



The Clansmen Rugby Club

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

August 4-7, 2017

Issue # 14 - All previous editions appear on the Clan Website at Clanrugby.com



McGenesis Continued

We had been able to train in various school gyms that first winter of founding. Come spring we left the rest of the clubs at the South Side Athletic Grounds to train, and instead booked Kinsman Park for our bi-weekly training. It was getting too crowded at the historical South Side Grounds, with everyone training on the same night and only two fields available. This was to be the introductory season for the Second Division, so, theoretically, it would get even more crammed.

The first nights of outdoor training were, and are, always the same. The fresh air attacks the lungs like chlorine gas. People barfing at the side of the field, but

most of our raw recruits stayed with it, and we gathered numerical strength. The sessions were always followed by beers at the Corona Hotel, where the first order was always a hundred beers! Hydration had to be maintained.

Kit had been ordered from the Scotland as there were no manufacturers in North America. There was only one sports store in Edmonton, downtown at Uncle Ben's Sports on 102 Street off Jasper Avenue, but they carried nothing for rugby at all.

We had decided the Clan would be dressed as a team, everyone the same, as opposed to a lot of clubs who allowed little egos to interfere. Letting some players wear their old College/Club/Rep shorts or socks, or the occasional individual who though he looked better in another colour (we have had a couple like that over the years, but the names are being held to avoid embarrassing them in their later years). When Adidas rugby boots eventually became available, the guys insisted on blacking out the white lines to maintain the uniformity of the Clan. You may have noticed the All Blacks did the same in the last World Cup! The Clan supplied all the kit (shirts, socks and jerseys) as soon as we could afford it, and continued to do so for the next dozen or so years! This was a major undertaking, all those 100% heavy cotton jerseys, so arrangements had to be made for laundry...at one time Bennett Brown, the perennial manager of the McDonald Hotel, had the hotel laundry do it for us! Bennett, another scot, was very kind to the Clan over the years he was at the Mac. Indeed he must have a few tales. (Hint hint...Bennett get tae scribbling).

Next edition...Let the games begin!

CLANSMEN RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB - MEMBERSHIP LIST. 6TH DECEMBER 1967		
Willie Beaton ✓	8 - 9750 - 62nd St.	465-524.
Don Beaton	15 - 9720 - 62nd St.	469-2794.
Neil Primrose ✓	10427 - 149th St.	455-9656.
Frank Cumming ✓	10808 - 51st Ave.	434-4172.
Jack Evans	10236 - Maple Grove Place S.E. Calgary.	252-4883.
Wayne Boddy	12332 - 136th Ave	455-6360.
Al Hickey ✓	5308 - 105A St.	434-6615.
Bud Curtis	10721 - 108th St.	429-1654.
Dan Williams ✓	10536 - 92nd St.	424-5472.
Chris W.H. Beale	#103 - 11112 - 124th St.	454-6865.
John Appleton	9804 - 112th St.	482-3809.
Paul Steckley	"	"
Sean Rowe	"	"
Pete Smith	"	"
Peter	#9 - 11311 - 109A Ave.	429-3553.
John Withers ✓	11054 - 84th Ave.	439-5515.
Geoffrey Jones ✓	1926 - 93rd Ave.	469-1515.
Stephen Bird	11710 - 100 AVE	229-1474 ext. 482-750
Vince Moroney	10932 - 79 AVE	455-9121 - 439-305
Bert Radford		424-0831 - 489-800
David Graham	13228 - 76th St.	476-4756.
Shaun O'Connor-Parsons	Business 12607 - Stony Plain Rd.	474-2431. 488-1187.

Herewith the list made up after our first meeting on Nov.17th. 1967.

Cap'n Bob's Odyssey

A Story by Robert Parent

The tale begins on my return from Staff College in Kingston after a six month beating at the hands of the Directing Staff, The Fantasian hordes (as they were known back then in the "good old days") had been decisively defeated but at great cost to both my constitution and the livers of my comrades which had been shattered by the relentless pressure that comes from making the world safe for democracy. This being said I knew that the Regiment was contemplating packing off to parts unknown to make full use of my new found military staff skills (ha, a very fat chance of that happening) or at least ripping me away from a place where I had found a home in the bosom of the Clan so I knew I had to make my last six months in Edmonton good ones from a rugby point of view. This being said January 1995 found me taking on a training staff appointment at Army Headquarters in Edmonton with time and energy to spare.



The army team with Cap'n Bob at the extreme right.

Fortuitously, and this is the important part to this tale, the training appointment put me in charge/control of a certain amount of funds which were to be dedicated to adventurous training, which I had come to understand after a degree of quiet investigation was virtually untapped and stood at the princely sum of close to \$10,000. Given that it was now mid February with the fiscal end of the year looming and that it is considered very bad form to turn in funds unspent (for fear you do not get any in future years) I devised a cunning plan to bring Canadian Combined Services together using the Clan grounds and the Edmonton Garrison to support a number of exhibition games with the aim of Canadian Combined Services traveling to America to play the US Combined Services as a highlight of their annual rugby carnival. The plan was to travel by military aircraft to St Louis MO to play the match on the Friday, participate in the tournament as members of a mixed US / Canadian team and return. Of course, as anyone who has ever dealt with the Air Force knows the big lie is that "we are booked on service air" and will attest it is always necessary to have plan B and C ready to go (Plan B was actually having a US National Guard Star-lifter show up in Edmonton piloted by a rugby player which sounded really cool but was just the same shit different pile. Plan C was drive.)

Anyway, permission granted and funds in hand I put out the call for rugby players. Canadian Combined Services was actually a pretty solid going concern in the day and we had managed to get together almost every summer for the past five years. However, this was our first spring tour and given the Army proclivity to head out to wastelands to blow shit up every spring we were light on the Army side. However, it seemed that we had a number of Air Force and Navy stalwarts who had both the time and willing COs to get put on Temporary Duty (TD for the uninitiated) to venture out to Edmonton for 10 days. I had even managed to convince our local Physical Education and Recreation Instructors (PERI) staff to sponsor the side to the tune of a set of rugby strip and a number of game balls (which I believe did yeoman service at the Clan post expedition). Good luck doing that now.....

...continued on next page



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.

Golden Oldies Rugby Festival Christchurch, NZ - April 2018

The Edmonton Antedeluvians Rugby Club will be there. Interested? Contact Arnie Gaudin, 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.

Anyway, I digress. The troops arrived on the ground on or about the 10th of April and we immediately began training at the Clan grounds. We were fortunate at that time that although the grass had not greened up the snow had departed and we had reasonable temperatures. Our first challenge was the Clan and it was clear from the start that while we were a robust and physical side we lacked flair on the attack (a lot like England and I stand by that even though they won Six Nations just look how they reacted with the Italians...good thing it wasn't North Africa in '41 what, what!) and we were beaten pretty soundly. Next up was Alberta so things weren't about to get any better...and they didn't so we got stuffed (plus I got to scrummage against the Pat Kyle all game as I had to switch over to Loose Head - it was that kind of staff planning that got the British Army on beach holiday in France in 1940). I don't know if being thumped twice was the best preparation but we all agreed it was all about winning the last battle so we all piled into our rental cars for the 30 hour drive south (I told you the RCAF are a bunch of tossers). We arrived the night before and managed to get a decent nights rest after we had extricated ourselves from the vehicles. We had picked up some reinforcements on the way from 1 PPCLI in Calgary (including a very large and heavily tattooed 8 man named Karl Hanna who played for the Hornets and helped on the day) but we were still a pretty tired crew the next afternoon for the match. We were fortunate that we the pitch was US gridiron size and not the green pastoral spender of a Cardiff Arms Park or Twickenham as we were able to keep it close and even had a few penalty opportunities to take the lead. Alas, our kickers eye was not in and the score remained nil - nil at the interval. However the restart proved to be decisive (although there was some discussion about taking the half time result and hitting the pubs) as they scored from the kick off and it was down hill from there with the final result 28 - nil.

The US lads were wonderful hosts and for those of us who stayed on we were treated to a large day of US Forces unit level rugby (very physical and athletic, three ambulances going non stop) with myself at least experiencing some interesting interpretations of the off side laws (But I won't disparage our hosts given that the Eagles seem to be able to emerge victorious against such rugby powers as Chile, Uruguay and Brazil these days) and a very large night on the town before heading back on the road for the 30 hour odyssey hack home. That summer I was posted out (before anyone asked me why the adventure training budgets for 1995 AND 1996 were both empty) and the focus of Canadian Combined Services Rugby shifted to Kingston. Still it was a grand adventure (outside of the 60

hours or so in the car) and Services rugby is forever grateful to the Clan for hosting the training camp in April 2016.

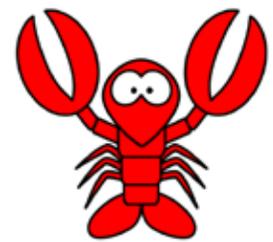


Cap'n Bob with two members of the ANA (Afghanistan National Army) on the Plains of Afghanistan. Cap'n Bob retired as a L/Col, and now lives out east of Kitchener. He will always be Cap'n bob tae us... those boots could use a bit of work?"

"When yer wounded, and left, on Afghanistan's Plains, and the wimmin come out tae cut up what remains, jist roll tae yer rifle, and blow out yer brains, and go tae yer god like a sodjer" (Rudyard Kipling)

March 2017

Lobster Boil



Help us in our fight against Alzheimer's!

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 to reserve your tickets today. Please use password lobster. Contact Troy at 780-893-8401 with any questions or auction donations.

The Canada Sevens ~ March 2017 ...or Operation "Legless in Vancouver"

As last year, the Clan Old Boys, as a group, purchased their Vancouver Sevens tickets through Steve "The Mad" Baron who was raising fund for his children's charities. We had about forty people attend this great weekend of rugby.

Steve raised \$16,250 from the sale of 985 tickets and from sponsors. Brilliant! The profits were prorated back to the clubs and groups for their local kid's charities or sports. Archie Lees who organized the distribution of the Clan tickets received a cheque for \$400 for the Edmonton Junior Gold programs. Well done! "Nous somme les gens!" (This is us practicing up for the French sevens in Paris next month).

The rugby at BC Place, a covered stadium, was brilliant. The fools and buffoons were there in their legions. One whole Club came dressed as Mexicans. Nothing shabby this was, full serapes, sombreros. false moustaches etc, except one member, he came dressed as a wall! You can see where a lot of people had secure childhoods! Somewhere in the region of 78,000 tickets were sold! It was a great party with thousands of your closest and best friends!

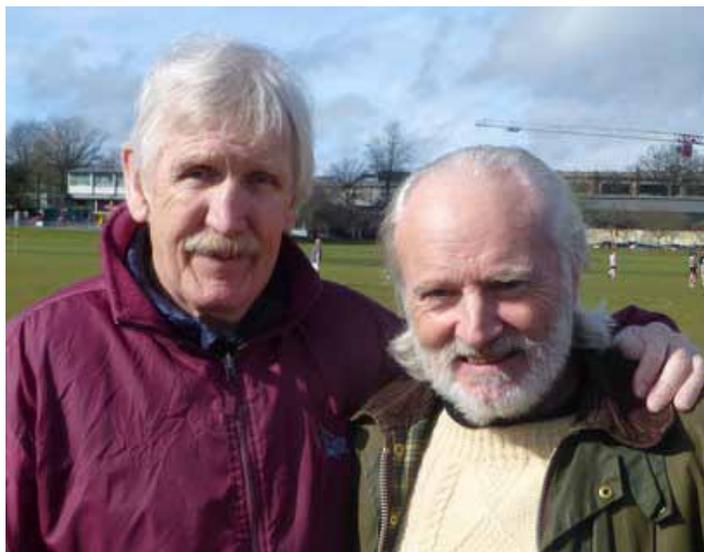
The Friday, prior to the sevens, featured all the old boys games at the Meralomas clubhouse and fields. The sun actually shone for the events, and to add to the occasion someone managed to stream the Ireland v Wales game live into the clubhouse. Roll on next year, but let's take a Clan team down.



Old Boys rugby at the Meralomas, on the Friday before the Sevens.



The usual Clan suspects taking in the game and the beer.



McScrum with the legendary manager of the Hotel McDonald, Bennett Brown, seen here doing an impersonation of Robert Carlyle



Ireland v Wales live streamed into the Lomas's Clubhouse on the Old Boys day.



The Bishop gives us his blessing, and gets a beer.



Stevie and DQ pontificating...and doesn't get a beer.



The Bear, Stevie, and Archie.



Her Majesty and entourage graced our presence again. From the button arrangement I would say those boys are Grenadier Guards.



The Cup Final - South Africa.v England



Flaming entrance of the teams.

March 2017



PLEASE NOTE:
 My email will mainly be handled through mcscrum@gmail.com, due to computers dying and a Luddite attitude.
 So lets see what happens,
Davie Graham AKA McScrum

More on the Plans

Friday Evening: Registration, touch rugby and barbecue at the Ellerslie Rugby Park, from 6:00 pm.

Saturday Afternoon: Women's and men's junior rugby games will be featured plus activities for the kids at Airways with the usual social amenities.

Saturday Evening: Banquet (tickets are \$70) 5:30 for 6:30 pm at the Hanger at Fort Edmonton Park, including a group photo to be taken by Ian Biggar, some speeches, presentations, a DJ and such. For those planning not to head home that evening we have had 20 rooms set aside at the adjacent Selkirk Hotel - <https://www.fortedmontonpark.ca/hotel-selkirk/>. Other attractions are being negotiated.

Sunday: Peter Laird has found a suitable golf course - not one we have used before, I hasten to add. It is a short distance from town but there will be a bus from Airways leaving at about 10.00 am. The plan is to be back at Airways by 6:00 pm.

Meanwhile back at Airways fun and games for the kids and adult non-golfers are planned. There will be a catered barbeque at Airways at about 6:00 pm involving something in size between a buffalo and a snow shoe hare, depending on numbers. The Rocking Ron Horton band will be coming out of retirement to entertain us for this very special engagement. It has already been practicing on unsuspecting customers at various up market taverns around town.

The Organizing: To simplify things we plan to use the EventBrite website for ordering event tickets, commemorative sportswear, and such. This will enable those coming from overseas to order using their credit cards and as critically help us with accounting.

But we do need to get all our ducks in a row before we open for business. This means providing EventBrite with all the details and the cost of various items. We hope to get to this point in early April and if we are not there by late April, we will go with what we have. So detail of this will be in the next newsletter. And we hope to be able to keep the store open until late June - we need time for stuff to be ordered and delivered. Those without access to the website will be able to order by mail and pay by cheque.

We expect you to make your own accommodation arrangements but Paul Cassidy has negotiated a deal with the Ramada Inn, see next page.



Historical pic (1964): Pirates v Leprechauns. Here is a line-out under the old laws, no gap, no lifting, just grabbing, punching, stepping on toes and, as we see to Dave Burns, of the Leprechauns at the front, a healthy shove in the back. L to R: Kenny Holmes, P.J. Clooney, Dick Krobac**, Don Culbertson, Bob Markley, Wayne Dundas and a small piece of Chris (Bash) Braiden at the back.*

**Kenny played wing for the British Army during the war. He moved to Calgary to the Hornets and became a fixture in Old Boys Rugby for many years. Kenny died at Hornets training. The Ken-Ann Trophy for the Alberta Men's Championship was donated by Ken and his wife.*

***Dick Krobac was playing centre for The Edmonton Eskimos Football team at the time I took this photo.*

Hotel Arrangements: The Ramada at 11814 Kingsway <http://www.ramadaedmonton.com> 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 single one queen bed, \$120.00 double two queen beds, plus \$10 for each extra body- max four per room, \$5.00 for breakfast, plus 5% sales tax, plus 4% Alberta Tourism Levy, plus 3% DMF. REFERENCE BOOKING CODE: CGECRF. 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 and reference BOOKING CODE: CGECRF. Paul Cassidy, pwcmatchofficial@shaw.ca, has organized this and should be contacted if you need further details.

Note: some people got to the Ramada before they were ready for us. But all is sorted, we understand.



St Patrick's day in the Bear's Den and Don Kelly has a complaint...

It's A Freakin' Awesome List

Are you on it yet?

*New additions since the last newsletter are in red.

Garry Achtemichuk	Zenon Belak (SK)	John Calder	Glen DeLancey
David Adamson	Paul Belanger	John Calderwood (BC)	Jayne Dewar (UK)
Ward Affleck (Clgy)	Tricia Benne (ON)	Wes Campbell	Stan Dilworth
Drew Allan (BC)	Craig Bentham (UK)	Dale Carton	John Dippie (NZ)
Ron Allen	Jarrett Berezan (UK)	Paul Cassidy	Rory Dixon
Gray Amphlett	Vince Bergin	Simon Cheng	Lori Dodds
Ian Andexser (BC)	Andy Bibbs	Gunnar Christensen (Red Deer)	Kevin Dowling
Bob Arnett	Ian Biggar (UK)	D'Arcy Claypool	Dave Doyle
Deb Ashmore	Travis Bilou	PJ Clooney	Ted Dyck
Blair Assaly	Steve Blink	Mark Connolly	Rick Eaton
Russ Avery	Peter Blood	Greg Conroy	Peter Eligh (BC)
Ross Avery	Billy Bowd (Red Deer)	Curtis Coon	David Evans (US)
Bill Aylesworth (BC)	Ray Brewer (NZ)	Dale Cooper	Ieuan Evans
Ralph Backer	Bennett Brown (BC)	Daryl Cooper	Wayne Evans (US)
Mike Baker	Russ Brown (ON)	Mike Cooper	Merle Famineau (Uruguay)
Clint Bannert	Shaun Brzezicki	Carey Craig	Darlene Filis
Jack Barrigan	Harold Burden	Ally Cunningham	Peter Filis (down east)
Ian Yarpie Barron (Clgy)	David Burke (ON)	Lisa Cunningham	Ted Fitch (Clgy)
Danny Baugh (UK)	Rob Bussiere	David Dashwood	Mike Fleming (BC)
Willie Beaton	Suzanne Byron (BC)	Peter Dawson	Grant Frame
Danny Belair	Shawn Caithness		

...continued on next page

March 2017

Page 7 of 8

Doug Francis (BC)
Wayne Gallop
Keith Garrard
Bart Gellhaus
Pat Gibons (BC)
John Gillie
Taffy Gittings (UK)
Brian Glen (ON)
Davie Graham
Chris Grapel
Katie Grudzi (BC)
Jimmy Hamilton (US)
Kevin Hancock
Chico Harris (NS)
Lee Heighway
Don Hewson (BC)
Jim Hilsenteger (Clgy)
Ken Hilsenteger
Ray Hilsenteger
Brian Hodgson
Kevin Holt
Ron Horton
Nancy Hulbert
Egor Hunka (US)
Gerry Hunt
Drake Hussain
Michael Ingoldsby (US)
Peter Jamieson
Scott Jellis
Andy Johnston (BC)
Keith Jolly (BC)
Steve Jones
Malin Jordan
Mike Kaine
Rob Kallir
Don Kelly
Ross Kenny
Peter Kerswell
Rob Kessler
Ben Kilburn

Mike King
Tim Kirby
Des Kissane (AUS)
Jay Kmech
Dick Koch (BC)
Rod Kurylo
Pat Kyle
Peter Laird
Paddy Lamb
Colin Lang
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
Gregor Mathieson
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)
Walter Neilson
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
Gordon Reekie
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)
Len Schroeder
Gareth Scott
Phil Scott
Judy Seddon
Greg Shanks (NT)
Tim Sharpe
John Shaw
Kenny Smale
Shaun Smale
Bonz Smith
Frank Smith
Kevin Smith
Roger Smith
Richard Spooner
Ron Stengler (BC)
Duane Stephenson (BC)
Greg Strong (Calgary)
Jeremy Sturgess
Rick Suggitt (Lethbridge)
Dave Sutherland (ON)
Shawn Talbot (Clgy)
Ciaran Terry
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
Catherine Zrymiak
Mike Zubrack

Staff

Davie Graham
*Editor, Clan Seannachie,
Photographer & Cartoonist*
Dave Walker
*Distribution & Clan Wine
Columnist*
Nanette Warman
*Production & Art Depart-
ment*

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