

Clan MacAulay International

BRINGING OUR PEOPLE TOGETHER

MacAulay Matters

September 2017



Best. Gathering. Ever!

Our inaugural newsletter is dedicated to, what else, the fantastic Clan MacAulay Gathering that over 200 MacAulays attended in beautiful Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland.

We hope this issue's walk through the weekend and the preceding event at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo will bring a smile and fond memories. Of course, we also hope it will encourage you to attend the next Gathering! Whether you come to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia in 2018 or Scotland in 2019, you'll find the warmth, hospitality and kinship of MacAulays surrounding you and fostering the pride of being a MacAulay.

MacAulays at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo

It was a great honour to have led Clan MacAulay from the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle down to the magnificent esplanade to take part in the opening ceremony of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

We shared this honour with members of Clan MacMillan and together we did our respective clans proud. I would like to thank the 45 MacAulays who travelled from different parts of the world to participate in this hugely historic event. Without their support we would not have had the numbers needed to participate.

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo is perhaps the most iconic event held in Scotland. The theme this year was "A Splash of Tartan" and it certainly lived up to that, as we were surrounded by a sea of tartan. It was good that our tartan was to the fore on that very special night.

Hector MacAulay
Clan Chief



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Your Executive Committee

Special thanks to
Bill O'Reilly,
Commissioner for
Michigan, for giving
our newsletter its
name ...
MacAulay Matters!

Reflections from Clan Chief Hector MacAulay



Laurence McAuley Host Carrickfergus 2017



Carrickfergus will go down in Clan MacAulay history as the place where we held our best Clan Gathering ever. Thanks for this must go to our Clan Commissioner for Northern Ireland Laurence McAuley who used all his organisational and promotional skills to attract over 200 MacAulays from all over the world to make it our best attended gathering ever.

I felt honoured to be part of it and to play such an important role. As I was meeting so many MacAulays for the first time I was reminded of our first mini clan gathering held in Scotland back in 1998 when we attracted a small but very enthusiastic group of 30 MacAulays. We have certainly come a long way since those early days.

Apart from the time spent socialising at the gathering, we also had a very successful and well attended AGM. It was hugely encouraging to see so many of our members willing to make a positive contribution to the future development and direction of the clan. Our members elected a very experienced and talented executive committee which will ensure the clan continues to grow and develop.

“Bringing our People Together” is our modern day slogan and on that score the Carrickfergus gathering delivered. It was a joy to share with so many MacAulays our history, culture, identity and sense of belonging and in the process enriching our lives.

Hector MacAulay
Clan Chief

CARRICKFERGUS GATHERING THOUGHTS . . .

Having hosted the successful 2011 Carnlough gathering in N. Ireland, the largest ever (until Carrickfergus) get together of worldwide MacAulay's, I was of the opinion then, that I would never again undertake such a mammoth task!

How, therefore, I was coerced into hosting a second gathering, is something of a mystery to me, even now?

Having decided two years ago on Carrickfergus as the location, due to its historical background, proximity to both airports and ports and the all round amenities of the Loughshore Hotel, I along with Barry, even at that early stage, started to put together the event and entertainment schedule.

It may surprise you that the ceilidh night star guests ‘The Hounds of Ulster’ were booked in October 2015 (certainly the highlight of the gathering, a truly mesmerising performance of music and dance showcasing N. Ireland's cultural identity, that I'm sure will live long in everyone's memory)! From playing in front of 200 at the gathering The Hounds two weeks later where to appear in front of 80,000 in Croke Park, Dublin (not a bad booking then after all)!

[Photo: Laurence and his partner,
Karen Montgomery]



[Photo: Gathering Host Laurence McAulay, Deputy Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Cllr Cheryl Johnston and Chief Hector MacAulay]

CARRICKFERGUS GATHERING THOUGHTS cont'd

Obviously our monthly Facebook posts generated a lot of interest throughout the world in the lead up to the gathering, but one never really knows just how many MacAulays (of all variant spelling) will actually cross the line and make that final booking. I should not have been worried as my initial hotel booking of fifty rooms were all soon taken, along with a number of added ones that led to all 68 rooms being booked on the Friday 'Banquet Night'.

For the clan to basically have the whole run of the hotel for the three days was terrific, in that we could all meet up in the bar area before the evening events (and after) and even decorate the foyer and reception areas inside and out, as we wished. Although just small touches, I'm sure you'll agree they added immensely to the overall gathering enjoyment!

'Carrickfergus 2017' turned out to be largest MacAulay gathering ever with well over 200 guests! Looking back on the gathering list I'm amazed that so many came from overseas...to have over 100 from the US, 14 Canadians, 14 Australians, 2 New Zealanders and Franci from Germany (along with McCauley spouses from Croatia and Malaysia)...shows just what a worldwide organisation the 'Clan MacAulay' has become. Together with the aforementioned came gatherers from England, Scotland and of course N. Ireland. A special mention must go to Harry McCauley, from County Westmeath our first ever gatherer from the Irish Republic! A fantastic turnout!

I know from congratulatory emails received from around the globe that the gathering was a huge success...so all those months of worry and stress were eventually worth it! My thanks must go to you all who made the effort to attend, as events like this cannot be a success without the people to go with it. I must say it took me a few days to come down from the high of it all!

Let's hope we can build on the success of Carrickfergus and that future MacAulay gatherings shall bring many of us together once again, and indeed our wider family circles, in the spirit and promotion of kinship!

Karen and I hope to make Cape Breton, Canada, our first ever transatlantic MacAulay gathering next August...something we are really looking forward too...we hope to see you all there!

Laurence McAulay
Host Carrickfergus 2017



**Entertainment
Chair Barry
Macaulay (with
Gathering Organiser
Laurence McAuley)**

**Thank you to everyone
who contributed photos.
Special thanks to Bill
Guiller, official
photographer.**

MUSICAL REFLECTIONS ON CARRICKFERGUS

What a magnificent event! Hats off to my fellow County Antrim kinsman Laurence McAuley for putting this together. Of course I helped with PR and music but I can assure you he was the main man and deserves immense credit for what he achieved!

It all started with the Thursday welcome evening. I have to say things were rather fraught for me that day as unfortunately my wife Lesley-Ann became unwell and had to be admitted to hospital and was there for the duration of the event. What a shame she missed the Gathering but I am pleased to report she is making a good recovery and is thankful for all the good wishes and flowers sent her way from Clansfolk.

Anyway I dashed home from the hospital and soon realised I had no time to get to the hotel in time and get my kilt and regalia on. I was part of the top table but had to make do with jeans and my new Macaulay T Shirt. Ah well plenty of time for the kilt during the rest of the Gathering....though without my good lady to help me put it on I had to call on the expertise of my good friends Doug and Joan....thanks guys, could not have worn it without you!

Anyway the Thursday night did feel a bit surreal as I introduced my brother the author Tony Macaulay followed by my son Scott Macaulay to sing. Laurence referred to us as the 'Von Trapps' and he was right as another family performance was to follow on Saturday night. Tony entertained us all with his humorous memoirs of being a paperboy during the Troubles in Belfast and Scott shared his musical talent with us and was recognised by a number of gatherers from his appearance on BBCs Let it Shine.

And so to the Friday banquet where Jenny and Martin provided a beautiful harp and flute duet at the drinks reception. Betty Ribble, an accomplished harpist herself, was glowing in praise for them. We had the wonderful piper leading us in and addressing the haggis. The Scottish dancers were magnificent. And finally the two-piece act provided a first class performance....at times it was hard to believe that there were only two of them as they played a fabulous range of songs and kept the dance floor busy. And to top it all off we had two members of the hotel staff providing top class performances – the waiter did a superb Irish dancing routine and the hotel manager gave a swinging performance that old blue eyes himself would have been proud of.



MUSICAL REFLECTIONS ON CARRICKFERGUS cont'd

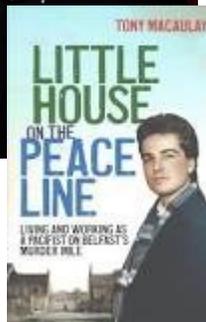
And so to the Ceilidh Night and what an extravaganza we had in store for the Gatherers. It started with the excellent Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band who warmed us up with a rendition of well known Scottish and Irish ditties and then had gatherers on the dance floor for the dancing - some knew the moves and many didn't but they soon learned....what great fun was had!

And then we had that magnificent performance from the Hounds of Ulster. It was definitely the highlight of the event for me and many gatherers. Not only did they put on a first class show but there is a unique back story to the group with the musicians and dancers coming from opposing sides of the political/cultural divide in Northern Ireland. It is very rare to have Irish Dancers performing with a flute band but what a combination! A great example of how music can unite. And the Hounds have asked me to join them (singing and playing the whistle) so I am very excited about getting involved with them.

And then to the final act...it certainly was hard for my wee band to follow the Hounds of Ulster. And there's a story behind this too. I had no intentions of playing that night. I am not in the habit of booking myself so I had booked a top Traditional Band for the event and was looking forward to relaxing with a beer and listening to them ... but they had to pull out just a few days before the event due to unforeseen circumstances. And with other bands unavailable at such short notice, I had to call in a few favours. I convinced a few of my traditional music friends to come together and we put a wee four-piece band together at the last minute. We didn't even have time to come up with a name....Barry and his mates would have to do. A big thank you to Niall, Brendan and Donal for digging us out of a hole and putting on such a great show to bring this wonderful Gathering to an end.

Bring on the next one!

Barry Macaulay
Entertainment Chair



From a first timer's perspective ...

Fiona McAuley Carter

MACAOHLAÍOĢ CU BRATH!

I had a ball! Wow! If you haven't been, you gotta go!

I now have so many friends spread all over the globe and we all have something in common – WE'RE MACAULAYS!!!



(Christine, Fiona and Alexandra)

I arrived at the beautiful Loughshore Hotel in Carrickfergus with my sister Christine and my daughter Alexandra on Thursday not knowing a soul and by the time we left on Sunday I was genuinely sad to leave all my new friends and family. Hi Barb! Hi Marilyn! Hi Linda! Hi Kenneth! There was a lot of love there.

Thursday evening was filled with chat. At dinner we chose a table close to the bar and had the good fortune to meet Barb and Marilyn from the US. We were then joined by a young family also from the States. It was so easy to talk to people. We all had name tags which were clear to read from a distance, so it made conversation very easy. We were made to feel welcome and could chat with any stranger.

The coach trip on Friday was another opportunity to make friends (Hi Verity, Shaun & Charlotte, Hi Jim) and hear about their MacAuley experience and history (as well as test out a few Bushmills samples). We toured along the beautiful Antrim coast where the view of the glens and the coastline was just spectacular. I never thought I'd enjoy exploring an ancient churchyard, but the Layde Churchyard is just gorgeous!

After the coach tour we got into our finery for the Clan Banquet and serenaded the haggis. It was an EVENT! And the food was good. After that there was merriment and dancing. And I got to dance with Hector, the Clan Chief. Sorry about your toes, Chief!

Saturday morning was taken up with the AGM and a session about DNA. My sister Christine went to both and said it was most interesting. However, I took it easy and explored Carrickfergus with Alexandra. The MacAuleys descended en masse on Carrickfergus Castle on Saturday afternoon. Great place! Alex and I shot arrows from the holes in the wall and imagined what it was like 200 years ago.

Saturday evening was filled with Irish dancing, Irish music and lots of laughs. The performers were amazing. They made it look so easy! Their feet and legs were flying everywhere. It was unnatural! Then we were invited to join in the Ceilidh. Back home we call that a Bush dance. So much fun! We finished the night exhausted and sweaty.

Breakfast on the final morning was happy but tinged with sadness. By now we were in the habit of saying hello to everyone with a MacAuley name tag (Hi Dr Bud), even if we hadn't met them before. And now we had to say goodbye. There were so many hugs.

Before the Gathering I had no expectations. I just assumed it would be like a conference. I had no idea that it would be so much fun! I had no idea that I would come away feeling so proud and happy to be a MacAuley. I can hardly wait to get together with my "family" again.

MACAULAY FOREVER!

Fiona McAuley Carter



The media coverage of our MacAulay Gathering in Carrickfergus was unprecedented! Congratulations Laurence and team ...

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Whisky Toast, featuring our very distinguished Chief Hector MacAulay who attended with 45+ MacAulays in the days leading up to the Gathering.

Newtownabbey Times: Packed attendance at Clan McAulay International Gathering (also appeared in the Larne Times)

NewsLetter.co.uk: Clan gathering draws MacAulays to Carrick

Editor's Note: My apologies if I missed any media coverage.

MACAULAYS IN THE MEDIA

MEMORIES OF CARRICKFERGUS



MEMORIES OF CARRICKFERGUS



The Clan MacAulay International Gathering
 The Loughshore Hotel, Carrickfergus, N. Ireland

10 - 12 August 2017

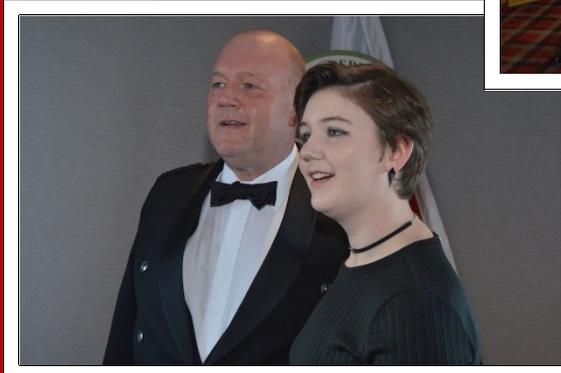


Host - Laurence Ross McAuley, Larne, Co Antrim

As your host for the gathering, only the second to be held outside Scotland, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the coastal town of Carrickfergus in County Antrim. Interestingly, eight variants of the surname 'MacAulay' shall be represented (along with McAuley, McCauley, Macaulay, Macauley, McAulay, McCawley and McCaulley). Historical documents have recorded the many spellings of the surname down through the centuries, a common bond that has brought us all together to stand in kinship over the next few days. Carrickfergus rich in history, is one of Ireland's oldest towns, best known for it's impressive Norman Castle built in 1177 by John de Courcy. The town and castle have had a long and volatile history down through the centuries with sieges by the Scots, English, Irish and French and now will face a modern day peaceful (if somewhat noisy) siege by Clan MacAulay!

To all...enjoy the craic!

"Bringing Our People Together"



Itinerary at a Glance

(Gatherers note: as events are time scheduled, please arrive in good time!)

Thursday 10 Aug: 'Clan Welcome Night Carvery' in Causeway Suite.

6.45pm - Local folk musicians will precede the official welcome by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Cheryl Johnston of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, followed by entertainment (Scott Macaulay star of Gary Barlow's BBC's "Let It Shine"/Local best selling author Tony Macaulay).

Friday 11 Aug: Coach Tour & Clan Banquet Night

8.45am - Coach Tour leaves for Bushmills Distillery/Layde Cemetery, Cushendall/Antrim Coast Road, returning for 5pm.

6.45pm - Drinks Reception with harpist/Photo Shoot in Glendun Suite followed by 'Piping of the Chief'/Address to the haggis/Irish & Highland dance performances by Ryan McCrory direct from 'Riverdance' and Demi Walker from the 'Demi Walker School of Highland Dance'/Four course Clan Banquet followed by Chief's Address & live music entertainment in the Causeway Suite.

Saturday 12 Aug: AGM, DNA Presentation, Carrickfergus Tour & Clan Ceilidh

10.00am - Clan AGM

11.00am - MacAuley DNA Surname Project presentation (includes all variant surname spelling) by Mr Jim McAuley (FamilyTree DNA Clan MacAuley Project Group Administrator and Southwest USA Clan MacAuley Commissioner).

12.30pm - Historical Tour of Carrickfergus (Carrickfergus Castle/Carrickfergus Museum/Andrew Jackson Centre/US Ranger Centre/ancient St Nicholas Church).

6.45pm - Last night of the gathering - Hot Fork Buffet followed by Clan Scottish/Irish Ceilidh Night in Causeway Suite (Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band/Jim McAuley's Folk Band and special guests 'The Hounds of Ulster')... finish 1am

Sunday 13 Aug:

Sadly, after breakfast we shall say our goodbyes!

(Events can be booked on an individual basis)



MacAmhlaidh gu brath! (MacAuley forever!)

Many thanks to our gathering sponsors:

Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Cannon (Hyundai) Motors, Carrickfergus

For booking contact gathering Host:

Laurence McAuley 07805599680 lmaculey64@gmail.com

For Clan MacAuley info see: www.clanmacauley.org.uk

MEMORIES OF CARRICKFERGUS



MEMORIES OF CARRICKFERGUS



MEMORIES OF CARRICKFERGUS



*Where will you
be Tartan Day?*



**UPCOMING
EVENTS!**

CELEBRATING TARTAN DAY

National Tartan Day is a celebration of Scottish Heritage on 6th April, the date on which the “Declaration of Arbroath” was signed in 1320.

Tartan Day is celebrated around the world on 6th April every year, although I understand Australia celebrates on 1st July.

Many people around the world including clan associations get involved in this important celebration by joining events organised by local authorities or by planning their own local event however large or small, or just wearing tartan for the day as a way of promoting and celebrating our Scottish Heritage.

I understand a number of our clansfolk do get involved in Tartan Day. However, would it be possible for the whole clan to participate in this event next year when it is held on Friday 6th April 2018? Here in Scotland we plan to take part in the celebrations which take place around Arbroath Abbey which was where the “Declaration of Arbroath” was signed.

Before we commit ourselves to anything I would like to hear your views/ideas on what you think we could do to celebrate Scottish Heritage on that day and secondly, how many of you could take part by either joining existing celebrations in your area or by organising your very own Tartan Day event.

You can contact me with your views/ideas etc. no later than 30th November 2017 [St, Andrews Day] by emailing me at hectormacaulay@yahoo.co.uk

Yours for the Clan,
Hector MacAulay, Clan Chief



September 13 – 17, 2017
Annual Halifax Celtic Festival
Halifax Forum
<https://www.facebook.com/hfxcelticfest>

September 23 – 24, 2017
Celtic Classic Highland Games & Festival
Bethlehem, PA
http://www.celticfest.org/festival_information

September 16 2017
Invercharron Highland Games
Bonar Bridge, Sutherland. Bonar Bridge is approximately 40 miles north of Inverness, Scotland
<http://www.invercharronhighlandgames.co.uk>
[facebook.com/InvercharronHighlandGames](https://www.facebook.com/InvercharronHighlandGames)

September 24, 2017
San Diego Highland Games & North County Scots AGMs, Bregle Terrace Park
1200 VALE TERRACE DR, VISTA, CA
sdhighlandgames.org
[facebook.com/SDHighlandGames](https://www.facebook.com/SDHighlandGames)
[northcountyscots.com](https://www.facebook.com/North-County-Scots-239559244340)
[facebook.com/North-County-Scots-239559244340](https://www.facebook.com/North-County-Scots-239559244340)

September 16, 2017
40th Fresno Scottish Gathering & Games,
Kearney Park
6725 W KEARNEY BLVD, FRESNO, CA
fresnoscottishsociety.org
[facebook.com/North-County-Scots-239559244340](https://www.facebook.com/North-County-Scots-239559244340)

Saturday, September 30, 2017
17th annual Dixon Scottish Highland Games & Gathering, Dixon Fairgrounds
655 S 1ST ST, DIXON, CA
scotsindixon.org

September 23, 2017
Ligonier Highland Games, near the town of Ligonier, PA (near Pittsburgh)
<http://www.ligonierhighlandgames.org>
[facebook.com/LigonierHighlandGames](https://www.facebook.com/LigonierHighlandGames)

September 29 - October 1, 2017
KVMR Celtic Festival, Nevada County Fairgrounds
11228 MCCOURTNEY RD, GRASS VALLEY, CA
kvmrcelticfestival.org
[facebook.com/kvmrceltic](https://www.facebook.com/kvmrceltic)

October 6 – 14, 2017
Celtic Colours International Festival
Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
www.celtic-colours.com

October 13 - 15, 2017
Seaside Highland Games, Ventura County
Fairgrounds
10 W HARBOR BLVD, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA
93001
seaside-games.com
facebook.com/SeasideGames

October 29, 2017
North County Scots Kirkin' O' the Tartans,
10:30 AM at The Village Community
Presbyterian Church
6225 PASEO DELICIAS, RANCHO SANTA
FE, CA
northcountyscots.com
facebook.com/North-County-Scots-
239559244340

November 3 - 5, 2017
Tucson Celtic Festival, Rillito Raceway Park
4502 N 1ST AVE, TUCSON, ARIZONA 85704
tucsoncelticfestival.org
facebook.com/TucsonCelticFestival

November 3 - 5, 2017
Scots on the Rocks - Moab Celtic Festival,
Old Spanish Trail Arena
3641 S HWY 191, MOAB, UTAH 84532
scotsontherocksmoab.com
facebook.com/moabcelticfestival

November 30, 2017 St. Andrew's Day

MacAulay

CLAN MACAULAY OF THE CANADAS

August 16th-19th, 2018

**INVERARY
RESORT**
On Baddeck Bay

Baddeck, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia



Web: clanmacaulay.ca ... FB: [clanmacaulayofthecanadas](https://www.facebook.com/clanmacaulayofthecanadas) ... email: bud@clanmacaulay.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS!

The Cape Breton 2018
Gathering Committee
(registration and hotel
information coming soon)



The aim of Clan MacAulay International is the promotion of the spirit of kinship, harmony and unity within the Clan, fostering interest in Scotland ... the land, our origins, our history in a multicultural world. The clan aims to promote Clan MacAulay and its place in Scottish history both in Scotland and overseas. Our Clan is based on Democracy and Meritocracy not Aristocracy and Patronage.

CLAN MACAULAY EXECUTIVE 2017-2018

Clan Chief Hector MacAulay

Organiser Walter MacAulay

Secretary Joan McAulay

Membership/Finance Secretary Ken Carter

Heritage Secretary Christiane Readhead

Flag Bearer Doug Doughty

Committee:

- Bill O'Reilly
- Catriona MacKenzie
- Laurence McAuley
- Mark MacAulay
- Neil MacAulay

Ideas welcome!
Please submit to
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Clan MacAulay
association

