



The Clansmen Rugby Club

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

August 4-7, 2017

Issue #12 - All previous editions appear on the
Clan Website at Clanrugby.com

Chapter 3 - The Saga Continues...

When forming the club, we had a handful of volunteers, most of whom had never played the game.

We used Sean Parson's house for the inaugural meeting, held on the 17th November 1967 - my birthday so I could never forget it. The house, known as "The White House" was at the bottom of 112th Street, overlooking the river valley. Our empties used to roll down the hill onto the property of the Royal Glenora Club! Several of the lads lived in this establishment, and it served as a temporary Clubhouse.



Recruiting was underway. We virtually "press ganged" unfortunates from the Corona Hotel beer parlour on Jasper Avenue, which was the watering hole for all rugby clubs. It was subject to the Presbyterian liquor laws that existed in those days. The Beer Parlours were "Men Only", and the drinking age was 21. No standing, No liquor, No music, No entertainment at all, and you were served two small glasses of beer at a time, which set you back 20 cents! Mind you the minimum wage in Alberta at the time was \$1.15 per hour! Did I say Presbyterian? Women were catered to in hotel lounges which were signed "Ladies and Escorts." How one met and mated escaped most people, but, of course, rugby guys found ways around it...as always.

We had among our new recruits a couple of gentlemen who looked after a few of the new apartment blocks in town which featured party rooms for their tenants. Matt Flanagan was one. He would class us as tenants and we, in turn, would obtain the appropriate "Party" licenses from the Liquor Control Board. This allowed us to purchase a stack of booze from their store. We had quickly established a rapport with the Royal Alexandra Hospital's Nurses Residence* and the Single Mother's Club of Edmonton. Copies of the Liquor Permits went direct to the Edmonton Police Vice Squad, who would turn up and check that all concerned were of drinking age and such. Funds were raised in this fun fashion.

It was at about this time that I met Bob Allan MBE while crossing Jasper Avenue on a sunny weekday. Mr. Allan assailed me with, "Hey Graham, what is it you are actually running? Every second person I meet is coming from a Clansmen Rugby Club party, or going to a Clansmen Rugby Club party!" He obviously did not recognize a crafty recruiting program when he saw it. The plan was working. If you pour, they will come!

Bob was the perennial President of the Edmonton Scottish Society and achieved the award of MBE - Member of the British Empire, many years later for tirelessly working for the society and looking after new Scots immigrants who landed in Edmonton.

**I've had the pleasure of meeting a couple of these ladies many years later when they turned up as Grannies in our Mini Rugby Program. Their offspring looked at them with a new admiration....Granny wiz a Clanfan!*

Homework!

We are grateful for the contributions we have received which are supplementing David Graham's reminiscing. But more photos and stories of Clan events and achievements, tales of becoming/being a member of the Clan and such, are always welcome.

Here's a list to help jog memories and inspire action...advise on what has been missed:

- Annual Ski Trips
- Annual Clanspiels
- Clan Hockey
- Clan Soccer
- Clan Basketball
- Clan Broomball
- Annual Greater Vulgar Invitational Golf Tournament (now played in Victoria, BC)
- Annual Olde Tyme Rugby Game at Hawrelak Park
- Clan Blood Clinics
- Grottie Towers (First Clan Clubhouse)
- Grottie Two
- Grottie Three
- Present Clubhouse (the three incarnations)
- Building the first building at Ellerslie (subsequently the garage)
- Building the House at Ellerslie (The Club bid on it and erected a package, "The Clandominium")
- Dismantling the end zone stands at Clarke Stadium (the Knothole gang). Reassembling at Ellerslie
- Constructing the inside of the changing room building at Ellerslie
- Planting the trees around Ellerslie, plus the landscaping, etc.
- Erecting ice-rink at Ellerslie
- Tours, UK, Ireland, Europe, San Francisco, Texas, Park City, plus SK and BC events
- Old Boy Tours, Toronto, Las Vegas, New Zealand
- Raffling Cars
- Raffling Houses
- First Bingos in Jasper Place
- First Casino at the McDonald Hotel
- Running Beer concession at Eskimo games
- Subsequent Bingos and Casinos
- Porridge Bowls
- The "Clan Slam"
- Blues Brothers parties
- The runaway lane adventure
- The aquisition of Jar Jar Binks
- Charity Trotter involvement at Northlands Race-track



Every Picture Tells a Story

Please send pictures, along with appropriate (and even slightly inappropriate) captions to:

Davie Graham
mcscrum@telus.net



Honouring Our Legacy

(this story also appears on the Club's Facebook page.)

By Spencer de Klerk

When you think of a good player, you think of the great Danny Baugh. When you think of a good coach, you think of the great Ric "Sluggo" Suggit.

When you think of a good captain, you think of the great Tim Van Vliet.

When you think of all them put together you, you think of the legendary Clan and team Canada captain, John Phelan.

John was a player years ahead of his time. A flanker that seemed to have it all, the Edmonton hall of famer received the coveted Labatts award four times (1977,1980,1984,1985). Under his guidance as player/coach the club went to uncharted territories by winning the Harcourt Shield 7 years in a row (1980-1987) and the Carling Cup twice. He was the only Clansmen to captain the Canadian national rugby team.

What makes the story of John even more inspiring is the fact that he worked as a special education teacher for over a decade, he was a hero in the community leaving his mark on hundreds of lives. During his time of coaching/playing for the Clan he also coached Bev Facey and Salisbury High School and recruited talented players for the club.



Spencer "Socks" de Klerk

John is in high demand for his approach to leadership, coaching and team effectiveness. He has been involved

as a Mental Skills Coach for the past 12 years with several NHL teams including, Ottawa Senators, Florida Panthers, New York Rangers and currently the Vancouver Canucks. He was also a board member for rugby Canada and was heavily involved in preparing the national team for the 2011 Rugby World Cup. Phelan currently holds the position of Associate Adjunct Professor for the Smith School of Business at Queen's.

Thank you for inspiring a club, community and nation for decades John. You have a golden legacy that can never be replicated.

Advertizing

If you have a business card you must also have an advertizing budget! So it's up to you, you Big Business Typhoons, you Pillocks of Industry, you Financial Moguls!

...Otherwise we will be back to holding up stagecoaches and knocking over Credit Unions!

Whit's in your wallet!



Dan Baugh (First Clansman to go professional) scoring against the USA in a Canadian game at Brocton Oval back in the day.

January 2017

Canada's 2017 Americas Rugby Championship

Canada v Argentina

Feb. 4th Westhills Stadium, 5pm PT

Canada v Chile

Feb. 11th Westhills Stadium, 5pm. PT

Canada v USA

Feb. 18th Swanguard Stadium, 5pm. PT

Uruguay v Canada

Feb. 25th

Brazil v Canada

Mar. 4th

For Info visit: events.rugbycanada.ca

New Zealand Tour - Sep/Oct 1982

Photos courtesy Kevin Lavelle



Friendly in Gisbourne.



Friendly in Christchurch.



Buckwheat wants the ball, Christchurch friendly.



Captain Mike Fleming, architect of the tour.



Jeremy and Rob



David Walker and Ron Allen (forehead) introducing member to rum.



Clansmen touring side.



Lining up for beer at Lion's Brewery, Auckland.



*Standing: ?, Kevin, Gunnas
Peeking: ?, ?*



*Honky and Kevin discussing politics.
January 2017*



Where the hell is the Maikikihi Hotel?

Tah Rah!

The Fying Clandini Brothers, an International "Low Wire" act that appeared before the crowned heads of Europe, including The Czar, The Czarina, and all the little Czardines...Tah Rah! This little entertainment was cobbled together over the early years and we took it with us to most events and tours. The uniforms evolved, although I don't have any photos with the scarlet capes - anybody have some please forward, and the cast changed until about half of the Club had participated. It was also augmented by wrestling dramas and Donaldo Clandini (DQ) with his magic act. The Clandini Family have made it into magazines and Ian Kennedy's book on the Vancouver Rowing Club. When they finally make the movie on us, Brad Pitt has been selected to play me.



Planning Update

Further details will no doubt be forthcoming after the February 1 planning meeting when we will no doubt begin looking for attendance commitments and such.

That's about as much as we can say.



The City gave us two outdoor rink assemblies, and we erected them at the Ellerslie Rugby Park. We successfully ran a couple of leagues for several years until the weather changed and we had difficulties maintaining the ice. The rinks were eventually scrapped...I miss the hockey.

Local Liquor History

The Alberta Liquor Control Board required you to fill in your order, pay for it, then pick up the liquor at another counter...this existed until 1965.

In July 1967 The ALCB abandoned The "Men Only" Tavern law, which also had "Ladies and Escorts Lounges"...men and women could now both use the Hotel Taverns.

1969, the first "Self Serve" liquor store opened at Westmount Shopping Mall, and finally, in 1971 the drinking age dropped from 21 to 18 years of age.

Privatization of the liquor industry was announced by the Conservative Government in 1993 with the last Government store closing in 1994.

On the wall in The Bear's Den



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	Russ Brown (ON)	Peter Eligh (BC)	Gerry Hunt
David Adamson	Shaun Brzezicki	David Evans (US)	Michael Ingoldsby (US)
Ward Affleck (Clgy)	David Burke (ON)	Ieuan Evans	Peter Jamieson
Drew Allan (BC)	Suzanne Byron (BC)	Wayne Evans (US)	Andy Johnston (BC)
Ron Allen	Shawn Caithness	Merle Famineau (Uruguay)	Keith Jolly (BC)
Gray Amphlett	John Calder	Darlene Filis	Steve Jones
Ian Andexser (BC)	John Calderwood (BC)	Peter Filis (down east)	Mike Kaine
Deb Ashmore	Dale Carton	Ted Fitch (Clgy)	Rob Kallir
Blair Assaly	Simon Cheng	Mike Fleming (BC)	Ross Kenny
Russ Avery	Gunnar Christensen (Red Deer)	Grant Frame	Peter Kerswell
Ross Avery		Doug Francis (BC)	Rob Kessler
Bill Aylesworth (BC)	D'Arcy Claypool	Wayne Gallop	Tim Kirby
Ralph Backer	PJ Clooney	Keith Garrard	Des Kissane (AUS)
Mike Baker	Greg Conroy	Pat Gibons (BC)	Jay Kmech
Clint Bannert	Curtis Coon	John Gillie	Dick Koch (BC)
Ian Yarpie Barron (Clgy)	Dale Cooper	Taffy Gittings (UK)	Rod Kurylo
Danny Baugh (UK)	Daryl Cooper	Brian Glenn	Peter Laird
Danny Belair	Mike Cooper	Davie Graham	Paddy Lamb
Zenon Belak (SK)	Carey Craig	Katie Grudzi (BC)	Jeff Langer-McIntosh (Banff)
Tricia Benne (ON)	David Dashwood	Jimmy Hamilton (US)	Kevin Lavelle (BC)
Craig Bentham (UK)	Peter Dawson	Kevin Hancock	Archie Lees
Jarrett Berezan (UK)	Glen DeLancey	Chico Harris (NS)	Sandy Lenz (QC)
Vince Bergin	Jayne Dewar (UK)	Lee Heighway	Ken Livingstone (Red Deer)
Ian Biggar (UK)	Stan Dilworth	Jim Hilsenteger (Clgy)	Barry Loewen
Travis Bilou	John Dippie (NZ)	Ken Hilsenteger	Dave Logan
Steve Blink	Rory Dixon	Ray Hilsenteger	Chris Longmore
Peter Blood	Kevin Dowling	Brian Hodgson	Dale Lowrie
Billy Bowd (Red Deer)	Dave Doyle	Kevin Holt	
Ray Brewer (NZ)	Ted Dyck	Ron Horton	
Bennett Brown (BC)	Rick Eaton	Nancy Hulbert	

continued on next page

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
 Jon McKenzie (Clgy)
 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)
 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)
 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:

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Hot tub at Rotorua.

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