

# An Naidheachd Againne

*The Newsletter of An Comunn Gàidhealach, America*

An Geamhradh/Earrach 2004-2005, Leabhar XXI-XXII, Aireamh 4-1: Winter/Spring 2004-2005, Volume XXI-XXII, No. 4-1

## Gaelic Bill Moves Forward

*Legislation hailed by all sides during opening debate in Scottish Parliament*

The Scottish Parliament is moving closer to giving the Gaelic language a form of official status in Scotland — though not necessarily legal parity with English.

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Bill sailed through Stage 1 consideration in parliament Feb. 2 and moved to Stage 2 of the process, in which the legislation was reviewed line-by-line. That stage ended Feb. 25 and the bill proceeded to Stage 3, in which amendments are reviewed before final publication and a vote.

As introduced, the bill would charge a Bòrd na Gàidhlig with developing a national plan for the language within a year and give BnG authority to order public authorities throughout Scotland to draft Gaelic plans. It also focuses on Gaelic-medium education.

“The bill is an eloquent expression of the status of the language in Scotland,” Peter Peacock, minister for education and young people, said during debate Feb. 2. “The language must be used more and more in everyday life in Scotland and this bill is part of the process of securing a future in which that will happen.”

There’s little doubt Gaelic language legislation eventually will become law — during debate the bill was

praised by Conservatives, Nationalists, Labourites, Lib Dems, Scottish Socialists and Greens — but its scope and powers remain uncertain.

The current bill does not satisfy demands for equal legal status with English — such as the right to use Scottish Gaelic in court. “The words ‘equal validity’ might at some point have to be given legal meaning by the courts,” Peacock said. “The consequences of that on a Scotland-wide basis are potentially far-reaching. I continue to wrestle with how to resolve that issue.”

Supporters of equal status argued that it would not create a burden for the state or non-Gaelic speakers.

“We want to give the Gaelic language equal status with English and make it a live language,” said Alex Neil, the Scottish National Party MSP for Central Scotland. “However, we do not want to force every agency to publish in Gaelic every document that they publish in English. Nobody

is arguing for that. We think that a solution around equal validity is the right way to proceed.”

Neil introduced a Gaelic bill in May 2003 — the first bill introduced in the current Parliamentary session — that would have established a basis of equality between Gaelic and English and required public bodies and local authorities to prepare and implement Gaelic language plans. The proposal failed last November.

Others argued for a bill focused primarily on the Gàidhealtachd, the region where Gaelic still is in everyday use, rather than Scotland as a whole.

“I have problems with the attempts to spread scarce resources in developing Gaelic throughout Scotland,” said Ted Brocklebank, Conservative MSP for Mid Scotland

**“Were he alive today, Burns would approve of it, even if he was not a Gaelic speaker.”**

### What's On ACGA Online

A copy of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Bill is available at ACGA's Web site: [www.acgamerica.org](http://www.acgamerica.org)

Other links of interest:

Bòrd na Gàidhlig: [www.bord-na-gaidhlig.org.uk](http://www.bord-na-gaidhlig.org.uk)  
Scottish Parliament: [www.scottish.parliament.uk](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk)

## “We should not regard Gaelic as an issue that is confined to the north of a Mason-Dixon line above Inverness.”

and Fife. “Orkney and Shetland have absolutely no interest in Gaelic, nor do large parts of Aberdeenshire, Fife and the Lothians. Why attract the odium of those areas by attempting to impose on them a culture that has not involved them for centuries, if ever, especially given that resources could be targeted more usefully at former Gaelic-speaking areas such as Argyllshire and the inner isles?”

Most MSPs, however, supported an all-Scotland approach.

“We should not regard Gaelic as an issue that is confined to the north of a Mason-Dixon line above Inverness; it affects many parts of Scotland,” said Neil. “In places such as Kilmarnock and Glasgow, as well as in other parts of Scotland, there is a growth in the demand for Gaelic education among every age.”

“Gaelic is national, European and international. It is also fundamental to Scotland,” said Alasdair Morrison, Labour MSP for the Western Isles. “It is not on the periphery or the fringes. As a member who represents a Gaelic area, I am happy to support the bill.”

Elaine Murray, the Labour MSP for Dumfries and Galloway, said there was some anxiety over the bill in her district in Southwest Scotland, the home of Scots poet Robbie Burns. “People wonder whether it will be relevant to most of the people in the region and whether resources will be diverted from Scots, for example,” she said.

But Murray said there also is support for a bill that would highlight an important element of Scottish heritage. “Were he alive today, Burns would approve of it, even if he was not a Gaelic speaker,” she said.

She said Gaelic plans for regions such as Dumfries and Galloway should stress making the language accessible to learners, rather than official mandates. “A Gaelic plan for Dumfries and Galloway could include Gaelic classes for people like me who would like to learn the language but find it difficult to get classes,” she said. “We will not see Gaelic signposts on all the roads in Dumfries and Galloway—that would be a bit like seeing English-language signposts all over the south of Spain.”

Wendy Alexander, Labour MSP for Paisley North, saw the bill as an good initial step. “The bill is a start, but Bòrd na Gàidhlig will be remembered as one of the success stories, along with the hydro board and the HIDB [Highlands and Islands Development Board], if it has the courage to follow its strategic sixth sense that education is the key to the future of Gaelic.”

— *Liam Ó Caiside*

## Gaelic Song Week features Mary Ann Kennedy, Màiri Sìne Chaimbeul

The Grandfather Mountain Scottish Gaelic Song and Language Week sponsored by ACGA will run from Sunday, July 3 through Friday, July 8.

Accommodations will be available for those wishing to stay over the weekend for the North Carolina Mòd and Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

There will be language classes for beginner, intermediate, and advanced Gaelic speakers and singing classes covering a range of traditional Gaelic song forms, including waulking or milling songs and mouth music. There are a variety of special interest sessions being planned for the afternoon and opportunities for fellowship with other Gaelic learners in the evening.

Teachers this year will be **Mary Ann Kennedy**, founding member of Cliar and well known BBC radio broadcaster; **Màiri Sìne Chaimbeul**, Gaelic singer, writer, member of the faculty at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and the 2005 ACGA National Mòd judge; and **Jamie MacDonald**, a member of the faculty at St. Frances Xavier College in Nova Scotia and founder of the North Carolina Mòd and the Grandfather Mountain Song and Language Week. Mary Ann and Màiri Sìne will teach both Gaelic song and language while Jamie will teach beginning Gaelic.

The workshop is housed at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina. Tuition, room, and board for the Grandfather Mountain workshop will be \$410 for ACGA members and \$445 for non-members. There will be a \$25 discount if final payment is postmarked by May 15.

For more information on the program, visit the ACGA Web site ([www.acgamerica.org](http://www.acgamerica.org)) or contact Cam MacRae at [acmacr2@uky.edu](mailto:acmacr2@uky.edu); Libit Woodington at [LibitW@aol.com](mailto:LibitW@aol.com); or Jamie MacDonald at [jrmacdon@stfx.ca](mailto:jrmacdon@stfx.ca).

### Fois air an anamannan

The worldwide Gaelic community lost several irreplaceable tradition bearers recently. We name a few of them here, hoping to provide more detailed appreciations of their lives and work in a future issue of *An Naidheachd Againne*:

**Margaret Fay Shaw**, Canna, Scotland  
**Johnny Williams**, Melbost, Nova Scotia  
**Martyn Bennett**, Mull & Edinburgh, Scotland  
**Mary Margaret MacLean**, Whycocomag, Nova Scotia  
**Alec Goldie**, Soldier's Cove, Nova Scotia.

# Facal bho'n Cheann-Suidhe: President's Report

## *A Chàirdean,*

Tha iris shònraichte againn dhuibh an turas seo – taobh a-staigh an Naidheachd Againne, tha òraid le Torcuil MacRath ann agus, a bharrachd air a bhith inntinneach agus tarruingeach, tha am pìos seo ag ràdh mòran mu dheidhinn àireannachd nan Eilean agus àireannachd an t-saoghail. Tha e a' sealltainn dhuinn mar a tha an aimsir air atharrachadh, agus mar a ghabhas sin fhaicinn anns an t-saoghal mu'n cuairt dhuinn. Deagh rabhadh air mar a bu chòir dhiunn a bhith faiceallach air na tha sinn a' deanamh da'r dachaidh.

Tha sinne cuideachd a' toirt sùil air adhartas a tha ga dheanamh air saoghal na Gàidhlig, agus a' Bhile a tha a' cur taic rithe, a tha a' dol tro'n Phàrlamaid. Tha a h-uile duine 'sa Ghàidhealtachd a' cumail sùil air mar a tha a' Bhile a' tighinn a-mach, agus na tha i a' ciallachadh do thaic agus àite a dh'fhaodadh a bhith aig a' Ghàidhlig 'san àm ri teachd. Tha sinne uile bhos a' seo a' cumail ar sùilean air a' chùis cuideachd!

Tha mi 'n dòchas gum faigh sibh tlachd às na duilleagan a tha seo, agus tha sinn ann an comain Mhicheil Newton turas eile airson na deagh phiosan a tha e air sgrìobhadh ann – tha fadachd oirnn gus am faic sinn tuilleadh bhuaithe 'sna h-irisean a tha tighinn!

Agus fhad's a tha mi a-mach 'san litir seo air na th'againn anns an Naidheachd Againne, tha mi ag iarraidh oirbh sùil a thoirt air na duilleagan mu dheireadh – tha foirm ballrachd anns an iris seo, agus, ma tha sibh beagan air dheireadh a thaobh ur ballrachd fhein, nach lion sibh an duilleag agus a cur tro'n phòst gus am bi sibh a' faighinn Naidheachdan eile, agus iomadh rud eile a tha a' tighinn an cois ur ballrachd ann an ACGA!

Le meas  
Micheal MacAoidh

## *Friends,*

We have a special issue for you this time – inside an Naidheachd Againne, we have an essay by Torcuil MacRath, and, besides being quite interesting, this piece says a lot about the environment of the Islands and of the world. It shows us how the weather is changing, and how that can be seen in the world around us. It's an excellent warning about how we should be careful about what we are doing to our home.

We also have an article about the progress that is being made in the world of Gaelic, and the Bill that is supporting it, which is going through Parliament. Everyone in the Gaidhealtachd is watching how the Bill is going, and what it means for the support and place that Gaelic is going to have in the future. We are keeping an eye on it over here as well!

I hope you all enjoy the pages we have here, and we are once again indebted to Micheal Newton for the great articles he has written. We can't wait till we get more from him in the next issue!

And, as long as I'm talking about what's in this issue, I'd like to ask you to take a look at the last page of An Naidheachd Againne. There's a membership form there, and if you're a little behind in your dues, please fill out the form and send it in to us, so you can continue to get this excellent newsletter and everything else that comes with your membership!

Le spèis / sincerely

**Micheal MacAoidh**  
*Ceann-suidhe/ President*

## **February ACGA Board Meeting**

The February ACGA Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by president Mike MacKay. “Present” on the conference call were board members Jana Blue, Janice Chan, John Fraser, Anne Landin, and Glenn Wrightson; membership secretary Wes Mangus; chair of Ohio Immersion Weekend 2005 Frances Acar; and recording secretary Cam MacRae.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

Jana reported that thanks to the diligent work of new membership secretary Wes Mangus, membership receipts have caught up to last year and are on track to meet the budget. There were no significant expenditures this quarter other than the deposit for the 2005 Immersion Weekend, and no outstanding bills have been forwarded to her. The Evergreen Fund, where most of our funds are deposited, is showing signs of recovery and is almost as high as we have seen.

### **Membership**

Wes reported that we now have 168 active (paid-up members) and 13 thirteen permanent, or lifetime members. There are also 232 people whose memberships have expired, but are being kept in the database, for a total of 413.

### **Immersion Weekend**

Frances Acar reported on the 2005 Immersion Weekend coming up at Burr Oak State Park in Ohio, May 19 - 22. Teachers will be Muriel Fisher, Deborah and David Livingston-Lowe, Alec MacDonald, and Liam Cassidy [*Liam will not be able to attend — ed.*].

Frances announced that she has arranged for someone to teach old time dancing, Shetland dancing, and the more usual Scottish Country dancing on Friday night.

### **Budget**

Mike reminded that at the end of March we will begin a new budget year. He proposed that we work on the new budget over e-mail, using last year’s budget as a template. We can approve the new budget by e-mail, ratify it at the next board meeting, and have it approved at the AGM during the immersion in Ohio.

### **Gaidhealtachd Support**

Anne and Glenn reported that, thanks to Shannon Duncan who has recently taken over the maintenance of our Web site, the information on how to apply for the new scholarship has now been posted. It was moved and sec-

onded that board members not be eligible for this scholarship. (They are not eligible for other ACGA scholarships.)

### **Grandfather Mountain Song and Language Workshop**

Cam reported on the workshop upcoming in July. Jamie MacDonald and Màiri Sine Chaimbeul will teach language and Mary Ann Kennedy will teach singing. Màiri Sine and Mary Ann will also adjudicate at the mòd at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games on Saturday.

### **ACGA National Mòd**

Màiri Sine Chaimbeul will also adjudicate at the National Mòd in Ligonier this September. Mòd registration and materials will be ready to go out soon.

### **Scholarships**

Anne reported that there are four applicants for the advanced, three for the intermediate, and one for the beginner scholarship. The deadline has passed for applications, and materials will go out soon.

### **Publications**

Naidheachd should be ready to go out soon. Mike hopes to get numbers 61 through 80 of the series “Litir do Luchd-Ionnasachaidh” by Ruairidh MacIlleathain onto CD and ready to go out soon. He plans to go through number 200.

### **Outreach**

With John Fraser’s move, we need a new regional coordinator to cover the states of Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.

In response from a request from Rhiannon Giddens, we will donate Cathy Ann MacPhee’s stipend for an event Rhiannon is planning in Richmond, called Seall Air Ais: A Night with Cathy Ann MacPhee. Kate Herr will be there representing SGEIR and Mike will send her some ACGA brochures, IW brochures and Naidheachds.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the ACGA board of directors will be held on Sunday, May 1, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. EST by conference call.

### **Adjournment**

There was no old business from previous meetings and no new business introduced for consideration. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

*Submitted by Cam MacRae, recording secretary.*

# **CRÍOMAGAN**

**By Dr. Michael Newton**

**I**n my last column I examined some of the reasons why Scottish Highland immigrants in America fought overwhelmingly as Loyalists for the British Crown. One of the reasons cited was that they had taken oaths of loyalty to the Crown, and they did not give their oath lightly. These oaths, being in Gaelic, seem to have been entirely overlooked by scholars, and I owe my own knowledge of them to my friend Dr. Dòmhnall Uilleam Stiubhart. They were previously printed, without a translation, in D. Wimberly, 1898, "The Bighouse Papers", *Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness* 23, 8-53 (at 32-4). The oaths are dated 1754, just two years before the first troops left for the French and Indian War, and only eight years after Culloden.

There are actually three different versions of the oath, apparently corresponding to the degree to which the person was willing to renounce his hopes of a Jacobite comeback and resign himself to the exclusive sovereignty of the Hanoverians. The second oath is the least committal of the three, while the first is the most comprehensive. The texts were most likely written by a Church of Scotland minister. Such ministers tended to act in the interest of the central government, and few others were literate in Highland society at that time.

The oaths are also very interesting for what they tell us of high-register Gaelic (i.e., the form of Gaelic used by bureaucrats and officials) in the mid-18th century. I have not attempted to correct or regularize it in any way, so that you can examine the original form of words. It was spelled in an irregular manner, as the modern standards for Gaelic did not yet exist. On top of that, the old dative case (ending in *-ibh*) is used regularly, while the plural ending *-an* standard in the vernacular 'central' dialects of Scotland is not used.

In my next column I will offer an English translation.

## **Oath 1:**

A-ta sinne na Foi-sgriobhoire gu fìor agus gu neimh-chealgach ag Aidmheachadh, agus ag Dimhineachadh ag togbhail Fiadhnaid, agus ag Foillseachadh ann ar Coguisibh, ann Labhair Dhe agus an t-Saoghail gur e ar nAird-Thriath an Dara Rìgh Seoras, Rìgh laghail dlìgh-each na Rìoghachd-sa, agus gach gu neimh-chealgach a foillseachadh, gu'm bheil sinn ag creidsin ann ar Coguisibh nach bheil Coir no Dlighe air-bith air Crun na Rìoghachd-sa, no Tighearnais air-bith eile a bhuineas d'i, ag an Fhear a chuir roimh-e b'e Prionsa Wales re Linn Rìgh Seamas nach mairthean, agus o a Bhas-san a 'ta ag cur roimh-e gar e, agus a 'ta ag gabhail chuig-e fein Stoile agus Tìotal Rìgh

Shasoin fo Ainm an Treasa Seamas, no Rìgh Alba fo ainm no Ochta Seamas, no Stoile agus Tìotal Rìgh Mhoir-Bhritinn. Agus a ta sinn ag Aicheadh agus air ar Mionnaibh Seanaidh ag Diulltadh gach Geill agus Umhlachd dh'a. Agus a ta sinn ag Mionnachadh gu'n toir sinn Fìor-umhlachd aghaidh gach Comh-cheangail chealgaich agus gach Ionnsuigh air-bith, a bhitheas ann Aghaidh a Phearsa, a Chruin no Fhiuntais. Agus Gnath-aichidh sinn ar n Uile-dhithcheal a leigeil ris agus a nochdadh d'a Mhordhachd agus d'a Luchd Iairleanmhain, gach Ceannairc agus Coimh-cheangal cealgach, a's Aithne dhuinn 'a bhitheas 'n a Aghaidh-sin, no ann Aghaidh aoin-neach dhiubhsan. Agus a ta sinn gu dileas ag Gealltain gu'n Cum sinn suas, gu'n Coimhid agus gu'n Dion, sinn le ar n Uile-neart Iairleanmhain a' Chruin 'n a Aghaidh-sin, iodhon Seamas reamh-raite, agus ann Aghaidh gach Dreim air-bith eile, An Iairleanmhain a 'ta le Reachd d'an Ainm Reachd chum tuille Crìoslachaidh a' Chruin, agus Daingeachaidh Choraiche agus Saoirse nan Iochdaran nis fearr, son-raichte do'n Bhain-Phrionsa Sophia nach mairthean, Ban-roighneadair agus Bain-duic Dhuaireichte Hanover, agus do oighreachaibh a Cuirp, air bith dhoibh do'n chreideamh aith-leasaichte. Agus na Nithe sin uile a-ta sinn gu soilleir agus neimh-chealgach ag Aidmheachadh agus ag Mionnachadh, do Reir nan Ceirtbhriathar sin a labhradh leinn' agus de Reir Seagha agus Ceill shoilleir agus gnathaichte nam Briathar ceadna, gun Atharrachadh Seagha gun Seach-rod, gun Saoibh-sheagh, gun diomhair Inntinn. Agus a ta Sinn ag deanamh na' h' Athfhaosaid agus na h' Aidmheil so, ag luadh nam Mionna Seanaidh, ag deanamh an Diulltadh, agus ag tabhairt a Gheallaidh so, gu croidheil, toileach, fìor, air Fir-chreideamh Crìosluidh. Mar so cuidich leinn' a Dhia.

## **Oath 2:**

A ta sinne na Foi-sgriobhoire gu neimh-chealgach ag gealltain, agus ag mionnachadh, gu'm bith sinn dileas agus fìor-umhal do Mhordhach an Dara Rìgh Seoras, mar so cuidich leinn' a Dhia.

## **Oath 3:**

A ta sinne na Foi-sgriobhoire ann an Neimh-chealgairachd ar Croidhi, ag radh, ag Aidmheachadh, agus ag Foillseachadh gur e Mordhachd an Dara Rìgh Seoras amhain agus gun Amharus, Aird-Thriath laghail na Rìoghachd-sa, comh-mhaith 'de Jure.' Is e sin, Rìgh do brìgh Corach as 'de Facto.' Is e sinn ann an Seilbh agus ann an Gnathachadh an h' Aird-riaghail. Agus air an Adhbhar Sin, a ta sinn gu neimh-chealgach agus gu dileas ag gealltainn agus ag Ceangal oirn-fein gu'n Coimhid agus gu'n Dion sinn le ar Croidhe agus le ar Laimh, le ar Beatha agus le ar Maoin Pearsa agus Aird-riaghail a Mhordhachd ann Aghaidh an Fhir sin a Chuir roimh-e gu'm b'e Prionsa Wales re Linn Rìgh Seamas nach mairthean, agus o a Bhas-san, a ta ag Cur roimh-e gur e, agus a ta ag gabhail chuig-e fein Stoile agus Tìotal Rìgh Shasoin fo Ainm an Treasa Seamas, no Rìgh Alba fo Ainm an Ochta Seamas, agus ann an Aghaidh a Luchd leanmhain, s nan uile Naimhde eile, a bheir Ionnsuigh dhiomhair no fhollas air Aimh-reite no Ais-sith a thogbhail ann Aghaidh a Mhordhachd ann nan Seilbh agus ann nan Gnathachadh sin.

*Dr. Newton teaches at the University of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University.*

# Caochlaidhean : Changes

Gaelic essay by Torcuil MacRath, translated by Magaidh Nic a'Ghabhainn

**Chan eil beachd sam bith agam cò e an seann duine air am biodh mo dhaoine gu tric a' bruidhinn. Faodaidh e bhith gu robh e ann cho fada air ais ann an eachdraidh ri linn nan draoidhean.**

I have no idea who the old man was, whom my relatives referred to very often. It could have been that he lived so long ago it may have been at the time of the druids.

**Co-dhiù, cha ghann nach cuala mise mun t-seòrsa aimsir a bha esan ag iarraidh fa chomhair gach ràithe a bh' anns a' bhliadhna. B' e seo a mhiann:**

Anyway, I often heard about the kind of weather he wanted to see each season of the year. This is what he wished for:

**Geamhradh reòthanach,  
Earrach ceòthanach,  
Samhradh breac riabhach,  
Foghar geal Grianach.**

A Frosty winter,  
misty spring,  
speckled (sunlit) summer  
and a sunny autumn with a lot of light.

**Ach mar a tha an seanfhacal ag ràdh, nach iomadh rud a chì an duine bhios fada beò. Thug mi greis a' meòmhachadh air an iarrtas a bha aig an t-seann duine ud, agus 's e mo bheachd nach leigeadh e a leas mòran dùil a bhith aige ri geamhradh reòthanach nam biodh e**

**timcheall san là a th'ann.**

But as the old saying goes, many's a thing you see if you live to ripe old age. I spent a while pondering that old man's request and I'm of the opinion that if he was around today he needn't expect a frosty winter.

**Sin gu dearbha brìgh mo sheanchais, gun tàinig caochlaidh air an aimsir thairis air na bliadhnaichean a dh'fhalbh. Mar dhearbhadh air sin bheir mi iomradh air loch uisge a tha goirid dhomh far a bheil mi a' fuireach.**

That is indeed my whole point, that the weather has changed with the passing years. As proof I will give an account of a fresh water loch close to where I live.

**Gluaisidh nàdar beag air bheag agus, mus seall thu riut fhèin, tha an nì a th' aige san amharc air a thigh-inn gu buil. Sin mar a thachair dhòmsa a thaobh an loch a bha siud.**

Nature changes little by little and suddenly the change is complete That's how it happened with that loch (a-thaobh –regarding).

**Aon là anns na 1970an thug mi an aire nach robh mi anis a' faicinn air an uisge ud anns a ràithe gheamhradh ach sgàilean beag de dheigh an siud 's an seo. Mar sin, 's e an loch an t-slat-thomhais a tha agam air mar a dh'atharraich an aimsir.**

---

**Torcuil MacRath** was born in the 1920s on the Isle of Lewis, spent nearly all his life there, and lives there today. For many reasons, Torcuil began writing in Gàidhlig in his later years, and for all of us who enjoy the subtle, unique voice of the Hebridean writer it was worth the wait. MacRath was postmaster for his village, traveled to Texas while serving in the Royal Navy during World War II, and built the house he currently lives in. Torcuil first published in the 1980s in the magazine *Gairm*. Since then he has written several books, news and magazine articles and essays. His books include "A Bhuaile Fhalaich" ("The Hidden Fold") and "An Cearcall" ("The Circle"). "Caochlaidhean" is an essay from "An Cearcall", available through the Gaelic Books Council, 22 Mansfield Street, Glasgow, Scotland, G11 5QP.

**Magaidh Nic a' Ghabhainn** translated "Caochlaidhean" for *An Naidheachd Againne*. You'll see that this is a fairly literal translation from Gàidhlig, and a poetic one too. Magaidh, who also lives on the Isle of Lewis, writes poetry, news and magazine stories in Gàidhlig. She has been very active in developing Gàidhlig teaching programs, family programs for Gàidhlig speakers, and many more community based programs that provide the people of Lewis opportunities to enjoy their culture.

Our thanks to Torcuil and Magaidh and especially to **Kris Kilgore**, the San Francisco-based ACGA member who worked with both of them to bring this bilingual version of "Caochlaidhean" to *Naidheachd*.

One day in the 1970s I realized that in winter there was only a thin cover of ice here and there on the loch. The loch is my yardstick of how the weather has changed.

**Tha e furasta a thuigsinn gu bheil na h-uiread de bhuaidh aig anail na mara air an reothadh; ach eadh-an anns na h-Eileanan Siar bhiodh dùil ri geamhradh reòthanach anns an aimsir a dh'fhalbh – làithean goirid grianach 's an oidhche a' tuiteam gu cabhagach le reothadh trom.**

It is easy to understand that the sea air has a certain amount of effect on the frost; but even in the Western Isles there would be an expectation of frosty winter in past seasons – short sunny days and the night hurriedly falling with heavy frost.

**Gu nàdarrach, 's ann a rèir neart an reothaidh a bhios tiughad na deighe. Bidh sin buileach fìor ma leanas an reothadh airson ùine, mar a thachair anns a' bhliadh-na 1935.**

Naturally, the thickness of the ice will be according to the strength of the frost. Particularly after a long period of frost, as happened in 1935.

**Air a' gheamhradh sin bha an deigh air an loch cho tiugh 's gum biodh sinne a bha nar balaich a' cluiche ball-coise oirre.**

On that winter the ice on the loch was so thick that we as boys would play soccer on it.

**Cuideachd, ràinig sinn eilean a th' ann am meadhan an locha, agus a' chiad uair a chuir mi mo chas air tìr ann shaoil leam gu robh mi nam sheasamh air talamh nuadh air nach do choisich duine a-riamh.**

Also, we reached an island in the middle of the loch, and the first time I put my foot ashore there, I thought I was standing on ground which no man had ever walked.

**Tha amharas agam gun tàinig sinn tarsainn an sin air seann eachdraidh air am b'fhiach dhomh iomradh a thoirt san dol-seachad.**

I suspect that we came across antiquities there which would be worth mentioning in passing.

**Tha sloc ann am meadhan an eilein agus chan eil an teagamh as lugha ann nach e làmh duine a dhealbh e. Chanainn gum biodh ceithir troighean de dhoimhne ann an là a chaidh a dhèanamh, no 's dòcha barrachd.**

There is a hollow in the middle of the island and there isn't the slightest doubt that it was made by human hand. I would say it would be four feet in depth the day it was made, or possibly more.

**A-nis tha mòran lochan uisge air an astar seo agus grunn eileanan air feadhainn dhiubh, ach chan eil ach aon eilean eile air a bheil sloc dhen t-seòrs' ud. Saoil an e seo far am bite a' cur deoch-làdair air falach?**

Now there are many fresh water lochs in this area, and a number of islands on some of them, but there is only one other island that has a hollow of that kind. Do you think that is where strong drink was hidden?

**A' tilleadh air ais gu fàth mo sheanchais, feumaidh mi a ràdh nach eil lorg sam bith agam gu dè an tiughad a bh' anns an deigh ris na dh'earb sinne sinn fhìn a' dol chun an eilein.**

Returning to the subject of my talk, I must say I have no idea of the thickness of the ice we took a chance on, when we went to the island.

**Ach mar a chì sinn, chan eil teagamh sam bith ann nach robh i làidir.**

But as we will see there's no doubt it was substantial.

**Mar a bha a' chùis, bha 'm baile air an dàrna taobh dhen loch agus am monadh air an taobh eile. A-muigh an sin bha mòine dhubh, agus bhite ga buain 's ga rùdhadh far an robh i nuair a bhiodh i deiseil. Bha i air leth tioram agus bheirte dhachaigh i bho àm gu àm ann am poca no ann an cliabh.**

As it was, the village was on one side of the loch and the moor on the other side. Out there was black peat, and it was cut and stacked there when it was ready. It was exceptionally dry, and it would be borne home from time to time in a sack or in the creel.

**Là dhe na bh' ann, anns a' gheamhradh ann 1935, thàinig boireanach òg tarsainn air an deigh, pìos a-mach bho oir an locha, le cliabh air a druim, làn dhen mhòine dhuibh air an tug mi iomradh. Cha b' e eallach aotrom a bh' aice agus cha robh i fhèin air an fheadhainn a b' aotroime a bharrachd.**

One day in the winter of 1935, a young woman came across the ice, some distance out from the edge of the loch, with a creel on her back, full of the black peat, which I'd men-

tioned. It was not a light burden she had, and she herself wasn't the lightest of people either.

**Cha robh geamhradh rim chiad chuimhne nach fhaicte a' bhiast-dhubh, an tighinn an là no an tuiteam na h-oidhche, a' dol thairis air an deigh gu taobh eile an locha. Bhiodh gach allt is loch anns a' mhonadh reòthte is bha ise a'dèanamh chun na mara an tòir air an iasg a bha ri fhaighinn an sin.**

There was not a winter from my first memory without sight of an otter, at the coming of day or at the fall of night, going across the ice to the other side of the loch. Every stream and loch on the moor would be frozen, and it was going to the sea in pursuit of the fish it would get there.

**'S fhada bho nach fhacas làrach nan spògan aice anns an t-sneachd air an loch ud. Ma thèid i tarsainn an-diugh, 's ann air an t-snàmh, rud a tha na chomharra air mar a dh'atharraich an aimsir.**

It's a long time since trace of her footprints were seen in the snow, on that loch. If she goes across today, she would swim, that is a sign of how the weather has changed.

**Mar a bha geamhradh 1935, 's ann cuideachd a bha geamhradh 1947: air leth reòthte. Lean an reothadh gu math a-steach dhan earrach. Air a' bhliadhna sin, air loch ann an Leòdhas, fhuairreas bric, a rèir aithris, a bha reòthte anns an deigh.**

As the 1935 winter was, the winter of 1947 was also, particularly icy. The frost continued well into spring. That year, on a loch in Lewis, trout were caught, according to a report, which were frozen in the ice.

**Feumaidh e bhith gu robh an loch sin ann am meadhan na mòintich no aig astar math air falbh bho anail na mara. Ach biodh sin mar a dh'fhaodas, tha fios agam air mo shon fhìn gu robh na geamhraidhean a thàinig às dèidh a' chogaidh gu math reòthanach.**

It must have been that the loch was in the middle of the moorland or at a good distance from the sea air. Be that as it be, I know for myself, that the winters that came after the war were very frosty.

**Aig an àm sin bha mi a' strì ri crodh is caoraich. Lean mi ris an obair sin tro na '50an agus suas gu deireadh nan 60an. Thairis air na bliadhnaichean sin chan fhaca mi an loch ud gun e còmhdaichte le deigh, uair no uaireigin, anns an ràithe gheamhraidh.**

At that time, I was contending with cattle and sheep. I continued with that work through the 1950s and up until the end of the 1960s. All those years I did not see that loch without a covering of ice, some time or another, during the winter season.

**Gun teagamh, cha threabh gach bliadhna 'ga chèile: gidheadh, 's ann ainneamh a chunnaic mi geamradh – ma bha e idir ann – nach fheumainn an t-òrd mòr airson an deigh a bhriseadh am bòrd an locha ach am faigheadh an crodh deoch.**

## *Dè tha dol?* Calendar of Gaelic events

**April 15-17: Sgoil a' Ghiblein**, Sydney, Australia. A weekend of Scottish Gaelic workshops, classes and activities. For details, go to [www.ozgaelic.com](http://www.ozgaelic.com).

**May 10-14: Mòd Bhancoubhair**, Vancouver, British Columbia. Mòd Vancouver is a competitive festival of Scottish Gaelic music, language and culture which is held every second year, over a period of five days. For information, go to [www.modvancouver.com](http://www.modvancouver.com).

**May 19-22: ACGA 9th Annual Scottish Gaelic Immersion Weekend**, Burr Oak Lodge, Burr Oak State Park, Ohio. ACGA's immersion program — in Ohio for the first

time — offers classes at multiple levels. Contact Frances Acar at [frances@waspfactory.org](mailto:frances@waspfactory.org) or 330-673-6514.

**June 2-4: Halifax Celtic Féis 2005**, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Three-day event featuring concerts, craft exhibits and language workshops. Go to [www.halifaxcelticfeis.com](http://www.halifaxcelticfeis.com).

**June 23-25: Mòd nan Lochan Mòra**, Wellington, Ohio. Flora MacNeil of Barra — “the Queen of Gaelic Singers” — will adjudicate this Mòd, held at the Ohio Scottish Games at the Lorain County Fairgrounds. Contact Frances Acar at [frances@waspfactory.org](mailto:frances@waspfactory.org) or 330-673-6514.

**July 3-8: Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week**, Banner Elk, N.C. Classes with Mary Ann Kennedy, Màiri Sine Chaimbeul and Jamie MacDonald. Contact Libit Woodington at [libitw@aol.com](mailto:libitw@aol.com) or Cam MacRae at [acmacr2@uky.edu](mailto:acmacr2@uky.edu).



Without a doubt, each year will not blended into each other (will not be the same): however it was a rare winter – if at all – that I wouldn't need a large hammer to break the ice on edge of the loch to allow the cattle to get a drink.

**Mar sin bhithinn ag iarraidh an aiteimh: bhiodh mo shùil air an àirde 'n iar-dheas ach am faicinn casan-carbain fon ghrèin – comharradh na gaoithe mòire. Nuair a thigeadh an t-aiteamh bhiodh fuaimean sònraichte ann nach cluinn mi an-diugh.**

That is why I wanted a thaw I'd be keeping an eye to the southwest, so I'd see the sun's rays (Casan-carbain in G. spokes of chariot wheels) breaking through the clouds – sign of a strong wind. When the thaw would come there would be a particular sound that I don't hear today.

**Cha bu luaithe a chailleadh an reothadh a ghrèim na leigeadh na deigh ràin aiste agus chite srachadh oirre tarsainn an locha. Bhriseadh i às a chèile, beag air bheag, na leacan.**

As soon as the frost lost its grip the ice would let out a cry and you'd see it rent across the loch. It was broken asunder, little by little, into slabs.

**Leanadh am fuaim airson dà là no trì fhad 's a bhiodh gaoth làidir a' sluaisreadh nan leacan ri cladach an locha. Tha co-dhiù deich bliadhna fichead ann o nach cualas na fuaimean sin air an astar seo.**

The sound continued for two or three days, as long as strong wind would be beating the slabs against the shore of the loch. It is nearly 30 years anyway since those sounds were heard in this area.

**Mar a dh'atharraich an aimsir, 's gann gun creid an òigridh an eachdraidh a th'agam ri aithris: chan fhaca iad a-riamh an loch dùinte le deigh. An-diugh, ma chithear sgàilean de dheigh ri bòrd an locha, their cuideigin, "Bha reothadh trom ann a-raoir."**

How the weather has changed, the youngsters would hardly believe my account. They have never seen the loch closed up with ice. Today, if a thin coat of ice is seen on the edge of the loch, someone will say, "There was a heavy frost last night."

**Ach 's ann diombuan a bhios an deigh sin. Mar cheò na maidne, cha bhi lorg oirre mus tig meadhan-latha. Mar an ceudna, chunnaic mi anns an Dùbhlachd an**

**Cliseam is còmhach geal de shneachd oirre. Dà là as dèidh sin bha mi ga faicinn air fàire liath-gorm gun sneachd na coir.**

But that ice will be short lived, like the mist of the morning, by midday it is nowhere to be seen. Similarly, in December I saw An Cliseam (The highest mountain in Harris) with a white covering of snow. Two days later I was seeing her on the horizon blue-grey without any snow anywhere near her.

**Gu dè bu choireach gun tàinig caochladh air an aimsir, chan eil fios agam le cinnt sam bith, agus tha mi a' dèanamh dheth gu bheil luchd-saidheans anns an aon cheò rium fhìn a thaobh a' chuspair seo.**

Why has the weather changed, I don't know for certain, and I am making out that scientists are in the same haze that I'm in, regarding this subject.

**Faodaidh e bhith gu robh an aimsir o thùs a' dol timcheall ann an cearcall, mar gum bitheadh. Mas fìor sin, thigeadh caochladh bho àm gu àm. Cò aige that fios nach fhaca mi an eachdraidh sin sgrìobhte anns a' mhòine air an robe mi cho eòlach nam òige.**

It could have been that the weather from the very beginning went in cycles, as it were. If this were true, change would come from time to time. Who knows, maybe I saw that account written in the peat which I was so accustomed to in my young days.

## New Gaelic Class in Tennessee

**A** new Scottish Gaelic class for beginners is now forming in the Nashville, Tenn., area.

Students will study dialogues, read, and converse in Scottish Gaelic, all in a spirited and fun learning environment that helps learners master the details of Scottish Gaelic pronunciation and conversation.

The class will meet at Hastings Bookstore in Murfreesboro at 2:00 p.m. each Sunday, starting Feb. 13 and continuing through March 20.

The cost is \$40 per person for the six-week session. Additional family members are only \$30. Fees are payable by check or cash at the first meeting. No additional materials are required for this course.

Class size is limited. Please pre-register by sending an email to [catestewart@myway.com](mailto:catestewart@myway.com).

## *As a' Bhràighe / Beyond the Braes: The Gaelic Songs of Allan the Ridge MacDonald (1794-1868)*

Effie Rankin, 2004, Sydney:  
University College of Cape Breton Press

Review by Michael Newton

**A**lthough it is certainly the case that the old immigrant communities of Scottish Highlanders enjoyed a wealth of oral tradition — both old material inherited from Scotland and new material composed in North America — students of the Gaelic language and tradition today certainly do not have a corresponding amount of textual resources from which to choose. Nova Scotia alone produced over a hundred Gaelic poets whose names we know, but very little of their work is now available in print in well-produced books. Effie Rankin's new work, "As a' Bhràighe / Beyond the Braes", thus stands out as an important contribution to understanding the Gaelic literary tradition in North America.

Allan "the Ridge" was born in Brae Lochaber, Scotland and absorbed a tremendous amount of oral tradition from his family, the MacDonalds of Bohuntin (their proper title in Gaelic is *Sliochd an Taighe*). This made him a much sought after authority for those in Scotland and America who were researching clan history and literature, and this material formed an excellent foundation for an aspiring poet. It was Allan's dying wish that young Gaels learn about their heritage, but with the decline of the Gaelic language, and the heavy reliance of Gaels upon the spoken word (rather than the written word), knowledge of Gaelic oral traditions — poetry, family lore, clan sagas — has become a rare thing indeed, and the shortage of reliable books on these subjects has exacerbated the problem.

Rankin presents not only the poems of Allan "the Ridge" (in the original Gaelic as well as English translation), gathered from a variety of sources, but also introductory sections on the history of the Bohuntin family in Scotland, immigration to Canada, Allan's community in Nova Scotia, and the poetry of the MacDonalds of Lochaber. All of this forms a crucial backdrop for Allan's poetry, since Gaelic poetry is fundamentally the celebration of community, and the section "The Poetic Legacy of

Lochaber" contains many useful insights about the poet's craft and his role in society. While Allan makes allusion to the poetry of several Gaelic poets of the past in his work, he is most indebted to, and makes deliberate efforts to echo, the poetry of MacDonald bards of his own region. Rankin rightly makes us aware that Allan is not just a Gaelic poet: he is working within and developing a literary tradition specific to his family; the output of Iain Lom is an especially strong influence.

In bearing the standard for Gaelic literature in Canada, Allan generally sticks to the time-hallowed genres of eulogy, elegy, satire and drinking songs. His *magnum opus* is the poem *Sliochd an Taighe*, celebrating the branch of the Keppoch MacDonalds to which he belonged, and of which he became, according to some, the default head. This poem (and his praise poem to Dr. William MacDonald) contains many references to legendary characters and ancestral figures, going as far back as Fergus king of Dal Riata. But looming large in historical and literary consciousness was the Battle of Mulroy (1688), the last clan battle fought in the Highlands. One might not expect the MacDonald victory over the Macintoshes (and government troops under MacKenzie of Suddie) to have any practical bearing on the life of the MacDonalds of Keppoch by Allan's day, but as Rankin demonstrates (p. 16), the enduring malice of Sir Aeneas Macintosh, who became a landlord after returning from defending British interests in the American Revolution, seems to have been instrumental in bringing in MacIntosh tenants to Keppoch, and forcing the MacDonalds off to Canada.

In the production of this book, Rankin generally follows the precedents of the editions of Gaelic poetry from Scotland produced by the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society. There are, unfortunately, many mistakes and inconsistencies in the Gaelic spelling, and Rankin does not explain or justify the way in which Gaelic words are treated in the book (has she left it as it was in the manuscripts, tried to follow the modern GOC standards, attempted to adapt spelling to his dialect, or some combination of these?). The worst offense, however, was in allowing Microsoft Word, with its Anglocentric biases, to invert incorrectly a huge number of the apostrophes in the Gaelic text!

Despite these short-comings, this book is a must-have for any Gaelic learner or speaker who wants to connect to the Gaelic literary legacy of North America, and it would certainly be grand to see a series of books like this produced for the outstanding Gaelic poets of Canada. Rankin, in fact, alludes several times to other unpublished material from this and other families, and I certainly hope that the forthcoming generations of scholars will follow her lead.

**A must-have for  
any Gaelic learner  
or speaker who  
wants to connect  
to the Gaelic  
literary legacy of  
North America**

# Intensive Care Needed for Gaelic Heartland

By Ted Brocklebank, MSP

Scottish folk fans will recognize this Gaelic fragment from an old Scots song called “Jeanie’s Black Ee”:

“Bha mi nam chadal, ach dhùisg thu mi.”

“I was asleep, but you wakened me.” From the first time that I heard it, I understood vaguely that it had been a Gaelic song, but that all that was left of it was a fragment of Gaelic at the end of each verse. I suppose that it is a kind of metaphor for the Gaelic language in Scotland.

The phrase took on an altogether different meaning when I first met and filmed the supreme Gaelic poet Sorley Maclean some 30 years ago at his home in Braes on Skye. As a young television reporter, I listened with astonishment as he spelled out how arguably the greatest poet in Europe at the time had had his knuckles rapped by teachers at school because he was talking in his native language. Worse, if any of Sorley’s schoolmates wanted to go to the toilet, they had to ask in the master language, rather than in their native Gaelic, so the poor souls were often reduced to the humiliation of wetting their pants. That happened fewer than 100 years ago in Scotland.

As we have heard, fewer than 60,000 people still speak Gaelic in Scotland. My personal waking all those years ago resulted in one tangible outcome, as well as a lifelong interest in the Gaelic language and culture. At the time, I ran the current affairs department of the ITV company that covered the bulk of the Gaidhealtachd. I decided to launch what was, I think, the first weekly Gaelic TV news programme in Scotland, which was called “Seachd Làithean” — or seven days — and which went on to become a nightly Gaelic TV news program.

Honorable mention must also be made of the £8 million investment in Gaelic broadcasting that was introduced by a Conservative Scottish Office under Malcolm Rifkind, in the knowledge that there were damn few votes for Tories in the Gaidhealtachd. Others did far more. A young merchant banker from Edinburgh called Iain Noble, who had visited the Faroes and Iceland and witnessed how other beleaguered languages had survived, taught himself Gaelic and initiated a series of linguistic, social and economic measures on the Sleat peninsula on Skye.

To me, that has been by far and away the most successful initiative in countering the decline of the language and culture. Sir Iain Noble has argued consistently that when a

community has pride in its language and culture, confidence and economic renewal follow. That happened in the Faroes and it is happening in Iceland. Sir Iain’s achievements in Sleat and in funding the Gaelic college, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, surely prove the point, especially when elsewhere we see the inexorable retreat of the language back to the redoubts of Lewis, Harris and the Uists.

I welcome the broad thrust of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Bill and the opportunity that it presents to develop a comprehensive national strategy for the delivery of Gaelic education. However, I have problems with the attempts to spread scarce resources in developing Gaelic throughout Scotland. Orkney and Shetland have absolutely no interest in Gaelic, nor do large parts of Aberdeenshire, Fife and the Lothians. Why attract the odium of those areas by attempting to impose on them a culture that has not involved them for centuries, if ever, especially given that resources could be targeted more usefully at former Gaelic-speaking areas such as Argyllshire and the inner isles?

The fact is that Gaelic is in such a parlous state that it needs intensive care and a massive transfusion of resources to the heartlands. If Gaelic is to survive it will not be by preserving it in aspic, as it were, or as a result of being taught as some sort of academic phenomenon.

We should learn from the experience of Wales, Ireland and Catalunya. Until 1971, Welsh speakers in Wales were in decline. Only 20 percent of the population could speak the language. Since then, following the immersion strategy, nearly 24 percent of the population speaks the language — an 80,000 increase in Welsh speakers.

I am not suggesting that immersion education in Gaelic is either feasible or desirable throughout Scotland. What I am suggesting is perhaps a more radical approach. I am suggesting that it is feasible, specifically in Skye, Lewis, Harris and the Uists, to teach Gaelic as the first language.

If Gaelic is to revive, its decline must first be stopped. If and when the language is saved in the heartlands, we could cautiously spread it out from a position of stability and confidence to council areas that are sympathetic. That seems to me a more realistic way of using scarce resources and securing the long-term future of the language and the culture than the well-meaning but arguably overly-broad brush-stroke approach represented by the bill.

— Ted Brocklebank is the Conservative MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife.

**If Gaelic is to revive, its decline must first be stopped.**

## Chan eil Gàidhlig air an Oir

*Le Alasdair Moireasdan, MSP*

Tha sinn air iomadach ceum a ghabhail às leth na Gàidhlig bho chaidh a' Phàrlamaid seo a stèidh-eachadh o chionn còrr agus còig bliadhna gu leth air ais. Bhon chiad latha a dh'fhosgail a dorsan mìle shuas an rathaid, tha a' Ghàidhlig air inbhe fhaighinn agus tha àite aice, agus bha fiù 's àite aice cuideachd aig cuirm-fosglaidh an togalaich fhèin — cuirm a bha mìorbhaileach. Bha e ceart gun robh a' Ghàidhlig ann an teis-meadhan an latha eachdraidheil sin.

Tha cead againn dèanamh mar a tha mi fhìn a' dèanamh an-dràsta le bhith a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig ann an deas-badan. Faodar cuideachd a cleachdadh ann an comataidhean na Pàrlamaid. Agus ma tha duine a-muigh ag iarraidh athchuinge a chur dhan Phàrlamaid, faodar a cleachdadh an sin cuideachd.

Riuthasan a bhios ag ràdh nach eil a' Phàrlamaid no am pàrtaidh dom buin mi taiceil, chanainn nam beireadh iad sùil air na chaidh a dhèanamh agus a chosnadh air an 30 bliadhna a dh'fhalbh, cha seasadh a' chasaid sin ro fhada.

Tha mi a' làn-chreidsinn gu bheil cuimhne mhath aig a' mhinistear dè bha e a' dèanamh o chionn ma dh'fhaoidte còrr is 20 bliadhna. Bha esan am measg àireamh de chomhairlichean Albannach a bha a' toirt taic do dh'iomairtean sgoiltean Gàidhlig a chur air chois. Thachair sin anns an roinn aige fhèin — Roinn na Gaidhealtachd — agus tha 60 bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig againn anns an dùthaich an-diugh. Sin agaibh toradh na spàirne mòire a chaidh a dhèanamh le pàrantan agus le luchd-strì.

An-diugh, tha sinn a' toirt nan oidhirpean sin gu ìre eile. Tha sinn a' toiseachadh air astar air taobh a-staigh na Pàrlamaid a chrìochnaicheas le achd Ghàidhlig — a' chiad tè de seòrsa a-riamh, mar a thuirt am ministear.

Ach às aonais na thachair anns na bliadhnaichean nuair nach robh e fasanta a bhith a' cur taic rithe, no às aonais na taice a gheibh an cànan anns na bliadhnaichean a tha ri thighinn, cha bhiodh adhbhar sam bith ann a bhith a' cur bile Gàidhlig tron Phàrlamaid, oir leatha fhèin chan eil bile no achd gu bun no bàrr sam bith. Tha grunn nithean air atharrachadh bho chaidh a' chiad dreach den bhile fhoillseachadh anns an Òban aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail o chionn bliadhna gu leth air ais. Tha mi toilichte gu bheil am ministear air èisteachd ris na tagraidhean a thàinig a-staigh thuige, gu h-àraid na beachdan a thaobh foghlaim tro mheadhan a' chànan.

Tha an aithisg a chuir Comataidh Foghlaim na Pàrlamaid ri chèile air leth feumail. Tha buill na comataidh rim moladh airson mar a chuirtear agus mar a thionail iad fiosrachadh. A thaobh nan co-dhùnaidhean aca, tha mi a' cur m' uile neart air cùlaibh nam briathran aca ann am paragraf 39 agus paragraf 40, a tha ag ràdh gu bheil feum mhòr ann airson ro-innleachd airson foghlam bho fo-ìre sgoile tron bhun-sgoil suas tron àrd-sgoil agus gu ìre an oilthigh. Sin an ath cheum.

Ach cha mhòr gu bheil sinn pios math sìos an rathad sin leis an eisimpleir aig Comhairle Baile Ghlaschu. An ath bhliadhna, dìreach 20 bliadhna bhon a dh'fhosgail a' chomhairle a' chiad bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig ann an Alba, fosglaidh i sgoil Ghàidhlig a bhios a' frithealadh naoidhean aois a trì gu deugairean aois 18. Sin seirbheis choileanta agus seirbheis mhìorbhaileach.

Bu toil leam taing mhòr a thoirt do fhear-gairm na comhairle, Tearlach Gòrdan, agus cathraiche an fhoghlaim, Steven Purcell, airson an dòigh anns an do dh'obraich iad leis a' mhinistear airson a bhith a' toirt an sgoil gu buil. Seo a' chiad tè de a seòrsa ach tha feum mhòr air barrachd.

Dìreach ann an crìochnachadh, bu toil leam dìreach a ràdh gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig na neamhnaid luachmhor ann an cridhe agus ann an anam na h-Alba. Chan eil i air a cuingealachadh le crìochan teann agus chan eil i air a cròdhadh ann an cùiltean cumhang. Tha a' Ghàidhlig, mar a tha fios aig a h-uile duine, tha i nàiseanta, tha i Eòrpach, agus eadar-nàiseanta. Agus tha i cuideachd bunaiteach do dh'Alba. Chan eil i idir air an oir no air chul-fraoin. Tha mise, mar bhall a tha a' riochdachadh sgìre Ghaidhealach agus sgìre Ghàidhlig, toilichte dha-rìribh mo thaic a thoirt do Bhile na Gàidhlig (Alba).

— *Tha Alasdair Moireasdan 'na Bhall Pharlamaid Albanach anns na h-Eileanan an Iar. 'S e Làborach a th'ann.*

*Alasdair Morrison is Labour MSP for the Western Isles.*

### Summary:

We have taken many a step on behalf of Gaelic since the Parliament was established five and a half years ago. Parliament is bringing those efforts to another level: a Gaelic act.

There should be a strategy for education from pre-school through primary and secondary education and on to university. That is the next step. Next year, Glasgow City Council will have a school that caters for children from pre-school age right through to 18 years of age. The school is the first of its kind and there is a need for many more.

We need to improve the bill as it goes through each stage. Gaelic is a precious jewel in the heart and soul of Scotland. It is not constrained within strict boundaries or herded into tight corners. As everyone knows, Gaelic is national, European and international. It is also fundamental to Scotland. As a member who represents a Gaelic area, I am happy to support the bill.

# Directory of Gaelic Classes & Study Groups

*A listing of groups and teachers known to ACGA. If you have information on study groups, classes or teachers you would like to submit, please contact the editor at [liam@gaidheal.com](mailto:liam@gaidheal.com)*

## **Alaska**

Linda C. Hopkins  
PO Box 1418  
Palmer, Alaska 99645  
907-373-6339

## **Arizona**

Muriel Fisher  
722 W Vanover Rd.  
Tucson, Ariz. 85705  
520-882-5308  
[skye@dakotacom.net](mailto:skye@dakotacom.net)

## **Arkansas**

Christie Saunders  
1701 N. Bryant, Apt. 4  
Little Rock, Ark. 72207  
501-663-8434

## **California**

Donnie Macdonald  
P.O. Box 607  
Citrus Heights, Calif. 95611  
916-723-6320

David G. Williams  
480 30th Street  
San Francisco, Calif. 94131

Claudia Ward  
22651 Equipoise Road  
Monterey, Calif. 93940  
408-373-5069

Tris King  
Scottish Gaelic Learners  
Association of the Bay Area  
(925) 283-8029  
[tris@speakgaelic.com](mailto:tris@speakgaelic.com)

Deborah (Gobnait) White  
2125 Peterson Lane  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
(707) 545-6676  
[gaidheal.DISTANTOAKS.com](mailto:gaidheal.DISTANTOAKS.com)

## **Colorado**

Glenn Wrightson  
2673 S. York St.  
Denver, Colo. 80027  
303-698-9023

Kyri Comyn  
5060 S. Washington  
Englewood, Colo. 80110  
303-781-0553

Sue Hendrix  
4590 Darley Avenue  
Boulder, Colo. 80303  
303-499-4927

## **Florida**

Steven McBride  
7904 Capwood Avenue  
Tampa, Fla. 33637  
813-980-0017

## **Illinois**

Dr. William R. Roy  
2404 Brookens Circle  
Urbana, Ill. 61801-6621

Joshua Wilson  
707 W. Melrose (right door)  
Chicago, Ill. 60657  
773-929-8119

## **Massachusetts**

Callanish School Of Celtic Arts  
Maggie Carchrie/Tom Leigh  
1 Bridle Path Circle  
Sandwich, Mass. 02563  
508-888-0107  
[info@mermaid-productions.com](mailto:info@mermaid-productions.com)

Kira McGann  
330 Acton Road  
Chelmsford, Mass. 01824  
978-244-0237  
[kiracliff@mediaone.net](mailto:kiracliff@mediaone.net)

## **Maryland**

Fred Bosworth  
248 Inlet Drive  
Pasadena, Md. 21122  
410-437-7090

Ken Campbell  
69 Burr Hill  
Berlin, Md. 21811  
410-208-0524

## **Minnesota/Wisconsin**

Robert L. Hoyt  
913 15 St. East  
Menomonie, Wis. 54751

## **Missouri/Kansas**

Greg L. McCoy  
3605 Blue Ridge Blvd.  
Independence, Mo. 64052  
816-737-5979

## **New Mexico**

Kathy Lare  
8715 Silvercrest Ct. NW  
Albuquerque, N.M. 87114  
505-890-6572

## **New Jersey/New York**

Brenda Steele  
44 S. Main Street, Apt. 5K  
Lodi, N.J. 07644  
973-614-0848

Donald Mackinnon  
26 Miller Drive  
Hopewell Junction, N.Y. 12533  
914-221-9404

John P. Barlow  
951 Sunnyside Drive  
Oswego, N.Y. 13827  
607-687-3272

## **Ohio**

Andrew MacAoidh Jergens  
2374 Madison Road #4F  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45208-1073  
513-321-6781  
[MacAoidh@eos.net](mailto:MacAoidh@eos.net)

Frances Acar  
234 Lowell Drive  
Kent, Ohio 44240  
[frances@kineta.com](mailto:frances@kineta.com)

## Oregon

Geoff Frasier  
3722 SE 15th Ave #6  
Portland, Ore. 97202  
503-234-1582  
gfrasier@eleport.com

## Pennsylvania

Kevin McLaughlin  
46 Huffman Ave.  
Washington, Pa. 15301  
412-228-3154

Harry M. Webb  
380 Central Drive  
Cranberry Twp. Pa. 16066  
724-776-4382  
hwebb@zoominternet.net

## Tennessee

Cate Stewart  
Nashville, Tenn.  
catestewart@myway.com

## Texas

Jerry L. McIntyre  
1605 Hiawatha Trail  
Kingsland, Texas 78639-9669  
srathair@tstar.net

Barbara Haring  
249 Moore Street  
Sealy, Texas 77474  
409-388-3608

## Virginia

Nicholas M. Freer  
20 East Linden Street  
Alexandria, Va. 22301  
703-836-5654  
neacalban1@aol.com

Stuart Morrison Stone  
3079 S. Buchanan Street, C-2  
Arlington, Va. 22206  
703-845-7740

Kate Herr  
Administrator, SGEIR  
2303 Turtle Hill Court  
Midlothian, Virginia 23112  
804-744-5854  
ceit@mindspring.com

Liam Ó Caiside  
Instructor, SGEIR  
7122 Westfield Court  
Alexandria, Va. 22306  
liam@gaidheal.com

Michael MacKay  
Instructor, SGEIR  
3860 Dumfries Road  
Catlett, VA 20119  
mackay@progeny.net

## Washington, D.C.

James F. Goff  
3405 34th Place, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20016  
202-244-6867

## Washington

Richard W. Hill  
#212 400 Harvard Ave. East  
Seattle, Wash. 98102  
206-322-3604

## Toronto, Canada

Toronto Gaelic Learners Association  
c/o Janice Chan  
43 Norbrook Crescent  
Etobicoke, Ontario M9V 4P7  
ruadh@idirect.com

## Montreal, Canada

Donald Macdonald  
2220 Claremont, Suite 408  
Montreal, Canada H3Z 2P8  
514-485-1636  
donaldm@megaweb.ca

## Nova Scotia, Canada

Seumas Watson  
P.O.Box 600  
Port Hastings, Cape Breton  
BOE 2T0, Canada  
Phone: 1-888-4Gaelic  
Email: gaeltalk@ctp.auracom.com

Nova Scotia Gaelic Council  
P.O.Box 29035  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4T8  
Contact: Lewis MacKinnon  
Phone: (902) 826-9662

*This list is based on the best information currently available to ACGA. We acknowledge that there may be errors and certainly omissions, and we apologize beforehand. We plan to publish an expanded version of this directory twice annually, and would appreciate any suggestions, addresses, names, etc., that you can provide. Please send any such to An Naidheachd Againne c/o Liam Ó Caiside at liam@gaidheal.com or Micheal Mac Aoidh at mackay@progeny.net. Gun robh míle math agaibh.*

## ACGA Officers

### President

Michael P. MacKay  
3860 Dumfries Road  
Catlett, Va. 20119  
540-788-4708  
mackay@progeny.net

### Treasurer

Jana Màiri Blue  
506 Maple Avenue  
Richmond, Va. 23226  
804-282-5512  
janablue@att.net

### Recording Secretary

Cam MacRae  
521 East Main Street, B-2  
Lexington, Ky. 40508  
acmacr2@uky.edu

### Mòd Chair

Nick Freer  
20 E. Linden Street  
Alexandria, Va. 22301  
Neacalban1@aol.com

### Naidheachd Editor

Liam Ó Caiside  
7122 Westfield Court  
Alexandria, Va. 22306  
703-717-0074  
liam@gaidheal.com

## ACGA Membership Fees for New and Renewing Members:

___ Individual (New)	\$ 35/year	
___ Individual (Renewal)	\$ 25/year	
___ Family (New)	\$ 45/year	
___ Family (Renewal)	\$ 35/year	
___ Clubs	\$ 50/year	
___ Corporate	\$100/year	
___ CONTRIBUTION	\$ _____	
___ TOTAL	\$ _____	(Tax Deductible!!)

Please fill out this form and send your check in US funds to:

**ACGA**  
**PO Box 17004**  
**Richmond, VA 23226**  
**USA**

Membership fees should be made payable to ACGA.

I am a new ACGA member     I am a renewing ACGA member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

My current Gaelic language level is (check one):

Beginner     Advanced Beginner     Intermediate

Advanced Student     Fluent     Native Speaker

If advanced, would you be willing to teach or lead a study group? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to host or help with local activities? \_\_\_\_\_

Naidheachd is a publication of  
An Comunn Gàidhealach  
Aimeireagaidh  
The Gaelic Society of America

Moving?? Moved??  
Don't let us lose you!  
Return this page  
with your new address!

Address Service Requested

P.O.Box 17004  
Richmond, VA 23226

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ARLINGTON, VA  
Permit No. 998

An Comunn  
Gaidhealach  
Aimeir eaga



## Clàr-Innse Table of Contents

❖ Gaelic Bill Moves Forwrad	1
❖ Bad Sign for Inverness	2
❖ Litir bho'n Cheann-Suidhe / President's Letter	3
❖ ACGA Board Report	4
❖ Michael Newton's Criomagan	5
❖ Caochlaidhean by Torcuil Mac Rath	6
❖ Dè tha Dol? Calendar of Gaelic Events	8
❖ Reviews: Effie Rankin's Às a' Bhràighe	10
❖ Opinion: Ted Brocklebank, Alasdair Morrison	11-12
❖ Directory of Gaelic Classes and Study Groups	13-14
❖ ACGA Board Members and Officers	14