

An Naidheachd Againne

The Newsletter of An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach / The American Gaelic Society

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Beartas Nàdair

le Caroline Root

Nuair a dh'fhalbhas na daoine tha nàdar a' fàs nas treasa. Chaidh mi air turas leis a' chlas agam gu Lunga, aon de dh'eileanan Threisinis, san earrach 2008. Tha Eileanan Threisinis eadar Muile agus Tiriodh. 'S e Stafa agus Uamh Fhionghalla an t-aite as ainmeile annta. Bho Eilean Thiriodh 's e Am Bac Mòr, no 'Dutchmans Cap' (mar a th' aca air sa Bheurla), am fear de dh'eileanan Threisinis as soilleire a chì thu.

Ged a tha creagan mòra air Lunga tha e doirbh fhaicinn oir tha e eadar na h-eileanan eile.

B' àbhaist do dhaoine a bhith a' fuireach air Lunga. Tha tobhta fhalamh fhathast air ged a tha i a-nis aonranach ann gun mhullach oirre. Nuair a bha sinne ann bha e na sheasamh ann am meadhan achadh làn fhlùraichean purpaidh. Bha na fhlùraichean a' fàs mun cuairt agus am broinn na tobhta. 'S ann le nàdar a tha Lunga an-dràsta.

Chan eil cidhe no fiùs staidhrichean ann agus bha againn ri dìreadh suas air na clachan shleamhainn ri taobh na mara. Bha sinn air feadhainn de mhuintir an eilein fhaicinn mar tha, buthaidean, eòin-dhubh agus eòin-dhubh-an-sgadain ag itealachadh gu muir. Rinn sinn slighe suas chun an eilein cheart. Bha an talamh caran fliuch agus bha tòrr dhiofar dhathan de fhlùraichean ann - bàn, purpaidh, geal, pinc agus buidhe agus am fear cho gorm.

Suas, suas a' chaidh sinn gu oir na creige airson ar dìnnear ithe. 'S ann an sin a bha na buthaidean a' fuireach. Bha iad a' trusadh feur tioram airson nan tuill aca agus iad a' cabadaich ri chèile. Cha robh eagal idir aca bhuainn. Carson a bhiodh? Chan fhaic iad luchd-turais ach bho àm gu àm. Bha iad cho èib-

hinn, leis na casan orains agus na goban dathte aca mar pioghaidean a' falbh 's a' tighinn bhon chreig.

As dèidh ar dìnnear ithe chaidh sinn gu taobh eile an eilein airson eòin eile fhaicinn - eòin-dubh-an-sgadain. Bha iad a' fuireach air Creag na Clàrsaich nam mìltean. Tha iad dubh is geal agus tha iad car coltach ri cinn-feadhna nuair a tha iad a' seasamh air na clachan. Bha am fuaim agus am fàilleadh uabhasach ach b' e sealladh mìorbhaileach a bh' ann.

Cha b' e na h-eòin sin a-mhàin a chunnaic sinn. Cha mhòr nach do leum sinn far na creige nuair a' leig sgarbh sgreuch bhon nead fhalaichte aice. As dèidh mionaid chunnaic sinn a ceann dubh le cuiric air eadar dà chlach.

Bha coineanaich ann cuideachd, bha e doirbh am faicinn oir tha iad sochaireach agus tha iad faisg air an aon dath ris na clachan. Chunnaic sinn seòrsa de dh'eun beag donn agus faoileagan cuideachd. Air an turas air ais gu Tiriodh chunnaic sinn rud eile, cearban-

cumanta. 'S urrainn do na cearban-cumanta a bhith cho mòr ri 30 troigh a dh'fhaid. Cha robh am fear ud cho mòr ri sin ach bha e mòr gu leòr airson beagan eagail a chuir air a' chloinn. Ach chan e 'jaws' a th' ann an cearban-cumanta. Tha iad ag ithe plancton agus airson sin a dhèanamh bidh iad a' snàmh fad an latha le beul fosgailte.

Gu fortanach tha na beathaichean prìseil a-nis sàbhailte. 'S e Làrach Glèidhteachais Sònraichte a tha ann an Eileanan Threisinis a-nis. Bidh eachdraidh, agus stòras nàdar nan eileanan glèidhte. Mar sin, bidh cothrom aig duine eile na seallaidhean brèagha seo fhaicinn anns an àm ri thighinn.

English translation on page 4



An ~~Naidheachd~~ Experiment Againne

Litir Chinn-Suidhe, 1/2010

Sgrìobh mi an turas mu dheireadh air a' chumadh deallaineach ùr aig *An Naidheachd Againne*. Tha sinn a' feuchainn ri rud ùr eile a dheanamh cuideachd; 's e seòrsa de "experiment" a th' ann. Innsidh mi dhuibh mu dheidhinn, ach an toiseach, seo carson a tha e comasach agus freagarach.

Tha cor ionmhasail ACGA gu math nas fheàrr a-nis, is na h-adhbharan air am mineachadh ron -a-seo. Mar sin, tha e comasach dhuinn a-nis ar stòras-ionmhasail a chleachdadh air seirbheisean -ballrachd. Ach ciamar? Uill, sgrìobh Heather Sparling an turas mu dheireadh (agus san iris seo cuideachd) air rannsachadh a rinn sinn, airson faighinn a-mach dè na seirbheisean as cudromaiche don bhallrachd. Tha e soillear gu dearbh gu bheil an litir-naidheachd aig mullach an liosta.

Gun chosgaisean-puist airson sgaoileadh na litreach seo, bidh e comasach beagan airgid a leagail air leasachadh susbaint na litreach. Mar sin dheth, tha sinn a' toiseachadh air cuiridhean a chur a-mach gu daoine sònraichte (aon duine no dithis airson gach iris). Bidh iad a' sgrìobhadh aiste agus bidh sinn a' pàigheadh beagan dhaibh (cha bhi duine sam bith a' leigeil dheth a dhreuchd leis an airgead seo. ☺ San doigh sin, tha sinn an dòchas barrachd susbaint fhaighinn a tha inntinneach agus dà-chànanach. 'S docha gum bi cuspairean neo-àbhaisteach ann cuideachd.

Air a' chuid as motha, tha sinn an duil gum bi na colbhan seo air an sgrìobhadh le daoine nach eil nam buill den ACGA. Bidh conadalan ann cuideachd, ach cha bhi sinn a' pàigheadh airson a h-uile rud a th' anns an litir-naidheachd co-dhiù.

Tha mi a' sgrìobhadh air a' chuspair seo a chionn 's gu bheil sinn an tòir air mollaidhean bho bhuill air cuspairean is sgrìobhadairean a tha sibh ag iarraidh. Innsibh dhomhsa (aig

rudy@ramsisle.com) agus cuiridh mi na molaidhean air adhart chun a' chomataidh is chun a' bhuid-stiùiridh.

An Naidheachd Againne

An Naidheachd Againne is the quarterly newsletter of An Comunn Gaidhealach Ameireaganach.

The newsletter is published in the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. It is produced by the Publications Committee of ACGA.

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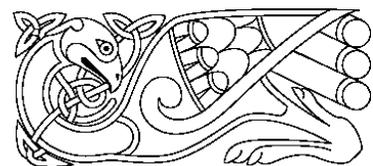
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An Naidheachd Againne welcomes submissions. Contact the editor for more information.

Tha sinn taingeil do Caroline Root, a dh'aontaich toiseachadh dhuinn leis a' phrogram seo. Is ise tè den dithis air a bheil mise eòlach a dh'ionnsaich Gàidhlig sna Stàitean agus a theagaisg tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an Alba fhèin. 'S ann air "Beartas Nàdair" ann an Lunga, aon de dh'eileanan Threisinis, a sgrìobh i airson na h-iris seo.

Ruairidh



An ~~Naidheachd~~ Experiment Againne

President's Letter, 1/2010

I wrote last time about the new electronic form of *An Naidheachd Againne*. We're trying something else that's new, too; it's a sort of experiment. I'll tell you about it, but first, here are the reasons that it's possible and suitable.

The financial condition of ACGA is much better now, for reasons that have been explained before. Thus, it's now possible for us to apply our financial resources toward improving member services. But how? Well, Heather Sparling wrote last time (and in this issue, too) about a survey that we conducted in order to find out which services are most important to our members. It is very clear that the newsletter is at the top of the list.

Without postage costs for distribution of this newsletter, it will be possible to apply a little money to improving the content. Thus, we're beginning to extend invitations to selected people (one or two for each issue). They will write an article, and we'll pay an honorarium to them. (A small honorarium; nobody will be quitting his day job because of this money. ☺ In this way, we hope to obtain more content that is interesting and bi-lingual. Perhaps there will be unusual subjects, too.

For the most part, we expect these columns to be written by people who are not members of ACGA. There will be exceptions, but we won't be paying for everything that's in the newsletter, in any case.

The reason I'm writing on this subject now is that we are seeking recommendations from the members for subjects and authors that you would like. Tell me (at rudyr@ramsisle.com) and I'll pass the suggestions on to the committee and to the board of directors.

We're grateful to Caroline Root, who is the first "guinea pig" in this program. She is one of the two people I know of who learned Gaelic in the States and then taught through the medium of Gaelic in Scotland itself. For this issue, she's written about "Nature's Bounty" in Lunga, one of the Treshnish Isles.

Rudy

Notice to Donors

As most members know, we're now using charitable donations to fund our Scholarship and Gàidhealtachd Support programs, and are funding only member services using membership dues. ACGA is a 501 (c)(3) corporation, and donations are fully tax-deductible to U.S. taxpayers. We hope you'll consider helping to support our special programs by donating.

We're instituting a new practice this year regarding thank-you letters, which double as documentation of charitable donations for income-tax purposes. We're maintaining records of all donations through the year, and will acknowledge them with one letter per donor, in January 2011. This will reduce both our workload and your paperwork, if you're one of the many who make donations more than once per year. We also reserve the right to forego sending letters for donations totalling less than \$25 for the year. This practice is well within IRS documentation requirements.

Abundance of Nature

by Caroline Root

When the people leave, nature becomes stronger. I went with my class on a trip to Lunga, one of the Treshnish Isles in the spring of 2008. The Treshnish Isles are between Mull and Tiree. The most famous of them is Staffa where Fingal's Cave is located. From Tiree the island that is most clearly seen is 'Am Bac Mòr' or The Dutchmans Cap as it is called in English. Even though there are high cliffs on Lunga it is hard to see from a distance because it is between the other islands.

People used to live on Lunga. There is still a lonely, empty ruin standing without a roof in the middle of a field of purple flowers.

The flowers grow wild around and within the gray walls of the ruin. Lunga now belongs to nature.

There is no pier or even steps and we had to climb up the slippery rocks beside the sea. We had already seen some of the inhabitants of the island, puffins, razor-bills and guillemots flying out to sea. We followed a path up to the island proper, the ground was damp and there were many colors of flowers, buttermilk, purple, white, pink, yellow and the grass was excruciatingly green.

We went up to the cliff tops to eat our lunch. That is where the puffins live. They were gathering dry grass for their burrows and chatting to each other.



They had no fear of us. Why should they? They only see a few tourists now and again. They were so funny with their bright orange feet and their colorful beaks like parrots coming and going from the cliff.

After lunch we went to the other side of the island to see some other birds, the guillemots. The guillemots live on Harp Rock in their thousands. They are black and white and look a lot like penguins when they stand on the rocks. The noise and the smell were overwhelming but it was a fantastic sight.

But we did not only see those birds. We nearly jumped off the cliff when a shag screamed at us from her hidden nest. A minute later we saw her black crested head between two rocks. There were also rabbits there. They were difficult to see because they were shy and almost the same color as the rocks. We also saw some sort of small brown bird and some seagulls.

On the way back to Tiree we saw something else, a basking shark. Basking sharks can be up to 30 feet long. This one wasn't that big but it was big enough to scare the children a little bit. But basking sharks are no 'Jaws'. They eat plankton. In order to do this they swim around all day with their mouth open.

Fortunately these fantastic animals are safe. The Treshnish Isles are now a Sight of Special Scientific Interest. Their history and abundance of wildlife will be preserved. As such other people will have the chance to see these beautiful sights in the future.

Caroline Root started her study of Gaelic in one of Glenn Wrightson's classes in Denver, and was so taken with it that she went on to do a year long course in Gaelic Language and Traditional music in Scotland after which she decided she had better get a degree since Gaelic was taking over her life anyway. So she went on to earn a B.A. in Celtic Studies from St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. She then moved to Scotland, where she studied Gaelic Medium Education at Jordanhill College in Glasgow. She taught elementary school, entirely in Gaelic, for two years on the Island of Tiree. She's currently living in Crestone, Colorado.

Survey Says! Member Responses to The ACGA Website

Heather Sparling

This is the second article in a series summarizing the results of our member survey conducted last year. In this article, I will look at the responses to our website (www.acgamerica.org). One of our questions asked respondents which ACGA services and events they had used. 76% of respondents indicated that they had used the ACGA website, second only to *An Naidheachd Againne*, our quarterly newsletter, which virtually everyone said that they had used.

However, despite the fact that the website seems to be used by many of our members, only 11% of respondents considered it the most useful service or program provided by ACGA, fourth on the list after *An Naidheachd Againne*, the annual Immersion weekend, and the Grandfather Mountain Song and Language week. Those who listed it as an important service indicated that it is useful because it is informative with useful links and event notices. One person also noted that its value relates to its accessibility, one of the reasons that *An Naidheachd Againne* was also considered so valuable.

Although no one listed the website as the least important service provided by ACGA, respondents did have some suggestions for its improvement. The number one recommendation was that the website needs to be kept up-to-date and revised on a regular basis. This is something the Board of Directors endeavours to do but there are challenges. One problem, of course, is time constraints, especially when it comes to ensuring that links connect to websites that are still active, or finding and adding new and relevant links to our already substantial list. Board members must also be trained in the technical aspects of website modifications and permissions have to be set for each board member. It is obviously helpful to have someone with website expertise on the board to oversee the entire site. At the very least, however, we work very hard to ensure that information about our own events, programs, and services is up-to-date.

Various survey respondents suggested particular ways to improve the website: include audio and/

or video resources, create a forum, create a blog, provide links to relevant organizations, incorporate more learning resources, and provide members with the opportunity to recommend website content and/or links.

We are, of course, delighted to report that we established a forum about a year ago. The Board of Directors endeavours to conduct all their business on the forum in order to keep an electronic archive of documents and discussions to which future Boards can refer as needed. Anyone may register for the forum, but ACGA members have extra privileges which allow them to access back issues of *An Naidheachd Againne*, for example, and to post to topics in the Members' Forum and Classroom Forum. Members can participate in a forum auction, where Gaelic books and other materials are available for online bidding. Recent books auctioned include *Gaelic Made Easy, Part I* and *Sasha agus Meirlich nam Baighsagal*. They can also participate in translation exercises in which members can send Gaelic translations of posted materials to a coordinator who will correct the submissions and provide feedback. If you have not already registered for the forum, we encourage you to do so by visiting forum.acgamerica.org. Once there, you will find a forum entitled "About ACGA and These Forums (START HERE)" which provides all the information you need to get started. For those who worry that they won't remember to visit the forum, you can subscribe to specific forums or even topics which will cause an email to be sent to you when a new message has been posted.

Although it's true that we do not have a blog of our own, nor have we posted much in the way of audio or video resources on our website, we do recommend Gaelcast (www.gaelcast.com). Run by former ACGA President Michael MacKay and former *An Naidheachd Againne* editor Liam Cassidy, this blog not only incorporates regular written posts (mostly in Gaelic, usually accompanied by an English translation), but it is also increasingly making use of youtube videos to record Gaelic news and

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traditional stories. Gaelcast also produces a regular Gaelic-language podcast freely available on iTunes.

For those of you who have not made use of our website to identify various resources available to Gaelic learners, I encourage you to check it out! Under “Learn Gaelic” you will find a broad range of information pertaining to Gaelic materials (books, audio tapes, video tapes, magazines, purchasing sources, and software) and classes and distance learning (lists of classes and study groups by state/province, private distance instruction, self-study sites, distance courses, and short courses). You will also find an extensive list of links under “Links,” including links to websites with general information about Gaelic; sites incorporating written and spoken material; music and song sources; online lessons; colleges, courses, and universities; Gaelic organizations; online dictionaries; and sites with other Gaelic-related information.

We have also initiated a section within the ACGA forum to allow members to post suggestions related to our website and forum (“Website & Forum Feedback”). We hope you will take advantage of this to let us know if there is a resource or internet link that we should list on our website, or if there is a topic we should set up in the forum. Let us know how we can improve our online services to make them as useful and relevant to you as possible!

The Board of Directors will, of course, keep all your suggestions and feedback in mind as we continue to work towards improving the website and forum. We welcome your comments! If you prefer to contact us directly rather than via the ACGA Forum, our contact information is available in this issue of *An Naidheachd Againne*, and on our website.

Restarting the Learning Process

by Susan Hendrix

A year ago, I found myself wondering how to get back into my Gaelic study after eight years of virtual lay-off. I’d been in graduate school, and had dropped everything but a weekly study group. I was wondering what I should do and what I needed now. Along came ACGA with a way to restart—two ways, in fact, the scholarship competition and the national immersion.

The intermediate member scholarship contest provided me with a great exercise in listening, reading, and translating and much to my surprise, I found myself a winner with the funds to attend the immersion in Colorado Springs—just down the road.

The immersion was the second big push in the right direction. I found inspiration in the interaction with the teachers and other learners at the immersion. There was a great deal of talk about fluency—what does that mean and how to get there—that helped me to decide where and how to go next in my Gaelic study.

Two experiences at the immersion stand out for me. First, Lewis MacKinnon’s class was just what I needed to overcome (or at least mitigate) my initial fear of speaking and making mistakes. That’s always been a problem for me—in fact my mother said it was a problem with my English! He was using TIP, so that we were not using written materials, and it was a great opportunity to have fun and forget my terror.

And among the workshops was Michael Mackay’s on fluency, with the tips I needed for my future practice. He suggested working through spoken material over and over, and picking out particular features of the language using those materials, such as gender of nouns and phrases to add to speech, then listening to them enough to commit them to memory. I realized that this was just the sort of thing that I had done with the dialogs in the Teach Yourself tapes when I was starting to learn Gaelic. And it was just the sort of practical advice that can jump-start a stalled practice.

I don’t have any photos of the immersion I’m afraid. I took my camera, but forgot to take any, as I was so involved with the language. But I can tell you that the location is perfect—a lovely campus in a lovely area.

So thank you to ACGA for giving me the best start back into learning Gaelic. Now it’s up to me.

Grandfather Mountain Song & Language Week

by Erin Park

I was very excited to go to the 2009 Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week under scholarship from the Clan MacCord Society. I had a wonderful time and learned much from my instructors, classes, and overall experience.

I learned songs of South Uist with Margaret Calan, a native speaker, Gaelic singer and scholar. We worked on lots of songs, and the way that Margaret taught them to us was really personal. She taught us to appreciate the Gaelic in the song, to bring it out, and to sing with meaning. Margaret was particular about the rhythm of the words, in order that we should sing it the way it would have traditionally been sung. I think I understand much more now about the Gaelic people and their song as a whole.

Listening to fluent speakers in a relaxed environment is a rare opportunity, and an experience that is crucial to learners so I also attended the fluent conversation class for listening practice. This was led by Margaret. The first day, I didn't understand very much, but each day I understood more and more.

The intermediate level language class was taught by my own teacher, Mr. MacKay! The comments and questions from the other students, (some whom were more advanced than I) were very helpful, and the class environment shed new light on the topics. Mr MacKay also talked about how to study, what things you could review, and what is needed to become fluent. These insights encouraged me to try even harder in my goal become fluent.

I attended a special interest session taught by Anne Lorne Gillies about St. Kilda. I was familiar with the island from reading Margaret Fay Shaw's autobiography *From the Alleghenies to the Hebrides*, but I wanted to learn more about these remote people. We sang songs from the island, and learned about the history of the people up to the present day. I also attended a session about truly native Gaelic phrases that you wouldn't find in any

textbook, some of which were quite interesting.

On the Saturday of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Gathering, the ACGA holds the North Carolina Provincial Mòd (a Scottish Gaelic singing competition). I competed and sang one of the puirta-beul (mouth music) sets that I had learned during the week. I won third place out of four in the Mnàthan (women) category. The judges (Margaret and Anne, our instructors from the week) gave detailed and lengthy feedback on both music and Gaelic which I used in my preparation for the U.S. National Mòd in Ligonier, Pennsylvania.

In all of the classes -- singing, language, and special interest -- I learned and grew in my knowledge and understanding of the Scottish Gaelic language, culture, and song even more than I had hoped to. Thank you to all of the instructors and organizers for a wonderful week of Gaelic.

You meant to enter the ACGA member scholarship competition last year but never got around to it?

Details on this year's competition are at

www.acgamerica.org/financial-aid/scholarships.
Translation materials will be available for download beginning February

Tòmas Clement Dùghlas - an Canèideanach as cliùitiche a-riamh

le Janice Chan

Tha e ioranta gu bheil taobh a-muigh Canada 's e ogha Tòmaidh Dùghlais gur e nas ainmeile na Tòmaidh fhèin, ach ann an 2004 thagh Canèideanaich Tòmas Clement Dùghlas an Canèideanach as cliùitiche a-riamh.

Fad caogad bliadhna bha Dùghlas an sàs ann an ceartas sòisealta agus poileataigs ach tha e aithnichte ann an Canada mar athair cùram slàinte a' phobaill.

Rugadh Tòmaidh air an 20mh latha den Dàmhair 1904 anns an Eaglais Bhric ann an Alba, ach chaidh an teaghlach a-null thairis gu Winnipeg ann am Manitoba nuair a bha Tòmaidh sia bliadhna a dh'aois. Cha robh mòran airgid aig an teaghlach agus bho àm gu àm dh'fheumadh Dùghlas agus a dhithis pheathraichean an sgoil fhàgail airson airgead a chosnadh.

Chaidh a chas a ghoirteachadh nuair a bha Tòmaidh deich bliadhna a dh'aois. Theab a gearradh air falbh a thaobh is nach robh airgead aig a theaghlach airson eòlaiche lèigheil. Gu fortanach thairg làmh-lèighe an obair-lannsa a dhèanamh saor 's an-asgaidh nan toireadh a phàrantan cead do na h-oileanaich meidigeach a choimhead. Air sàilleabh an fhiosrachaidh sin, chreid Dùghlas nach bu chòir slàinte daoine crochadh air am biodh no nach biodh airgead aca.

Bha athair Tòmaidh an sàs ann am poileataigs Pàrtaidh Làbarach Neo-eisimeileach na h-Alba san t-seann dùthaich agus mar sin bhiodh an teaghlach a' gabhail pàirt ann an deasbadaidh poileataigs, feallsanachd agus creideamh. Bhiodh seo gu math cudthromach airson beachdan Dhùghlais a chruthachadh mar inbheach.

Dh'imrich an teaghlach gu Glaschu aig toiseach a' Chogaidh Mhòir oir bha Maighstir Dùghlas na shaighdear san arm Bhreatannach. Thachair dà rud nuair a bha Tòmaidh ann an Alba - dh'ionnsaich e a bhith na bhogsair agus thoisich e air a dhol dhan eaglais a dh'èisteachd ri na ministearan.

Thill na Dùghlasaich gu Winnipeg beagan an dèidh a' chogaidh agus ann an 1919 dhèanadh Tòmaidh fianais air na Poilis Eachraidh Rìoghail an Iar Thuath a' losgadh air a' mhòr-shluagh ann an Stailc Choitcheann Winnipeg. Chaidh dithis a mharbhadh. B' e seo an

dàrna tachartas a stiùir a bheatha.

Cha do thill Tòmaidh dhan sgoil agus dh'fheuch e iomadh dreuchd. Airson greis bha e na chleasaiche agus na bhogsair is chaith e còig bliadhna mar chlà-bhualadair. Ach ann an 1924 chlàraich e ann an Colaiste Bhrandan anns an do dh'ionnsaich obair na ministrealachd. B' e a bheachdsan gun robh creideamh ceangailte ri poileataigs. B' e miann Tòmaidh comann-sòisealta cothromach a chruthachadh. Smaoinich e gum b' e seo n dòigh a b' fheàrr air seirbheis a dhèanamh do Dhia.

Fhad 's bha e aig a' cholaiste chaidh e an sàs anns a' bhuidheann soisgeul sòisealta. Shaoil leotha cha b'

e ach aon adhbhar airgid ann agus bha sin cuid a thoirt do dhaoine eile. Bha fìor chreideamh aig Tòmaidh anns an fheallsanachd seo.

Thug e a-mach ceum oilthighe agus fad grunn bhliadhnanachan bha e na mhinistear ann an Saskatchewan. Sheas Tòmaidh airson Pàrlamaid Roinneil Saskatchewan ann an 1934 ach cha deach a thaghadh. An ath bhliadhna sheas e a-rithist airson na Pàrlamaid ann an Ottawa agus bha e soirbheachail.

An dèigh naoi bliadhna ann an Taigh nan Cumantan bha Tòmaidh air a thaghadh mar cheannard roinneil Caidreachas Co-fhiatheas a' Cho-comann. Bhuannaich am pàrtaidh seo an taghadh Saskatchewan ann an 1944 agus mar sin bha Dùghlas na cheannard air a' chiad riaghaltas sòisealach ann an Ameireaga a Tuath.

Chaidh Dùghlas a thaghadh còig tursan uile gu lèir ann an Saskatchewan. Fon riaghaltas aige, fhuair a' chuid mhòr de thuathanaich rathaidean mòra, òtrachas glan agus dealan. Leig e leis na seirbheisich chatharra a bhith ann an aonadh, ach b'e an rud a bu chudromaiche, reachdaich e cùram slàinte saor 's an-asgaidh.

Ged a bha Dùghlas na cheannard den phàrtaidh fheadarail tro na seasgadan cha robh e riamh na phrìomhaire air Canada. Bha feadhainn eile co-dhiù a thuig air cho soirbheachail 's a bha am prògram cùram slàinte ann an Saskatchewan, agus ann an 1966 thàinig cùram slàinte an-asgaidh gu Canèideanaich uile.

Agus cò an t-ogha ainmeil aig Dùghlas? 'S e an cleasaiche Keifer Sutherland a th' ann.



Thomas Clement Douglas - The Greatest Canadian

by Janice Chan

It's ironic that outside of Canada, Tommy Douglas' grandson is more famous than Tommy himself, but in 2004, Canadians voted Thomas Clement Douglas the greatest Canadian.

Douglas was involved in social justice and politics for 50 years, but he's known in Canada as the Father of Medicare.

Tommy was born on October 20th, 1904 in Falkirk, Scotland, but the family emigrated to Winnipeg, Manitoba when Tommy was 6 years old.

The family didn't have much money, and from time to time Douglas and his 2 sisters needed to leave school to earn money.

His leg was injured when Tommy was 10 years old. It was almost amputated because the family didn't have money for a specialist. Fortunately, a surgeon offered to do the surgery for free if his parents gave permission to the medical students to watch. Because of that experience, Douglas believed that people's health shouldn't depend on whether they had money or not.

Tommy's father was involved in the politics of the Independent Labour Party of Scotland in the old country, and so the family would take part in political, philosophical and religious debates. This would be quite important in shaping Douglas' opinions as an adult.

The family moved to Glasgow at the beginning of the First World War because Mr. Douglas was a soldier in the British army. Two things happened when Tommy was in Scotland - he learned to box and he started to go to church to listen to the ministers.

The Douglasses returned to Winnipeg shortly after the war, and in 1919 Tommy witnessed the the Royal North-West Mounted Police fire on the crowd in the Winnipeg General Strike. Two were killed. This was the second event that influenced his life.

Tommy didn't return to school and he tried many jobs. For a while he was an actor and a boxer, and he spent 5 years as a publisher. But in 1924 he enrolled in Brandon College to study for the ministry. He believed that religion was connected to politics. It was Tommy's desire to create a just society. He thought that this was the best way to serve God.

While he was in college, he was involved with social gospel groups. They thought that the only reason for money was to share it with others. Tommy had a strong belief in this philosophy. He graduated from university, and for a number of years he was a minister in Saskatchewan.

Tommy ran for the Saskatchewan Provincial Parliament in 1934 but he wasn't elected. The next year he ran again for the Parliament in Ottawa and he was successful.

After 9 years in the House of Commons Tommy was elected head of the provincial Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. This party won the Saskatchewan election in 1944, and so Douglas was the leader of the first socialist government in North America.

Douglas was elected 5 more times altogether in Saskatchewan. Under his government, the majority of farmers got highways, clean sewage and electricity. He allowed civil servants to be unionized, but most importantly, he legislated free health care.

Though Douglas was leader of the federal party through the 60s, he was never Prime Minister of Canada. There were others though, who understood just how successful the health care programme was in Saskatchewan and in 1966, free health care came to all Canadians.

And who is Douglas' famous grandson? It's the actor Keifer Sutherland.



Dreaming in Gaelic

By Cam MacRae

Do you sometimes dream in Gaelic? Not yet? Well, would it help if you could spend a week, or two, or even three thinking and speaking only in Gaelic? About three years ago, Anne Landin, Jeanne Pendergast, Cam MacRae, and An Phillips decided that we needed to do something to move our Gaelic study ahead to the next level, to the place where we would stop thinking in English before speaking in Gaelic, to the place where dreaming in Gaelic was to be expected. Here's what we did.

During the winter and spring of 2008, we planned a three-week Gaelic immersion, or *iomairt*, as we began to call it, at Anne's house in Cape Breton for September of 2008. Our idea was to create a Gaelic-speaking household, where no English would be spoken at all, in Anne's little grey house in Malagawatch, *Am Bothan Glas*. In addition to household tasks, which we shared, the schedule included conversation classes, grammar sessions, singing, games, and visiting with local Cape Breton Gaelic speakers.

Before leaving home, we each signed an agreement that we would participate fully in all immersion activities and to not speak English during that time except in case of an emergency. We knew that we were asking a lot of ourselves, but we asked even more of our teachers. For the first two weeks, Mike MacKay and his wife Cathleen joined us. Mike was "on" from the time he woke in the morning until he went to bed, guiding our conversations, correcting our grammar and pronunciation, adding to our vocabulary, and encouraging us along the way. When Mike and Cathleen left, Kathy Reddy took his place, and our immersion continued as Kathy added her own Nova Scotia flavor to our activities.

Our 2008 *iomairt* was a success on many different levels and in different ways for each of us. When it was

over and we were back in our English-speaking worlds, one of the first things we wanted to do was to start planning right away for the next one. Scheduling for the summer and fall of 2009 became a problem, however, and we agreed to try a shortened version of what had worked for us the year before. First, we all attended the week-long Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Workshop in North Carolina, taking as many of the advanced-level song and language classes as we could and eating most meals at the Gaelic table.

Then, following the games on the weekend, we moved into a nearby rented cabin for a one-week immersion. Once more, Mike joined us and from early morning until bedtime guided us through conversation and listening exercises. We worked hard, and the week was over before we knew it, leaving us looking forward to our next *iomairt*, whatever form it takes. Whether we meet in Cape Breton or North Carolina, we know our next immersion will involve probably no more than four congenial participants and a generous creative teacher. The longer we can stay together the better, but we'll take what we can get. Dreaming in Gaelic is worth it!



Wanted

Recording Secretary

ACGA needs a new Recording Secretary, as Jeanne Pendergast is leaving that job to be our new Treasurer. The job of the Recording Secretary is to attend our quarterly Board meetings, which are traditionally held by Skype or telephone on Sunday evenings, take good notes, and produce the minutes of the meeting. It is helpful, but not required, for this person to have a broadband internet connection, use Skype, and be able to record the audio of the meeting. We can provide training regarding these aspects of the position, or work around them if they're not possible. More important is an interest in what's going on in ACGA.

Interested candidates should contact Rudy Ramsey at rudy@ramsisle.com.

Your organization needs you!

Webmaster

ACGA is in need of a new Webmaster, as Shannon Duncan is stepping down after several years in this post. This job requires experience in website management. It should not have a heavy burden of actual management of web content, though there will be some of that. The Webmaster performs or arranges for installation or configuration associated with our website and forum site, deals with our web host, insures appropriate management and backup, handles (very rare) emergencies associated with these sites, and develops them further to the degree that time, skill and interest allow.

Interested candidates should contact Rudy Ramsey at rudy@ramsisle.com.

Your ACGA needs you!



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FOR MORE information about these resources and for information on long-distance course, short courses and private instruction see our web page at www.acgamerica.org/arn-gaelic/classes-and-distance-learning

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