please contact Kirby White or any of those you can identify in the photo.** Note, none of them appear to be asleep. Is this a first for such a meeting?

We plan on meeting monthly, the third Thursday of the month, until the big weekend. How is that for being organized?



The first group meeting of the Clan 50th Committee, under the direction of Kirby White.

Friday evening: Touch rugby and barbecue at Ellerslie - Kim, Jen and Sheila organizing.

Saturday, 11:00 to 3:00: Junior, women and mens games plus activities for the kids at Airways. Clan Exec organizing.

Saturday Evening: Banquet 6:00 at Fort Edmonton Park, Bear and Kirby organizing.

Sunday: Golf - Peter Laird and Mick Walton organizing. Alternatively fun and games - kids and otherwise, at Airways followed by a catered meal. Dale and Dana organizing.

Monday: a holiday, open for revery.

Transportation and accommodation: Paul Cassidy

Anniversary sportswear: Mike Lynaugh

2016 City Champions!



A Clan breakaway try against the Pirates in the Edmonton Rugby Union Final, which the Clanwomen won handily.

September/October 2016



2016...the Finals Crowd. Notice the Condos being built on what was our Field #4, which was sold for \$1.2 million, to allow us to upgrade the whole facility, and have money in the bank. A bit sad for us old guys who planted the original trees, and grassed the field.

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A photo from the 70s, when Clan entertainment was at its' peak. We had the Loponski Brothers Wrestling Tag Team; Stan (Dildo) Dillworth (left) and Roger Marsh. Their perennial opponent was Neil Waugh. Noses were broken a couple of occasions when the script wasn't followed.

Both these gentlemen also appeared as part of the famous Flying Clandini Brothers, the lowest trapeze group in the circus world, who performed at several rugby festivals in Canada and the USA.

They got a kind mention from Ian Kennedy in one of his books on BC, when they appeared at The Vancouver Rowing Club...and, as I recall, we got thrown out shortly after the performance. Hey, we were thrown out of better places than that!

The Dearly Departed



Phil Morgan (Left) and Ian (Yarpie) Baron



Phil and Yarpie consoling each other on their ejection from Canada, at the Clan's "Dearly Departed" Party. That's Roger Warman in the background helping commiserate.

Back in the Seventies they were informed by Canadian Immigration that they had long overstaid their visas, and if they did not leave the Country within ten days they would be arrested, and officially deported. There was intensive wailing and gnashing of teeth, and a party was held for them.

Phil returned later as a legal immigrant, and ran his own Print Press servicing company in Calgary until retirement. Ian stayed in their native South Africa and became Sales Manager for Xerox, but eventually immigrated to Calgary with his family.

Xerox was one of the main sponsors of the first Rugby World Series, which was held in South Africa. Ian presented the Clan with one of the winning Captain's Jerseys, on our 20th Anniversary. So I have the Eastern Counties jersey in my possession, boldly signed by Francois Pinaar which will be reframed for the 50th celebration. Both gentlemen have indicated they will be present at the event.

Who would have thought a couple of Yahoos would survive never mind succeed!

The 70s...South Side Athletic Grounds... Gray "Kiwi" Amphlett, Richard "Stitch" Eaton, Bert "The Lord Radford" Radford, and George Long, who was an American, from whom all the present day "Longs" come from. George was the same age as I was, but being a big lad volunteered for The US 82nd Airborne Division at 15...and got in! I had to wait until I got conscripted at 20 before I saw a parachute! George actually made it to the tail end of the Korean War. He was, as he looks, a big "Dean Martin" kind of guy. He passed on about five years ago in Florida. Lord Radford, in the picture, is refilling from a "Stubby" beer bottle which were then the standard for the breweries.



And the List Keeps Growing

Are you on it yet?

*New additions since the last newsletter are in red.

Garry Achtemichuk	Danny Belair	John Calderwood (BC)	Rory Dixon
David Adamson	Zenon Belak (SK)	Dale Carton	Dave Doyle
Ward Affleck (Clgy)	Tricia Benne (ON)	Simon Cheng	Ted Dyck
Drew Allan (BC)	Craig Bentham (UK)	Gunnar Christensen (Red Deer)	Rick Eaton
Ron Allen	Vince Bergin	D'Arcy Claypool	Peter Eligh (BC)
Gray Amphlett	Ian Biggar (UK)	PJ Clooney	David Evans (US)
Ian Andexser (BC)	Travis Bilou	Greg Conroy	Ieuan Evans
Deb Ashmore	Steve Blink	Curtis Coon	Wayne Evans (US)
Blair Assaly	Peter Blood	Dale Cooper	Merle Famineau (Uruguay)
Russ Avery	Billy Bowd (Red Deer)	Daryl Cooper	Darlene Filis
Ross Avery	Bennett Brown (BC)	Mike Cooper	Peter Filis (down east)
Bill Aylesworth (BC)	Russ Brown (ON)	Carey Craig	Ted Fitch (Clgy)
Ralph Backer	Shaun Brzezicki	Peter Dawson	Mike Fleming (BC)
Mike Baker	David Burke (ON)	Glen DeLancey	Grant Frame
Clint Bannert	Suzanne Byron (BC)	Jayne Dewar (UK)	Doug Francis (BC)
Danny Baugh (UK)	Shawn Caithness	Stan Dilworth	Wayne Gallop
Ian Yarpie Barron (Clgy)	John Calder	John Dippie (NZ)	<i>continued on next page</i>



The Clansmen Rugby Club's official tartan is "Graham of Montrose" and is available from this company, and they are dead cheap compared to the eight yard woolen traditional kilt.

www.sportkilt.com



THE BENT BROOM CURLING CLUB, ably run by Jeremy Sturgess, is starting on Monday nights.

Location Jasper Place Curling Club, 16521-107 Avenue. No previous experience is required. Join as an individual, or put together your own four person rink, but call Jeremy at 780-487-7813 or jjsturgess@shaw.ca. Get out there and sweep!

Keith Garrard
Pat Gibons (BC)
John Gillie
Taffy Gittings (UK)
Brian Glenn
Davie Graham
Katie Grudzi (BC)
Jimmy Hamilton (US)
Kevin Hancock
Chico Harris (NS)
Lee Heighway
Jim Hilsenteger (Clgy)
Ken Hilsenteger
Ray Hilsenteger
Brian Hodgson
Kevin Holt
Ron Horton
Gerry Hunt
Michael Ingoldsby (US)
Peter Jamieson
Andy Johnston (BC)
Mike Kaine
Rob Kallir
Ross Kenny
Peter Kerswell
Rob Kessler
Tim Kirby
Des Kissane (AUS)
Jay Kmech
Dick Koch (BC)
Rod Kurylo
Peter Laird
Paddy Lamb
Kevin Lavelle (BC)
Archie Lees
Ken Livingstone (Red Deer)
Barry Loewen
Chris Longmore
Dale Lowrie

Dana Lowrie
Kim Lucas
Mike Lynagh
Mike Lynch
Rob Lynch
Sean Mager
Leon Marciak
Ken Mark
Jim Martin (Clgy)
Rob Marshall
Allan McAuley
John McClelland
Heather McDonald
Kym McDonald
Jenn McDonald
Rob McDonald
Bruce McFarlane
Rolly McGinn (UK)
Tim McGrath (Ireland)
Trent McHardy
Jon McKenzie (Clgy)
Mike McLetchie (Clgy)
Bob McMillan (ON)
Jim McPartlan
Rob McTavish
Brent Melnychuk
Blaine Mitchell
John Morgan
Phil Morgan (Clgy)
Vince Moroney
Tom Morton (UK)
John Nelson (NZ)
Andrew Ness (US)

Santiago Olmos
Drew Pennycook (NZ)
Donna Pennycook (NZ)
John Phelan (ON)
Craig Pinnegar (US)
Pierre Pomerleau
Steve Pomeroy (NZ)
Todd Porlock
Richard Powell (Clgy)
Tina Prescott (Carstairs)
April Prescott
Jared Probe
Llewellyn Purnell (Red Deer)
Don Quinn
Bert Radford
Craig Radford
Jo Reinbold
Joe Rekab
Gary Richards (AU)
Steve Rivers (ON)
Barry Robson
John Robson (Philippines)
Nate Ross
Paul Ross
Richard Ross
John Rowe
Peter Rowe (Clgy)
Matthew Saban
Will Saban
Duane Schlereth (US)
Gareth Scott
Phil Scott

Judy Seddon
Greg Shanks (NT)
Kenny Smale
Shaun Smale
Bonz Smith
Frank Smith
Kevin Smith
Ron Stengler (BC)
Duane Stephenson (BC)
Greg Strong (Clgy)
Jeremy Sturgess
Rick Suggitt (Lethbridge)
Dave Sutherland (ON)
Shawn Talbot (Clgy)
Stan Tripp
Colin Twanow
Todd Van Vliet
Tim Van Vliet (Clgy)
Gary Wald
Larry Wall
Herb Waller
David Walker
Sam Walsh (AUS)
Mick Walton
Nanette Warman (BC)
Gordon Watson
Neil Waugh
Mike Wheeler
Kirby White
John Williams (BC)
Bob Wills
Charlie Zapisocky

Don't see yourself or your cohorts? See someone on the list you would like to get in touch with before the celebrations? Please contact:

Dave Walker - sbeet@telus.net

Donations

If you want to be a Clan Patron keep in mind a donation made out to, "The Alberta Sport Connection", will result in a tax rebate receipt being issued. Cheques should be sent through the Clan for receipts to be directed correctly. Contact The Ever Beautiful **Gary Wald**, at garywald@shaw.ca for more information.

There are numerous ways of being a Clan Patron. You haven't really contributed to the Club until you have done something over and above just playing for it. Think about it.

Staff

Davie Graham
Editor, Photographer & Cartoonist
Dave Walker
Distribution & Clan Wine Columnist
Nanette Warman
Production & Art Department