



# The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Newsletter

Winter 2007



## The President Speaks

Congratulations go to our General Manager, James Frank Vance, who was voted "man of the year" by the Avery/Banner Elk Chamber of Commerce. We are also proud of our General Manager and his being a long time teacher at Avery County High School. Frank has run these Games since the late 80's, assisted by Tommy Taylor and more recently by Levin Sudderth. Our leadership team also teaches our young folks to be better citizens and to be proud of their heritage along with prime subject matters.

Our staff continues to excel in their game responsibilities and is outstanding in their community, schools and church affairs.

This year we will have as our Guest of Honor the outstanding chief of Clan MacLaren., Donald Maclaren of MacLaren. The Maclaren Tartan is proudly associated with the adult leadership of Boy Scouts in the "Wood Badge" training program. The North American President of the Clan is North Carolina's own Steve Quillin. Invited Distinguished Guest are Neill Kennedy Ray, Editor and Publisher of THE HIGHLANDER. Dr. Lloyd Bailey, Editor and Author of the Multi-volume Heritage of the Toe river Valley, covering the history and heritage of Avery, Mitchell and Yancey Counties of North Carolina.

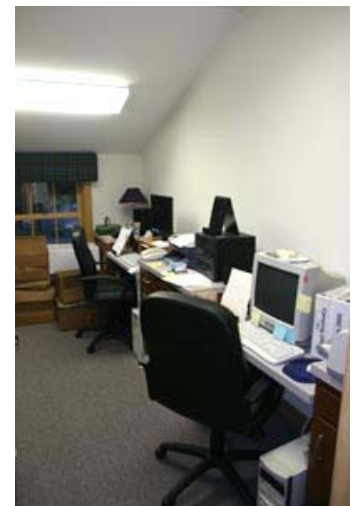
This year we will add a short "hands on" course in Scottish Tartan weaving for our children, taught by the Internationally known weaver and designer, Marjorie Logie Warren.

I hope to see you at one of the many Scottish games in the South East in 2007. You may e-mail me at [highlandgames@vol.com](mailto:highlandgames@vol.com) regarding any new events you might suggest for our family-friendly Scottish games. Ceud Mile Failte to you in 2007!

Sincerely,

*Ross Morrison, Jr.*

Ross Morrison, Jr.  
GMHG President



*Above: Several views of the interior of the new GMHG Office Building in Linville. (Photos by Thomas Taylor, Sr.)*

*"A Wee Bit of the Scottish Highlands in North Carolina!"*

## General Manager's Perspective



First let me say how wonderful it is to be able to sit and type this newsletter in a comfortable office instead of our damp, cold warehouse. I know that Harvey Ritch of

Everything Scottish feels the same way since he moved from the trailer into this wonderful facility.

I just want all of GMHG's family that sacrificed so that we would have a place to work from after the floods of 2004 to know how much we appreciate your donations. Tommy, Levin, Shelia, Francis, Neva and I can never thank you enough for your support and help.

Ross mentioned that Marjorie Warren is donating her time to GMHG to help teach Scottish Weaving to our children. This is not the first time Marjorie has been a Blessing to GMHG. I will always remember asking her if GMHG could have its own Tartan. She responded, "I don't know for sure Frank but I'm going to Scotland and I will ask." And she did! She then volunteered to design a Tartan for GMHG and have it registered. Thanks again, Marjorie, for what you produced. We now have used it all over our new offices in decorating schemes as you will notice in our office pictures.

I want to give special thanks the Ellice and Rosa McDonald Foundation for the extra help they contributed so we could landscape around the building. Also a special thanks goes to Mountaineer Landscaping, Clark & Sons Nursery, Biggerstaff Nursery and Jim and Laura Laughridge for donating many of the plants we were able to plant around our



**LEFT:** A peek inside one of our state-of-the-art offices. (Thomas Taylor photo)

new building. Buck Stove, Inc. donated two fireplace inserts for our building and Appalachian Stone took care of the freight and delivery of our stone for our stone work. Ken Young and his stone masons also did a wonderful job on our stonework, as well as on the new Càrn nan Càirdean that now stands proudly in the middle of our garden area. We hope to have the bronze plaques, listing those who contributed so generously during our recent building fund drive, by this spring.

Many of you will be receiving your registration packets along with this newsletter. I would like to encourage you to read this information carefully and try to have the forms completed and returned as soon as possible. As many of you know, the mountainous terrain of Grandfather Mountain limits the number of parking spaces and campsites that we can make available, and all registrations are taken on a first come, first serve basis. As I tell my students frequently, "Plan your work and work your plan". Those of you who watched the Boise State - Oklahoma football game on New Year's Day will know what I mean when I say that preparation is the key to success. The same applies here on the mountain!

Again, thank you so much for supporting the mission of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. With your help, we can make 2007 a banner year for Scottish heritage and culture in the southeast! After all, where else in the country can you wear a wool kilt on the second weekend in July and still be comfortable!

See you on the mountain,

*Frank Vance*

General Manager and Vice President of Operations



**RIGHT:** A view of the GMHG office lobby, featuring a portrait of contributors Ellice & Rosa McDonald. (Thomas Taylor photo)

*The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Games Will Be Held July 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>, 2007*

# Contributors to the Building Fund

(Reflecting corrections submitted as of 1/3/07)

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## Sponsoring Clans & Societies – \$500.00 and up

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