



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

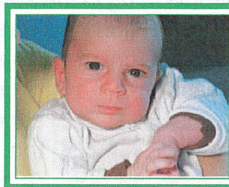
Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 2 Number 1

January 2008

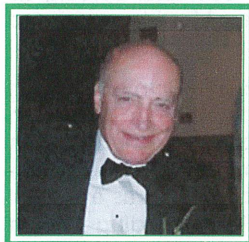
WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to welcome the following new members to the Association: Mary Fleming of Collingwood, ON; Doug Foston of Ajax, ON; Norm and Debbie MacPherson of Forest, ON; Jim McPherson of Everett, ON; Scott McPherson of Corbeil, ON; Susan McPherson of Collingwood, ON; and Jean Whiting of Mission, BC. A special welcome to our new junior members: Sheila and Julius Illes of Mississauga, ON, grandchildren of Dr. Jean Hill; Alex and Megan Smith of Waterloo, ON, children of Rod Smith; and our youngest member, Alan Mungo McPherson of Calgary, AB. Alan was born on August 16, 2007 and his grandfather, James G. McPherson, gave him a membership as a gift. What a wonderful start in life!



Alan, son of James and Dawn McPherson

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



First, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the Branch a prosperous and happy new year.

A new executive was elected at the AGM in Collingwood in October with a mandate to improve communications amongst the membership. The new "Green Banner" is now in its third issue and represents one of the ways to keep of us informed of the news and the affairs of your Branch.

Communications is a two-way street however, so all members are encouraged to submit their news and articles of interest to the Hon. Secretary for publication in the "Green Banner". In addition, I ask also that you don't hesitate to give me and the other members of the Executive your ideas and suggestions by email, post, or telephone whenever the mood strikes you. All input is very welcome as no one person has a corner on good ideas on what the Branch and the Association should be doing for its members.

One challenge facing the Branch is to get more members involved in its inner workings and activities. We badly need new younger blood in the Executive. The work is not onerous and can be quite rewarding. Officers and members of the Executive should be drawn from across Canada and not restricted to any one region. We have set aside some vacancies for regional representation. Think about it. Don't be afraid to volunteer!

Mark F Macpherson

CLAN MUSEUM RECEIVES RECOGNITION

It has been announced that the Scottish Tourist Board has granted the Museum at Newtonmore a fourth Star. This is the Tourist Board's second highest rating and the Museum can now boast to be one of only 47 museums throughout Scotland and 8 in the Highlands to have received recognition at this level.

The news of this accolade comes at the end of a season in which the third highest number of visitors has been to



Clan Macpherson Museum at Newtonmore

the museum in almost twenty years. Morag and the team at the museum are to be congratulated for contributing to the achievement of the fourth Star. The museum is well worth a visit but remember you can always take a terrific virtual trip online at

www.sonasmor.net/memwelcome2.html

Source: Bruce J.S. Macpherson, Scotland



CLAN RALLY 2007 AT COLLINGWOOD

June Macpherson

If you didn't attend the rally at Collingwood you missed a terrific time. It was due to John Gillies that the rally was held at the beautiful Blue Mountain Resort and his choice turned out to be excellent. Many of the people living in the area attended the reception on Friday evening and, of course, we had the pleasure of having our chief in attendance for the weekend.



John Gillies (right) chatting with James McPherson



Emily Eves

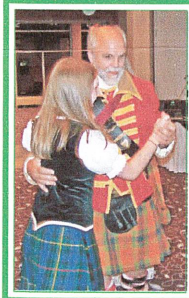
During the reception we had Emily and Hilary Eves as well as Emily Daniels dancing for the group. It gave great pleasure to see these young girls performing.

Saturday morning saw the executive busy working on plans for the coming year, after which members attended the Annual Meeting for the Canadian Branch.

Then everyone was invited to a luncheon hosted by Cluny. Unfortunately Mother Nature rained on us in the afternoon but it didn't dampen the spirits of those attending the dinner in the evening. The head table, Cluny with Lady Hilary Birnham, and Robert and Marlene Archibald, was piped in by Pipe Major Ross Baxter. Just before the dinner Mary Margaret Gillies and Danna and Ross Fitton did Trojan work setting up the prizes for the raffle. And to no one's



Danna Fitton (front) and Mary Margaret Gillies preparing raffle table



Rod Smith in 78th Frasers uniform dancing with daughter Megan

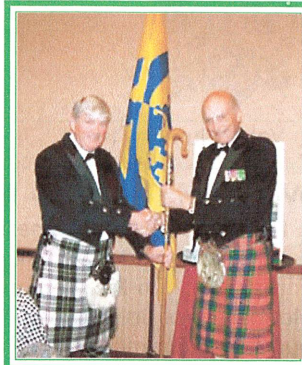
surprise Mary Margaret turned out to be a successful auctioneer in raffling out the last prize. During the meal Rod Smith gave an interesting talk on the 78th Highlanders and the contribution to the original regiment by the Macphersons. After dinner our very own Megan Smith danced for us and then Scottish dancers gave us an exhibition and invited the members to join in for some reels.

Sunday morning as usual we attended church.

CHAIRMAN'S CROMAG

R.G.M. Macpherson

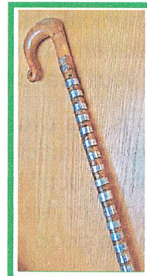
A brief ceremony takes place at our Clan Rally whenever a new Branch Chairman is elected. The retiring Chairman presents his successor with the Chairman's "staff of office", that in the case of the Clan Macpherson Association, is a Cromag or shepherd's crook.



Bob Archibald passing the cromag to Mark Macpherson at Collingwood

It may be of some interest to our members to learn the origin of the Chairman's cromag. Dr. Cluny Macpherson C.M.G., the inventor of the gas helmet in World War I, who was Branch Chairman from 1953 to 1956, originated the idea. When our branch founder, Col. E.R. Rivers-Macpherson O.B.E., died in 1958 after serving as Chairman for a little more than a year, his widow presented Dr. Cluny with Col. Rivers-Macpherson's cromag.

Then, in 1963, Dr. Cluny thought it would be an appropriate gesture to, in turn, present the cromag to the Canadian Branch in memory of Col. Rivers-Macpherson, to be carried as a symbol of office by each succeeding Branch Chairman.



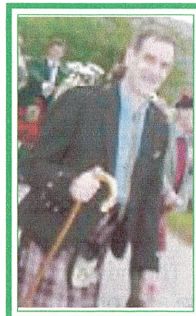
Top of cromag. The total length is 160 cm (63 inches) Note

rings with names of former chairmen

So successful was the concept of a "Chairman's Cromag" that in 1976 R.W.G. Macpherson, an International Vice-Chairman, presented a Cromag to Clan Headquarters in Scotland to be carried during the International Chairman's term of office.

In 1987 Rod Clarke presented a similar cromag to the United States Branch in memory of his parents. The U.S. Branch chairman's cromag bears a silver reproduction of our Clan Association Badge.

Again in 1999 the Canadian Branch presented another cromag to Clan Headquarters in Scotland in honour of the 50th anniversary of the formation of the branch. It is to be carried by the Canadian Branch Chairman whenever he attends the Clan Rally in Newtonmore. The Canadian Branch was fortunate to have as its representative Bill Macpherson to carry the cromag at the Rally in 2007.



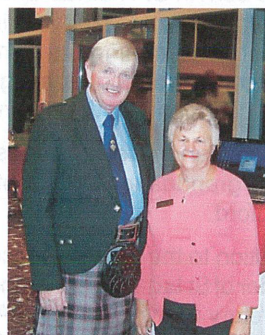
Bill with cromag

PUZZLE PAGE

Can you identify any of the Clan members in the photos? If not, be sure to attend next year's Clan Rally, and meet and greet the people in the photos.

List of Attendees at AGM

Sir William Macpherson
 Lady Hilary Birnham
 Robert Archibald
 Marlene Archibald
 Danna Fitton
 Ron Fitton
 Mary Fleming
 Ian Gillies
 Kelsi Trott
 John Gillies
 Wendy Gillies
 Mary Margaret Gillies
 Tia Hall
 Kevin Hall
 Jean Hill
 James McPherson
 Dawn McPherson
 Neil McPherson
 Alex McPherson
 Nancy McPherson
 James McPherson
 Lisa McPherson
 Margaret McPherson-Schestie
 Jenna Schestie
 Robert W. McPherson
 James McPherson
 Marlene McPherson
 Edward (Ted) Gillies
 PMaj Ross Baxter
 William Macpherson
 Irene Macpherson
 Linda MacPherson Fruse
 Pat MacPherson Eckardt
 Peggy MacPherson
 Catherine Downey-MacPherson
 Kirk McPherson
 Pamela McPherson
 James McPherson
 Susan McPherson
 Lois Urquhart-Musselman
 Ken Musselman
 Rod Smith
 Megan Smith
 Brendan Smith
 Karen Smith
 Gloria Smith
 Nick Penzari
 Lawrie Taylor
 Elizabeth Taylor
 John Whitten



EXECUTIVE PROFILES

We will be publishing profiles of members of your executive so that members who have not met them may learn more about those who are keeping the Branch running for you. The first in the series is your newly elected Chairman:

Mark F Macpherson CD

Mark joined the CMA in the 1960's encouraged by his father who had been a long-term member. During a visit to Badenoch in 1970 with his family he became hooked on things highland equipping himself with both day and evening regalia at Hugh Macpherson's shop in Edinburgh before returning to Canada.

He was born in St Thomas Ontario and grew up in Winnipeg where he graduated in Electrical Engineering from the University of Manitoba. In 1956 he married June and they moved to Montreal where they remained until moving to Hemmingford. While in High School in Winnipeg he joined the Canadian Army Reserves and later was commissioned as a signal officer. In 1963 he transferred to the Canadian Grenadier Guards and ended up commanding the Regiment. Later in the 80's, he was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel.

June and Mark have three sons, two of whom, Robert and Myles are presently Life Members of CMA. They have three granddaughters, all of whom are Junior Members. The couple are enjoying a busy retirement in Hemmingford.

In addition to the CMA, He recently served as a municipal councillor, is currently on the National Executive of the Order of St Lazarus, a member of the National Audit Committee of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, and Secretary of the Covey Hill Amateur Radio Club. He is a member of the 78th Fraser Highlanders, a re-enactment unit, the St Andrews Society of Montreal, and The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada. Mark was granted arms by the Governor General of Canada in 2002.

NEWS!! NEWS!! NEWS!!

CONTACT THE SECRETARY-TREASURER
AT THE ADDRESS BELOW IF YOU HAVE
INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO THE
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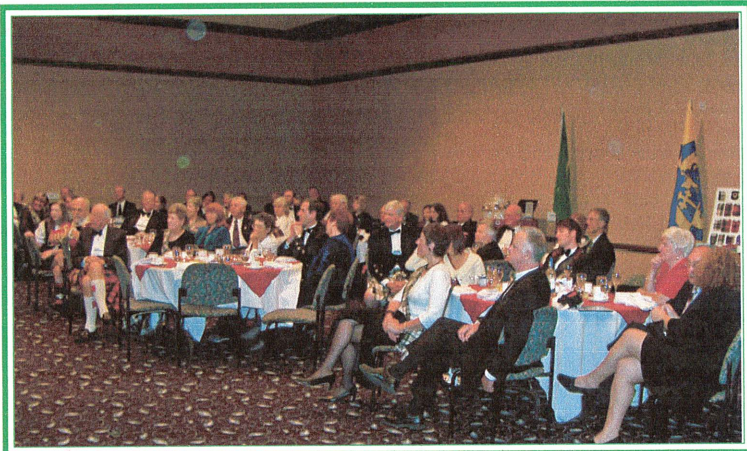
Published from time to time to bring
news to the members of the Canadian
Branch of the Clan Macpherson
Association

Officers:

LCol Mark F Macpherson CD,
Chairman
John C Gillies, Vice Chairman
June L Macpherson, Secretary-
Treasurer
Councilors at Large:
Mary Margaret Gillies
James M MacPherson
Carol McPherson
Rod Smith
Jean Whitten

Inquiries and articles may be
addressed to June Macpherson,
email:

markmacpherson@sympatico.ca or
by post to PO Box 528 Hemmingford
QC, J0L 1H0



The CMA dinner at Collingwood



Your Executive at work during the rally. The empty chair in the middle is for the photographer