



CLAN MACCALLUM - MALCOLM SOCIETY

OF NORTH AMERICA, INC. - A 501(C)(3) NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION

Lon McCollum

President 2009-12, Vice President 2006-2009
Convener, Order of Rowan Tree Recipient

Lon McCollum became involved with the MacCallum/Malcolm Clan in the early 1970s when he and his family visited the Scottish games in Alma, Michigan. Son Thad, who was then eight, turned up 'missing'... but was quickly found at the MacCallum/Malcolm Clan tent where he was deeply involved in discussion about things Scottish with tent host Virginia Flaughter. We joined the Clan Society on the spot. From that day Clan Membership has been and continues to be a family venture with support from wife Marian (who is a Swede/Dane and reminds us that the Vikings had more than a little influence over the Scots), and sons Lon E, an international schools teacher, Thad, an attorney, and Matt, a wildlife biologist. Our clan involvement as a family continued to broaden as we became tent hosts, Midwest Commissioner, scholarship coordinators, 501c3 developers, vice president, and president.



Lon and Marian and Lon E McCollum
with Clan Chief Robin and Trish Malcolm
at St Columba's Chapel, Duntrune,
Scotland - 2009

A major benefit of Clan involvement is to have travelled around the U.S. and to Scotland to represent the Clan and to have met many people who are very proud of their Scottish heritage and express it through involvement in clan activities.

It has been especially gratifying to have been deeply involved in the development of the Christian Malcolm Kehm Memorial Scholarship. It is now a vital part of our Clan's mission. Its development goes back a long way. During his term as Clan President Jon McCollum and I had several discussions to attempt to set up a program in memory of their son. We never got it off the ground, but later on when Alexis and Charlie Kehm proposed a piping scholarship at the National Academy of Piping and Drumming in memory of their son Christian as a joint venture between Clans MacCallum/Malcolm and Gunn, the ground was fertile and it took off with one of the premier piping camps in the country. The scholarship program has been very successful due mainly to the combined efforts of Clans Gunn, Clan MacCallum/Malcolm, Alexis and Charlie, and the many contributors to the fund. The recipients have been outstanding young (but not all) folk who have committed to their love of Scottish music thru increasing their proficiency on the bagpipes. One young applicant even played "the Train to Maillaig" to me over the phone on his pipes. Scholarship winner Tom McCollum, from a little town on the shores of Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, was chosen as piper of the year 2018.

As the scholarship program grew so did the need to register under the IRS as a not-for-profit charitable organization. A huge expression of thanks goes to our son Thad for guiding us through the daunting approval process.

Our family stayed in Mother Brown's cottage on the Duntrune estate in 2007 where we were graciously hosted by Clan chief Robin. We returned in 2009 as the 'advance party' for the Clan group that attended "the Gathering" in Edinburgh. We stayed at Ardifuir as we finalized arrangements for our Clan Annual General meeting and Clan banquet. St Columba's Chapel on the Duntrune grounds provided a magnificent setting for our annual general meeting. It was especially meaningful that Chief Robin was a part of the passing of the Clan Ceremonial Quaich to me as I was installed as Clan president at St Columba's Chapel. Chief Robin was also involved in passing of the Quaich 3 years later at Grandfather Mountain. The Clan banquet was held at Andy Malcolm's newly developed banquet hall at Ardifuir. Special thanks to our son Lon E as he and Andy and Lucy spent many hours in preparation to assure that all was ready for our AGM and Clan banquet. Chief Robin and Trish, Andy and Lucy proved to be most gracious and capable hosts.

It is an honor to receive the Clan award the Order of the Rowan Tree. However, this award only reflects that many of the Clan's endeavors have been successful because of the efforts, cooperation, contributions, involvement and support of family and many Clan members. Leading the list of our Clan supporters is my wife Marian, and sons Lon E, Thad and Matt. Thanks to Clan Chief Robin Malcolm for his unwavering support.