



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 2 Number 2

March 2008

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to welcome the following new members to the Association: Brenda Bacon of Winnipeg, MB whose great-great-grandmother was a Cattanach; and D'Arcy McPherson of Ottawa, ON. A special welcome to those who after being annual members have decided to become life members: Roderick Ian MacPherson of Kanata ON; William and Irene Macpherson of Mississauga, ON; and James G. McPherson of Creemore, ON

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



As I sit in front of my computer with teeth chattering and thinking of spring not really being very far away, I realize that time has passed since the last issue of the Green Banner. Your Secretary has reminded me it is time to write a new message from the Chairman. By the time you read this I am sure that you have picked up the latest issue of Creag Dhubh that was enclosed with this newsletter and may be thinking of a summer trip to Badenoch to participate in the rally this year and visit the games at Newtonmore. June and I have our reservations all made for our visit to Scotland this year for the purpose of renewing old acquaintances during the rally at the beginning of August. I hope that we will see many of you on that occasion.

Planning for our rally early in October in Collingwood Ontario is well under way and if you can't make Scotland you should circle your calendars for the first weekend of October. It promises to be a memorable event and I hope many of you will avail yourselves of the opportunity to meet with us and Cluny on that occasion. Cluny has graciously consented to attend our rally this year, and a good turn-out in Collingwood to greet our chief is a must.

As you can imagine getting the Green Banner out with each of our Branch mailings is quite a task. I wish to thank those members who saw fit to comment on the last issue of the new Green Banner and to tell you that I and the other contributors are most appreciative of this feedback. Please keep on doing this and tell us what you would like to see in a four-page newsletter or at least tell us that we are going in the right direction. Your silence will not help us do better.

As I did last in the last issue I am asking everyone to consider writing a short article of interest for the Green Banner. You can use those appearing in the last two issues as a guide. Captioned photographs are also welcome. Also keep looking for new members. We have been fortunate to welcome new members in each issue so far and I would certainly like this tradition to continue – it is up to you

Mark F Macpherson

NEWSLETTER STRAYS

When a newsletter is returned, we put out a special appeal to our members for information. You are our best resource for discovering the reasons for that return. Please check the following names below and send any information to June Macpherson, Box 528, Hemmingford QC, J0L 1H0 or by email at markmacpherson009@sympatico.ca.

Janet Ann MacPherson of Port Sydney ON

**John D. McPherson and Glenna McPherson
of Vancouver BC**

CLAN RALLY IN SCOTLAND AUGUST 1 TO 3

Information and booking for this year's rally can be found on page 85 of Creag Dhubh 2008 or at www.clan-macpherson.org. Mark and I will be attending the rally and would like to meet as many Canadian members as possible so please let us know if you will be there too. And if you are attending the 2008 Rally in Scotland why not jot down a few of your impressions and send them together with a photo to be included in our newsletter in the fall.

CAROL McPHERSON - WORLD TRAVELLER



Carol and Captain Paul Wright of the Queen Victoria

Carol McPherson presented a copy of *The Three Brethern* to Captain Paul Wright of the cruise ship Queen Victoria while on her last trip. The book had been personally autographed by Cluny and was placed in the ship's library where it may be consulted by passengers and has the opportunity to make many ocean voyages in the future. Carol took the maiden voyage of the Queen Victoria and had a most enjoyable time in spite of some difficult weather. Fortunately Carol turned out to be a good sailor and is now looking forward to her next cruise on the Queen Elizabeth II in 2010 when she plans to present a copy of *The Three Brethern* to the ship. Previously Carol had presented a copy of the book to the Queen Mary when she travelled on it. Thus all the passengers of the three of the Cunard ships will be able to enjoy the history of the Clan Macpherson for many years to come.

Carol served a term as Treasurer of the Canadian Branch and is presently a Councillor-at-Large on the Executive.

2008 CANADIAN RALLY OCTOBER 3, 4, AND 5

Please mark your calendar with these important dates. Cluny has already confirmed his attendance and we would like to see as many members as possible at the rally. The rally will take place in Collingwood at the Blue Mountain Resort. Last year's rally was most successful. John Gillies and his committee are working hard to present an interesting program. Let's make the 2008 Rally another great family celebration!



2007 Dinner Head Table



Jim and Marlene McPherson, Neil MacPherson, Ron Fitton and Jean Whitten enjoying brunch at Collingwood 2007

NA DIONADAIREAN CLAN MHURICH

The Guardians of the Clan Macpherson are the group of clansfolk who have recognized the critical importance of supporting the Clan Macpherson of the Museum at Newtonmore with additional financial aid. Each of them have made the substantial contribution of \$1000 US to the Dionadairean Trust, the earnings of which are used to maintain the Museum and its treasures. However, it is not necessary to subscribe the admission fee as a lump sum, it is possible to pay this admission fee in instalments. The Clan Museum is our enduring pride and Na Dionadairean will strive to maintain it so that members of the public as well as the Association can visit and learn of the proud heritage of the Clan Macpherson. Further information on this topic can be found on page 45 of Creag Dhubh 2008 and on page 78 of Creag Dhubh 2007.

Source: Rod Clarke

EXECUTIVE PROFILE



John and Wendy at home

District High School. They have three children, Cynthia Merrin (Tia), Jory Elizabeth and Ian Andrew.

In 1970 they moved to the Toronto area where they remained until moving on retirement to Collingwood in 2002. John spent most of his working life as Executive Director of the Ontario Dental Association and was active in a number of professional associations and community groups. His articles and commentaries were published in a number of professional journals and he was a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars. Following retirement he became a consultant to a number of organizations providing guidance on effective governance, strategic planning and board staff relations.

John C. Gillies, Vice Chair of the Canadian Branch, was born in Wheatley Ontario where he spent his early years. After graduating from what became Wilfred Laurier University where he met Wendy, he returned to Wheatley to join his father, Dan, in the family business. In 1968, he and Wendy were married and she taught English and Physical Education at Leamington

The Gillies enjoy an active life in retirement. They are members of the Beaver Valley Probus Club and Grace United Church in Thornbury. John plays bridge twice a week and the two of them get out on their snowshoes as often as possible. They also are active with a gourmet dinner group. John is busy gathering and recording his family history.

Dinner at the Gillies' often includes local game. Ian and John recently enjoyed a trip to Wheatley to hunt rabbits with friends there and returned with some stock for the freezer. Tia and her husband, Kevin Hall own a horse farm in the Beaver Valley north of Kimberly which provides a setting for John's annual fall deer hunt and spring turkey hunt.

John became a Life Member of CMA in 1972. Wendy also enjoys Life Membership as do their three children. Their oldest daughter Tia became a Life Member within a week of her birth, purchased by proud grandfather Dan.

The family has taken several trips to Scotland. John and Wendy made their first trip with Dan in the early 1970's where they first discovered our Clan country. In 2002 most of the Gillies family attended the 50th Anniversary of the Museum, visiting again in 2006.

John is presently organizing the 2008 Clan Gathering at Collingwood. He is working with local members to attempt to make the gathering interesting and enjoyable so it can attract a greater number of members of all ages. It is important to get more young members involved to assure the future of the Association. The Clan and the CMA are our point of reference for our roots and a potential source of much historical and family data, which needs to be preserved and used by members.

THE GREEN BANNER

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

Councillors 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

2009 GATHERING OF THE CLANS

A huge homecoming celebration is being planned in Edinburgh to mark the contribution that the clans have made to the culture and history of Scotland. The Gathering on July 25 and 26, 2009, at Edinburgh's Royal Park of Holyrood promises to include the largest highland games ever held in Scotland. This should be a spectacle not to be missed. And as the Clan Macpherson is holding its rally the following week-end I am sure many members of the Canadian Branch will want to incorporate the two events. However it is probably important to book your travel plans early. For more details on this historic occasion visit www.homecomingscotland.com.

WE REMEMBER

We remember the following life member of the Canadian Branch of CMA who has passed away since the last newsletter. We join with family and friends in remembrance.

Mrs. A. Duffy of Owen Sound, Ontario.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

By Mark F Macpherson ,Chairman Canadian Branch

The Canadian Branch of the CMA covers Canada from coast to coast to coast and beyond. We have members located in all 10 provinces, the USA, the UK, New Zealand and Barbados. I am humbled by the responsibilities to serve you in some significant way as your Chairman. I am aware that most of our activities in recent times have been conducted in Eastern Canada principally in Ontario.

Your Executive has a mandate to improve intra-branch communications. Our first effort in this direction is the re-introduction of the Green Banner as an aperiodic newsletter. Why aperiodic? First it comes out on an irregular basis. As we are not rich, and must make several mailings at various times each year, we are preparing each issue to coincide with these to conserve our scarce resources. That is appropriate for an organization having its roots in Scotland!

Beyond the Green Banner, we have been racking our brains to find other ways to serve our members better and attract more of the clansmen and clanswomen that we know are out there. Before I launch into my appeal for help, let me share some statistics on the CMA Canadian Branch:

We have over 200 members in all with 182 residing in Canada, 15 in the USA and 5 offshore (or not in North America). In Canada the distribution by province is :

Alberta	4	Nova Scotia	13
British Columbia	15	Ontario	123
Manitoba	4	Prince Edward Island	1
New Brunswick	6	Québec	13
Newfoundland	1	Saskatchewan	5

Some concentrations by urban areas showing the area covered:

Calgary	3		
Georgian Bay	8	Collingwood to Owen Sound	
Montréal	12	Laurentians to Montérégie	
Niagara	20	Mississauga to Hamiltom	
Ottawa	14	Nepean to Orleans	
Toronto	26	Etobicoke to Scarborough	
Western Ont.	20	Woodstock to Windsor	
Winnipeg	4		

I sometimes ask myself why people join in the first place. Some reasons I can think of is an interest in their roots in Scotland, an interest in Scotland and its history as it applies to Clan Macpherson, their parents or grandparents bought them a membership, or what else? I would certainly like to hear about your reasons as it would help us to have them. I presume if you have been a member for more than a couple of years you are interested

in seeing the Branch grow and flourish.

Here is where I need your help. To start I could use your ideas on how we can improve the Canadian Branch and its ability to serve our members. Is the Creag Dbubh, the Green Banner and one general meeting each year sufficient? I don't think so, as many of you live too far away to attend and may of the members in Ontario haven't been seen for years.

One suggestion I can think of at this point is some local activities organized by the members in each area. Another that may be related to this is a telephone campaign to contact persons in the phone book bearing our clan names who may never have heard of us. If you could scare up a few interested people we would send a mailing to them to help close the deal. I would not worry about having too many potential members as we will handle all that you bring to our attention presuming you have talked to them first. This last idea can be executed even in locations with only one CMA member at present. In summary, you can help us by doing one or more of the following:

Volunteer to take on the job of organizing a group of members in your area to put on a small event for the purpose of bringing members together and meeting new potential members

Organize a group in your area to run a telephone campaign to attract clansmen and women to the CMA

Give us your ideas on how to serve you better and attract new members.

If you are interested in helping, contact me at markmacpherson009@sympaticpo.ca or by post; PO Box 258, Hemmingford QC J0L 1H0.



Scottish Country Dancing at its Best!!!