



# The Clansmen Rugby Club

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

## August 4-7, 2017

Issue #13 - All previous editions appear on the  
Clan Website at [Clanrugby.com](http://Clanrugby.com)

### The Story Continues...

Communication was difficult as telephones, amongst this crowd, were not that common. They mostly lived in rooming houses or shared apartments, and moved around like Tuaregs. We immediately started a monthly newsletter, which we copied in Sean Parson's office. Copiers were rare as well, most people used the old hand cranked Gestetners. For many years a monthly, Friday night ritual was meeting to fold stamp and staple the Clan newsletter. I still have the original copies of some of these. i.e The poster announcing the first RUGBYFEST.

We started indoor training that winter using a school gym, and later The Kinsman Fieldhouse which has just opened. The Fieldhouse was ideal but had an oil and earth surface for running on. It took several years before the Kinsmen could afford to put a rubber surface on the playing area. The rental cost us \$10.00 an hour!

I also entered the Club into the new Indoor Soccer League, at the Fieldhouse, as "The Clansmen Rugby Club"! Talk about arrogance, and we won it that first winter! ... That pissed off all the old Scottish players that I knew. We continued playing soccer in the indoor leagues for years, as it gave the boys an extra run, and helped develop some kicking skills that come in useful in rugby. We should still be doing this in the winter.



*Note the "dirt" surface. I took this at the Grand Opening of the Kinsman Fieldhouse. The City put on a display of all the sports that could use it. The rugby teams playing were a volunteer group using Clan and Druid uniforms. That is Ivor Thomas with the ball. Ivor went on to become President of the Canadian Rugby Union. Note the Canadian footballers in the background who were to put on a display after the rugby game*

*...continued on next page*



## Book Now!

An official hotel has  
been selected!

See Page 6 for all of  
the details!

...from previous page

On occasion we staged Stag Evenings, someone getting married, getting divorced, moving away, etc. We had several for Sean Parsons but the situation always changed, and he never, ever, did leave. The entertainment, apart from the endless rugby songs and beer, was what we euphemistically referred to as, "Swedish Training Films".

In those days there were no commercially produced films of this nature that we knew of. Every film seemed to have been shot with a light bar, in a cheap motel and reproduced until it was just a mass of vertical scratches on the screen. No sound, of course, but they were in 16mm format. The ladies looked rather shop worn, and the guys were invariably very hairy, with dark features and whiter than white skin. The entertainment value was in the endless suggestions and other remarks from the crowd, like a naively delivered, "Doesn't everyone have one that size?" Eventually we introduced "strippers" as well. Edmonton was a small town in those days, about 280,000 souls, and there were modern frontiers that hadn't been crossed yet.

Talent companies for stripper rentals was still a few years off, so someone had to go to the skuzzy area downtown, and negotiate with "the ladies who sold kisses to sailors", to perform as a stripper. They actually anticipated such solicitations and started carrying small record players for their "set."

One evening we had it all arranged, the beer was there, the crowd was there, strippers were arranged for later, the last item was the projector and screen. Finally our volunteer arrived and started to set up the projector and loop the film. Someone asked "Where's the screen?" "Screen?" came a hesitant reply.

We had rented the Maple Leaf Athletic Association log cabin on the intersection of 111 Avenue and 109 Street. A good distance from McBains Photo Supplies, where we rented the projectors. etc., anyway they would now be closed. I should point out that 109th Street was the main road from Edmonton's only airport, the Municiple Airport, to the downtown. A very busy thoroughfare,

What to do? Suddenly a suggestion, "Why not show it on the window blinds? That'll work everyone agreed and nodded. The apparatus was maneuvered around until the picture was centered nicely on the nearest window blind. Picture show commenced.

It was well into the Swedish Training Film when there was a loud knocking on the door of the cabin. We looked at each other, surely not the cops? Beers were lowered and we glanced at each other, surely not The Vice Squad? I forget who cracked the door open, but a grinning civilian stuck his head in and said...**"Guys, it's a marvelous film, but you have all the traffic on 109 Street backed up to The F—king Kingsway!"** We lived and we learned.

BACK: A N Other, A N Other, Jock Taylor, Walter Scott, Sean Parsons, George Long, Richard "Stitch" Eaton, Aussie "Jimmy the Pig", Clive Padfield, Jim Masterton, Willie Beaton.  
MIDDLE: Mike McLetchie, Davie Graham, Vince Maroney, Jay Fuller, Ian Mercer, Dave Booth, Rolly McGinn, Aussie "Big Dave", Roger Marsh, John Rowe, A N Other, Ron Gibson.  
FRONT: Roger Warman, Gordon McHattie, David Walker, Bob Barrigan, Aussie "The Prune", P.J. Clooney, AN Other, John Calderwood



Two 1969 Clan Teams at the South Side Athletic Ground

Can anyone identify the A.N.Others? Please make same to to Davie Graham.



# Denny Belair

We received news that Denny Belair passed away suddenly, at 63, on Friday, January 27th. Denny had been ill for some time but only found out that it was a form of Lymphoma the day before he died.

I knew his folks before meeting Denny. His father and mother organized the Edmonton Amateur Boxing scene for many years. They game me "Sabre" my old dog, when he was a pup.

The boxing community in Alberta is mourning Denny's passing, as he followed in his parents footsteps and became totally involved in boxing. Denny fought more than 400 fights and among other titles was the Canadian Heavyweight Champion. He went on to become the Director of the Alberta Amateur Boxing Association and a "much in demand" international referee.

Denny got to our game after retiring from actual boxing and played lock for the Clan. The man had a great sense of humour and participated in all the off-the-field Clan Charity-entertainments. His mother, Doreen, once confided in me that Peter Pocklington, the then owner of the Edmonton Oilers, had hired Denny to teach the noble art to the young Oilers, that included Gretzky and the boys. These sessions were held behind closed doors. Fights on skates! There were many great stories about Denny, and he will be sorely missed.

Funeral is planned for Saturday, February 18th. at Connelly - McKinley, 10011-114th. Street, Edmonton. Time, 10am. Donations to The Edmonton Humane Society, or Kidsport Canada.



*Dennis Belair (left) throws a punch at an opponent in this undated file photo. (Photo provided by Nathan Belair)*



*Denny with former world heavyweight champion George Foreman. (Supplied)*



*Denny, centre, during his time as a boxing referee.*



*Coming to a Newsletter near you, the complete history of "Grottie Towers" The first great clan Clubhouse... anyone one with a tale, or a photo, send it in right away...there could be a "Pullover Prize" on the line... send to Davie Graham [mcsrum@telus.net](mailto:mcsrum@telus.net)*

# History of Rugby According to McScrum

“Public Schools”, as opposed to expensive private tutors, was where the lesser upper crust were inclined to send their adolescent male offspring from the sixteenth century, and since. These were generally isolated, and since the common mode of transportation was either horse, or horse drawn, it meant a trip of several days on bad roads to school. The schools therefore boarded the little darlings for several months at a time

The schools invented strenuous games to discipline their little charges, and instill a spirit of fair play and such, but it is suspected that it was useful to keep the hormone driven youths exhausted, and less inclined to become rambunctious. Each school evolved its own peculiar game, with its own peculiar rules, some of which survive to this day (Google -The Eton Wall Game 1777). Schools seldom competed against each other due to the time and distance involved in travelling, but then came the steam railways.

Challenges started being issued when it was realized that the railways made it practical to travel long distances in much shorter times. The first problem was obviously going to be rules. Most schools played a game that involved a round ball which was played by kicking it from one point to another. Compromises were reached and schools would accept some of each other’s rules, and a form of Association Football (Soccer) would get underway. A standardization of rules began to creep in.

The town of Rugby, in Warwickshire, boasts a “public school”, which had its own football-like game. In 1823, however, one of its pupils by the name of William Webb Ellis (1806-1872), who, as the legend goes, “With a fine disregard for the rules of Football, as played at that time, first took the ball in his arms and ran with it, thus originating the distinctive feature of the Rugby game” It caught on, and Rugby’s Football became a game on its own, and was adopted by many other schools.

Our boy, William Web Ellis, went on to become an Anglican minister. He retired and died in the south of France. His overgrown and neglected grave was rediscovered by one, Ross McWhirter, in 1958, and has since been renovated and maintained by The French Rugby Federation. The World Cup of Rugby is actually named The William Web Ellis Cup.



*The William Webb Ellis Cup Amongst Fools*

*Back Row: Milan Mrdjenovich, Nick Lees, Ron Allen (Bear), Dana Lowrie, John Phelan, Tim Kirby (far right)*

*3rd Row: Steve Ferraro (far left), Katie Grudzinski, Steve Blink, Barry Loewen, Sean Parsons*

*2nd Row: Peter Blood, Larry Wall (kneeling), Don Quinn, Front Row: Rob Smith, Davie Graham, Roger Smith*



NOTE: There are seven games named football, Association Football (soccer), or just “football” to most of the world, Rugby Union Football (the one we play), Rugby League Football (the old professional game with 13 players), Gaelic Football (as played in the Republic of Ireland), Australian Rules Football (which is obviously related to the Gaelic), American Football (gridiron), and Canadian Football (gridiron). Both of the latter are derived from Rugby.



Other Notes;

Web Ellis was financed at Rugby School by a government grant recognizing his father’s service in The Peninsular War. His father was killed in cavalry action at Albuera 1811. (Albuera was the source of the “Die-Hard “ expression...another story).

Rugby School is celebrating it’s 450th Birthday in 2017.

Ross McWhirter, a Scotsman (Glasgow), became famous along with his twin brother Norris for founding The Guinness Book of Records. He was murdered by the IRA in 1975...another story.

The schism between Rugby Union and Rugby League is yet another story, and...I don’t know when the oval ball was introduced, but I shall look...



John Calderwood, Old Clan, is depicted slashing the Haggis at the Campbell River Masonic Burns Dinner last month.

## Lobster Boil

Help us in our fight against Alzheimer’s!



Your \$75 ticket purchase includes:

- one 2lb lobster plus sides
- one alcoholic drink
- a lesson in lobster shelling “East Coast style”
- a fantastic evening filled with authentic maritime fun!!

All funds raised go toward the team contribution of The Mayflowers in the Face Off Against Alzheimer’s Hockey tournament.

**ONLY 100 TICKETS AVAILABLE!!!**

We will also have a 50/50 raffle and a Silent Auction.

**April 1, 2017**

**Doors at 5 pm. Lobsters to hit the tables at 6:30pm.**

**Clansmen Rugby Football Club**

**11060 111 Avenue NW Edmonton AB**

EMT can be sent to [mayflowershockey@gmail.com](mailto:mayflowershockey@gmail.com) to reserve your tickets today. Please use password lobster. Contact Troy at 780-893-8401 with any questions or auction donations.

# Progress with Planning

The planning committee is beginning to see progress on details for the weekend. This month we have hotel details to share with you.

The Ramada at 11814 Kingsway [www.ramadaedmonton.com](http://www.ramadaedmonton.com) (formerly known as the Edmonton Inn) has been selected as the official hotel during the big event. The hotel is about a kilometre from Airways, the NAIT LRT station and the VIA rail station if you are coming into town the old fashioned way.

We will endeavour to arrange your pick-up at the airport by members (past and present) so stay tuned. Should you find yourself at the airport without a ride, there is Sky Shuttle Airport Service <http://edmontonskyshuttle.com> that goes from the airport to various hotels (including the Ramada) at a cost of only \$18.00. Uber does not provide service to the International Airport but TappCar does.

The deal is \$111.00/night single one queen bed, \$120.00/night double two queen beds, plus \$10/night for each extra body-max four per room, \$5.00 for breakfast, plus 5% sales tax, plus 4% Alberta Tourism Levy, plus 3% DMF. These rates are good for up to three days before and three days after the event. This offer expires on July 15.

In order to book a room, phone 888.747.4114 or email Brooke Morrison at [Brooke\\_M@ramadaedmonton.com](mailto:Brooke_M@ramadaedmonton.com) and mention "Edmonton Clansmen Rugby Football Club 50th Anniversary" to get the special rate. There was a time when the last thing you mentioned was rugby. Perhaps it is a sign of the times for the energy sector.

Paul Cassidy, [pwcmatchofficial@shaw.ca](mailto:pwcmatchofficial@shaw.ca), has organized this and should be contacted if you need further details. On another front we will need more volunteers, presumably from people in town to:

1. Organizing pick up and such from the airport,
2. Registration – making sure that everybody gets what they ordered in a registration package, mostly on the Friday evening.
3. Organizing adult, and other, fun and games at Airways on the Sunday, while the kids are playing golf.



ask at The Clubhouse



mcsrumages



*Golden Oldies Rugby Festival  
Christchurch, NZ - April 2018*

The Edmonton Antedeluvians Rugby Club will be there. Interested? Contact Arnie Gaudin, [gaudin@shaw.ca](mailto:gaudin@shaw.ca). Arnie has already established communications with Steve Pomeroy, a very old Clansman, and has declared that Pom's Pub will be their field Head Quarters during the Festival as it is close to their hotel.

Clan Welly Throwing contest at one of our "Hungis" arranged by the Clan Kiwis on the Club. Note in the background, Ieuan Evans's dry holers, which were the only toilet facilities available at Ellerslie rugby Park for a few years.



## It's A Pretty Good List...Many Still MIA

*Are you on it yet?*

\*New additions since the last newsletter are in red.

Garry Achtemichuk	Peter Blood	David Dashwood	Taffy Gittings (UK)
David Adamson	Billy Bowd (Red Deer)	Peter Dawson	Brian Glen (ON)
Ward Affleck (Clgy)	Ray Brewer (NZ)	Glen DeLancey	Davie Graham
Drew Allan (BC)	Bennett Brown (BC)	Jayne Dewar (UK)	Katie Grudzi (BC)
Ron Allen	Russ Brown (ON)	Stan Dilworth	Jimmy Hamilton (US)
Gray Amphlett	Shaun Brzezicki	John Dippie (NZ)	Kevin Hancock
Ian Andexser (BC)	David Burke (ON)	Rory Dixon	Chico Harris (NS)
Deb Ashmore	Suzanne Byron (BC)	Kevin Dowling	Lee Heighway
Blair Assaly	Shawn Caithness	Dave Doyle	Jim Hilsenteger (Clgy)
Russ Avery	John Calder	Ted Dyck	Ken Hilsenteger
Ross Avery	John Calderwood (BC)	Rick Eaton	Ray Hilsenteger
Bill Aylesworth (BC)	Dale Carton	Peter Eligh (BC)	Brian Hodgson
Ralph Backer	<b>Paul Cassidy</b>	David Evans (US)	Kevin Holt
Mike Baker	Simon Cheng	Ieuan Evans	Ron Horton
Clint Bannert	Gunnar Christensen (Red Deer)	Wayne Evans (US)	Nancy Hulbert
Ian Yarpie Barron (Clgy)	D'Arcy Claypool	Merle Famineau (Uruguay)	Gerry Hunt
Danny Baugh (UK)	PJ Clooney	Darlene Filis	Michael Ingoldsby (US)
Danny Belair	Greg Conroy	Peter Filis (down east)	Peter Jamieson
Zenon Belak (SK)	Curtis Coon	Ted Fitch (Clgy)	Andy Johnston (BC)
Tricia Benne (ON)	Dale Cooper	Mike Fleming (BC)	Keith Jolly (BC)
Craig Bentham (UK)	Daryl Cooper	Grant Frame	Steve Jones
Jarrett Berezan (UK)	Mike Cooper	Doug Francis (BC)	Mike Kaine
Vince Bergin	Carey Craig	Wayne Gallop	Rob Kallir
Ian Biggar (UK)	<b>Ally Cunningham</b>	Keith Garrard	Ross Kenny
Travis Bilou	<b>Lisa Cunningham</b>	Pat Gibons (BC)	Peter Kerswell
Steve Blink		John Gillie	

February 2017

continued on next page  
Page 7 of 8



Rob Kessler  
 Tim Kirby  
 Des Kissane (AUS)  
 Jay Kmech  
 Dick Koch (BC)  
 Rod Kurylo  
 Peter Laird  
 Paddy Lamb  
 Jeff Langer-McIntosh  
 (Banff)  
 Kevin Lavelle (BC)  
 Archie Lees  
 Sandy Lenz (QC)  
 Ken Livingstone (Red  
 Deer)  
 Barry Loewen  
 Dave Logan  
 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 McDowell  
 Bruce McFarlane  
 Rolly McGinn (UK)  
 Tim McGrath (Ireland)  
 Trent McHardy

**Gordon McHattie (UK)**  
 Jon McKenzie (Clgy)  
**Robbie McKenzie (UK)**  
 Mike McLetchie (Clgy)  
 Bob McMillan (ON)  
 Jim McPartlan  
 Rob McTavish  
 Brent Melnychuk  
 Blaine Mitchell  
 John Morgan  
 Phil Morgan (Calgary)  
 Vince Moroney  
 Tom Morton (UK)  
 John Nelson (NZ)  
 Andrew Ness (US)  
 Helen Newsham  
 Santiago Olmos  
 Drew Pennycook (NZ)  
 Donna Pennycook (NZ)  
 Randy Peterson  
 John Phelan (ON)  
 Craig Pinnegar (US)  
**Kent Plewes**  
 Pierre Pomerleau  
 Steve Pomeroy (NZ)  
 Todd Portlock  
 Richard Powell (Clgy)  
 Tina Prescott (Carstairs)  
 April Prescott  
 Jared Probe

Llewellyn Purnell (Red  
 Deer)  
 Don Quinn  
 Bert Radford  
 Craig Radford  
 Ryan Rayburn  
 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)  
 Matt Rowlands  
 Matthew Saban  
 Will Saban  
 Duane Schlereth (US)  
 Gareth Scott  
 Phil Scott  
 Judy Seddon  
 Greg Shanks (NT)  
**Tim Sharpe**  
 Kenny Smale  
 Shaun Smale  
 Bonz Smith  
 Frank Smith

Kevin Smith  
 Richard Spooner  
 Ron Stengler (BC)  
 Duane Stephenson (BC)  
 Greg Strong (Calgary)  
 Jeremy Sturgess  
 Rick Suggitt (Lethbridge)  
 Dave Sutherland (ON)  
 Shawn Talbot (Clgy)  
 Stan Tripp  
 Colin Twanow  
 David Unsworth  
 Todd Van Vliet  
 Tim Van Vliet (Calgary)  
 Gary Wald  
 Larry Wall  
 Herb Waller  
 David Walker  
 Sam Walsh (AUS)  
 Mick Walton  
 Jimmie Ward  
 Nanette Warman (BC)  
 Gordon Watson  
 Neil Waugh  
 Steve Webb (ON)  
 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](mailto:sbeet@telus.net)**



*Amber Ross, Stacey Flasha, Suzy Byron and Jenney Choi at one of the numerous "Dress ups"*

### *Staff*

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