



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 3 Number 1

January 2009

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Since our last newsletter we have had several new members join the Association. It is a pleasure to welcome the following: Gloria Enoch of Chilliwack, BC; Lois McLean of Puslinch, ON; Darrell L. MacPherson of St. Stephen, NB; Brian Murdoch of Saskatoon, SK; Jacqueline Murdoch of Toronto, ON; Joseph Place of Aurora, ON; Lois Urquhart-Musselman of Wasaga Beach, ON. We hope to see all of them at our Rally in Quebec City this Fall.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



The last message from headquarters talked about summer. It is with some nostalgia that I look out on our snowy landscape and recall those halcyon days. However we can look forward to a busy year in the CMA with approaching spring. Your Secretary Treasurer is organizing annual membership renewals and sending welcome letters to our new members. Work has started in earnest on the rally in Québec this fall. We have had good meetings with some hotels and representatives of the 78th Fraser Highlanders. You will be hearing a lot more about this as time goes on.

Our new hard working Provincial Executives are starting to see their efforts rewarded. A list of these executives appears later in this issue and on the Canadian page of the international CMA website <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/> under "officers". This position is new since the AGM at Collingwood last fall and is designed to help increase our membership in Canada. I hope that all members in each province will volunteer to help their Provincial Executive with this task. My vision is that our membership will double in the next five years from its present level and that we will have provincial sections operating in most provinces. I did a survey across Canada using Canada 411. I can assure you the potential for Macphersons and cousins is huge in every province. Let's make it happen!

We have seen some input to the Green Banner from members outside the editorial group but we can use a lot more. I am sure what is holding you back is that you think you don't have enough to write about that might be interesting. First, don't sell yourself short. Second, we want to see your material on topics related to things highland or personal experiences. Third, the famous writers' cramp doesn't exist! We need articles of length anywhere from 150 to 300 words. In my experience once you start writing, turning it off at 500 words is really difficult. So what we have is simple inertia. Let's see more articles and captioned photos to publish.

Gordon Macpherson who recently relinquished his position of Treasurer of the Offa Macpherson Fund presented us with a draft constitution for this important source of charitable funds for needy Macphersons. This item was tabled at the AGM and is enclosed with this issue of the Green Banner for your consideration. We will seek the approval of the next AGM to adopt it. Please take the time to read it and make any comments that you may have so that they can be considered by the trustees of the fund before tabling it for adoption by the Branch.

Lastly, if you have any comments or suggestions as to how to make the CMA better, contact me at markmacpherson009@sympatico.ca or 450-247-3598. I will be pleased to hear from you on any matter either Canadian or international as I am also your representative on the CMA Council.

Mark F Macpherson

INCREASE IN NEW LIFE MEMBER DUES PLANNED

At the 2008 Annual General Meeting the following Notice of Motion for the 2009 Annual General Meeting was tabled. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT Life Membership dues be increased from \$300 to \$400 to commence effective after the Annual General Meeting of 2009". This motion is to be presented at the AGM at Quebec. Life member dues were set several years ago while expenses have increased and the income from the Life Member Fund has not kept pace.

ROD SMITH, DIRECTOR



Rod Smith joined the CMA in 1998 and has served on the Executive since 2000. He was born in North Bay and was raised in Waterloo Ontario. He is a graduate of both Waterloo and Laurier Universities with a degree in Environmental Studies and a master's degree in pastoral counselling and family therapy.

His career in building science engineering and building restoration has led to many notable projects throughout the country and on occasion in other parts of the world. To this end, he is involved in both consulting and contracting companies that are considered to be industry leaders.

Rod has been involved with Scouts Canada for decades as a trainer and district commissioner. He has taken youth members to a number of world and national events. Other community activities include the Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance, the 78th Fraser Highlanders and the Order of St. Lazarus.

Living in Waterloo, Dawn and Rod have raised four children Brendan, Erin, Megan and Alex all of whom have been to a number of CMA rallies.

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

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James M MacPherson
Carol McPherson
Rod Smith
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Provincial Directors:

Arnold Macpherson, New Brunswick
Maj. Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec
Dr. Brian Macpherson, Manitoba
Jean Macpherson, Saskatchewan
Donald E Pearson, Alberta
Robert Sinclair MacPherson, BC

Inquiries and articles may be addressed to June Macpherson, email: markmacpherson@sympatico.ca or by post to PO Box 528 Hemmingford QC, J0L 1H0

ARNOLD MACPHERSON, DIRECTOR



Arnold MacPherson has been a life member of the Clan Macpherson Association since 1979 and joined the Executive this year to represent New Brunswick. He was born and raised in St. Stephen, NB and now lives on a small lake south of Fredericton. He holds a Master of Education degree from UNB and has several post-graduate courses from various universities including Oxford. After an illustrious career in education he retired as Assistant Director of the Curriculum Development Branch of the New Brunswick Department of Education.

Arnold has been an organizer and participant in numerous national and provincial conferences, workshops and seminars related to his field. He served a term as President of the Canadian Vocational Association.

Arnold and his wife, Joanne, have two married daughters and two granddaughters who also live in the Frederick area. His hobbies include genealogy, amateur radio and gardening. He enjoys golf, curling and water related sports.

He has followed the association's activities with interest ever since joining.

US BRANCH RALLY AT MONTEREY



Mark and George McPherson, US Chair, at Monterey

The Chairman and Secretary had the opportunity to attend the American Rally of the CMA that was held in Monterey Bay, California.

This beautiful location allowed for sight-seeing as well as participation in the many events planned by our American cousins. At the US Annual General Meeting Mark announced that the Joint Rally in 2010, to be hosted by the Canadians, was planned to coincide with the Celtic Colours Celebration in September and hoped that many of our southern neighbours would attend.

ADVENTURES IN SCOTLAND

By Mark F Macpherson

June and I attended the rally in Scotland this summer and were happy to find other Branch members had also come over. Brenda Bacon from Winnipeg and D'Arcy McPherson from Ottawa were there for the first time. June and I attended our first rally in 1970.



Highland Ball in full swing

As usual the rally was well-organized and very enjoyable for all. The program starts with dancing practice and instruction for the ball on Friday. The ball is a fine affair with Scottish Country Dancing and a great meal at the Duke of Gordon Hotel in Kingussie, the unofficial capital of our Clan country. On Saturday, the scene moves to Newtonmore a little to the east where the International AGM takes place in the morning followed by our attendance at the games in the afternoon. Although there was a Scottish mist, as heavy rain is known, when the

pipers marched down Newtonmore streets to the Games, bright sunshine prevailed by the time the kilted Macpherson's had to march onto the field. In the evening after a haggis supper, there was a wonderful Ceilidh. On Sunday there is a Church service, a picnic in the country,



Cluny leading the march on the Elian

and high tea at Ballivil House, a splendid manor on the road to Inverness owned by the Fletcher-Macpherson family. This year due to the inclement weather, we decided not to join the picnic or the tea, but again the weather lifted in time for most of the clans people to enjoy both events.

We rented a car so that we would have transportation between Kingussie and Newtonmore, a distance of about three miles and for touring in the area. In times past, June and I walked this distance several times along pleasant footpaths much to the curiosity of our fellow clans people who had cars. Age is creeping so walking is less now. I found the driving in Scotland off the motorways a bit challenging. This is not because of right-hand drive to which one can easily accommodate, but because even the so-called older trails and carriage ways have very narrow 19th century railway underpasses. This is not too bad except

people park their cars on the roads through the towns leaving slightly less than one lane for passing through.

At the conclusion of the Rally, We decided to go to Fort William on the west coast for a change and started off down A85 which is a main highway through Fort William to Glasgow. Everything is fine except the road winds through the country with only sufficient width to meet on-coming traffic. Large oncoming tour buses and lorries have their right wheels on the centreline. Natives accept that they must pass within six inches of the on-coming large vehicles and carry on with great confidence. I, on the other hand, lived in fear as these bemoths bore down on me around a curve south of Fort William. I pulled to the left to avoid a tour bus which seemed to be coming right at me, and knocked out both left hand tires on a curb strategically placed at the side of the highway. A passing lassie helped us locate a garage that specialized in road repairs on tires. After an hour a van appeared fully equipped with a complete tire mounting and balancing shop in the rear. The tires were changed in quick order and we on our way to Glasgow. I can conclude that I was not the only one who had required tire replacement on the A85!

Aside from our adventures on the A85, the Rally is always enjoyable and recommended as an excellent holiday for CMA members.



Branch members at Newtonmore AGM; l to r, June, Hans (a non-member friend of Linda) Linda Bacon, Mark and D'Arcy McPherson.



Professional repairs on Route A85, Scotland 2008

JOHN GILLES ARMIGER



RGM and John with the new coat of arms

were developed with John by Gordon Macpherson acting as the heraldic consultant and artist over a period of 18 months. The inspiration was taken in the Scottish tradition from the arms of Cluny our Chief. In heraldry each coat of arms must be unique to the armiger and therefore different from all other coats of arms. In John's case we see some of the classic charges from the arms of the Chief with many differences as seen in the accompanying photos not the least of which is the purple color in the shield. John selected as his motto in Gaelic, Fhacal Mo Ghealladh, which means "My Word is My Bond"

All the armorial charges in each coat of arms have some significance or symbolism: Purple and gold are the colours of Wilfrid Laurier University which John attended. The galley, crosslet, and hand holding a dagger are Macpherson armorial elements and indicate that the Gillies family is a sept of the clan Macpherson. The depiction of water at the bottom of the shield indicates John's roots in Wheatley and his love of the water. The pelican appears in arms associated with the Lumley family and alludes to his maternal heritage. The use of the "seaxe" in place of the dagger held by the hand refers to the arms of Essex County and the badge of the Essex Scottish Regiment in which John and his father, Dan W. Gillies served.

In the crest, the wildcat is found surmounting the helm of the arms of Cluny and other Macpherson armigers. The Gillies versions of it show the cat running or "courant". On the collar are maple leaves indicating a Canadian branch of the Gillies family.

On June 20, 2008 John Gillies matriculated his Coat of Arms in the Public Register of Arms, Flags, and Badges of Canada. The armorial achievements and concept



John C Gillies

He has perpetuated his arms by registering cadet arms for each his children, which in the case of his daughters are unique with differences in the Scottish heraldic tradition.

He also has his own Scottish crest-badge based on the wildcat crest from his arms encircled with his motto as shown in the photos.



John Gillies' badge

John can be justifiably proud of this signal honour granted by the Governor General of Canada under the authority of the Queen. Our congratulations are due to John for the grant of his arms and to Gordon for the beautiful heraldic art.

A BEAUTIFUL BRIDE



On April 25, in Vancouver, Jory Gillies, daughter of John and Wendy Gillies of Collingwood married Chris Winter, son of Mike and Linda Winter of Whistler. The ceremony was held outdoors on a beautiful, cool, sunny evening on the shore of the ocean. The bride carried a bouquet that included a sprig of white heather from Badenoch. The couple reside in Vancouver.

DUES ARE DUE !

With this newsletter annual members will receive a renewal form for your membership dues. Your membership pays for the Creag Dhubh, The Green Banner, notices, postage, envelopes, etc. Please complete the form and return it promptly.

RALLY AT COLLINGWOOD

If you did not attend the Rally at Collingwood last Fall you missed a really good time. We were fortunate enough to have Cluny and Lady Hilary with us and it felt like a real family affair. As you will read in another article, Lois Urquhart-Musselman brought her grandmother's quilt with her and displayed it at the reception on Friday evening and the quilt provided a talking point as everyone wanted to examine the quilt and question Lois. There was lots of good food and laughter and general agreement that John Gillies had done an excellent job of arranging for the rally to be held at the Blue Mountain Resort at Collingwood.

Saturday morning saw members of the executive reviewing the Association's business, followed by a meeting of the membership. Please note that a motion to increase the life membership was tabled until the next meeting. Why not join before the increase.

After the meeting a casual luncheon was hosted by Cluny in his suite. Several adventurous members then left for a hike up the mountain while others preferred to take a walk around the complex or survey the outdoors



The hardy hikers on the top of the Blue Mountains with Georgian Bay in the background

through their patio doors.

Saturday evening saw everyone gathering once again for a pre-dinner drink and to purchase raffle tickets. As well as the many articles donated for the raffle, a silent auction was held for an otter sporrán. Robert W. Archibald was the happy winner and we hope to see him

wearing it at the rally in Quebec City. Of course no dinner would be considered worthy of the name without the Address to the Haggis. How fortunate we are to have as a member William Macpherson of Mississauga. Bill gave an address worthy of a performance at Stratford. At the end of dinner Lois was intrepid enough to give instruction to those brave enough to tackle Scottish reels.



Bill Macpherson giving the address to the haggis

On Sunday morning we were made welcome at Grace United Church in Thornbury. We had coffee and biscuits with the congregation in the church hall after service and then left for home on a most beautiful day with all the colours of a glorious autumn day to speed us along.

WE REMEMBER

We remember the following life member of the Canadian Branch of the CMA who has passed away since the last newsletter. We join with family and friends in remembrance of Mr. John H. Smith of London, Ontario.

GATHERING OF THE CLANS 2009

It is not too late to make your plans for this momentous occasion in Scotland. Go to the website clangathering.org for information. Also consult the website clan-macpherson.org for information on the Macpherson Clan Rally which is to follow.

CELTIC COLOURS CELEBRATION

Our 61st Rally will take place in Cape Breton in September 2010. This will be a joint Rally with our American cousins and we hope to have a full complement of Canadians and Americans to join in the Celtic Colours Celebration which takes place every year sometime in September. Although it is nearly two years away it is never too early to make plans for an enjoyable holiday with family.

RALLY QUEBEC 2009

At the Annual General Meeting in Collingwood there was agreement to search for another location for our rally in 2009. It was suggested that a location other than Ontario be considered. The happy thought was that Quebec City would provide an attractive venue for the rally. At the same time there was a move to change the date from October to September to ensure pleasant weather for the meeting. A visit to Quebec City by the Chairman in December 2008 brought the realization that many hotels were already booked for next year. However a search allowed the booking of the Palace Royal not far from Old Quebec. This hotel can be inspected online at <http://www.hotelsjaro.com/palaceroyal/index-en.aspx>

September 11, 12, and 13 are the dates selected for the Rally. It so happens that the 78th Fraser Highlanders are also planning to be in Quebec for the anniversary of the 250th Battle of the Plains of Abraham and it is to be hoped that we can join with them for a dinner. One of the senior officers of the Regiment at the Fall of Quebec in 1759 was a Macpherson as were many of the soldiers. One of the first ministers of the Presbyterian Church was also a Macpherson and we have been assured of a warm welcome at the church for the Sunday service. Why not mark your calendars now and join with other members at this historic site. You will receive further information which will be sent with Creag Dhuhb when it is received from Scotland.

VICTORIAN QUILT

Who cannot remember the quilts on the beds in their grandmother's home? The wonderful quilt brought by Lois Urquhart-Musselman to the Canadian Rally evoked a feeling of nostalgia for those by-gone days to all who were fortunate enough to view the quilt that was on display at the reception on Friday night. It



Antique Quilt being displayed by Lois Urquhart-Musselman

belonged to Lois' grandmother, Mrs. Robert J. Urquhart "Cassie" of the MacPherson House Hotel in Grand Anse and had been worked on by Lois' mother, Margaret Flora Campbell who was married to Alexander J. Macpherson. Their home was in Troy, Inverness County, and Cape Breton.

This quilt is more than just a family treasure; it has historical importance also. It is one of a collection of quilts made by groups of women in New England and the Maritimes to raise money for needy families after the American Civil War. One red patch off the centre has the initials WRC that stands for Women's Relief Corps. As people visited the Macpherson homes they donated money that was sent to the United States. Their initials were then embroidered on the quilt. Many of the initials are MacPherson's, Campbell's and Urquhart's. Part of the Campbell family tree shows the names of some of the ladies who worked on this quilt. It may even be that the initials of one of your family members can be found there. We are grateful to Lois for giving us this opportunity to remind us of our past.

A UNIQUE GIFT

It isn't often that the CMA receives a gift from the heart. Former RCAF Pipe Major Hugh Macpherson CD presented the Branch with an original piece of pipe music. We wished to debut it at Collingwood last fall and play it before our Chief in whose honour it is titled Honourable Sir William A Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie. To our chagrin, due to a change of pipers at the last moment we were unable to do so.

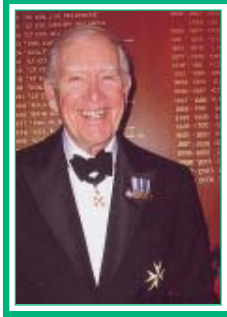


The music for "The Honourable Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie"

Hugh is planning to come to the Canadian rally in 2009 and expects to play it then. We sent a copy of the music to Cluny in Scotland in order that he might hear it played by the clan piper and be encouraged to join us next year in Québec.



RGM MACPHERSON CM, KStJ.



Gordon Macpherson, former International Chairman, and long-time member of the Clan Association was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada for his lifetime work and contributions as an internationally recognized heraldic artist and consultant.

Gordon, in addition to being a busy Niagara Herald Extraordinary for the Canadian Heraldic Authority, has been the heraldic artist and consultant for most of the clan armigers whose shields appear on the heraldic wall in the Clan Museum at Newtonmore. Gordon designed and painted the patents for many of these arms. As each new recipient of heraldic bearings is announced by the heraldic authority in their country Gordon then paints a copy of the shield from their arms and presents it to the museum.

The Order of Canada was instituted by Queen Elizabeth in 1967, Canada's centennial year, as the highest honour that could be awarded to Canadian Citizens for outstanding contributions to the country. Recipients are entitled to wear a lapel pin in the form of a small replica of the medal and to use the postnominal CM.



*Order of Canada
Medal for Member*

This is indeed an important honour for Gordon who over the years has encouraged many clansmen who are eligible to petition for their armorial bearings. His comment on being granted this honour was typical of Gordon; "I got it for just doing my hobby!" We take great pride in congratulating Gordon on this achievement.

APPRECIATION TO WEBMASTER

Howard Parsons, the International Webmaster, who resides in Virginia, is a professional information technology specialist. He is also a leading light and a valuable member of the US Branch. The Canadian Branch wishes to thank Howard for his work during the past year keeping the Canadian pages on the Clan Macpherson site current,



*Howard Parsons, Webmaster
par excellence, with our
Chairman in Monterey.*

Your Chairman undertook this year to ensure that all material being displayed on our pages was current and

hopefully, interesting to a visitor to the site. If the site is not revised periodically it becomes out-of-date, stale and a place to be missed by web visitors. As the website has as one of its purposes to attract new members it is incumbent on us to see that it is attractive.

Those of you who do visit <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/> from time to time may have noticed the changes in our pages including the latest and back issues of the Green Banner. If you are not current with our site I recommend you to take a look and check it out periodically.

Without Howard's interest, expertise, and assistance it would not be possible to do this updating. Incidentally, Howard has started a new service to help people to manage their home computers. Those who may have problems with or questions about their PC's can contact Howard at www.parsonage.net where he has posted newsletters.

CAPT. IAN MacPHERSON



*Captain Ian MacPherson, 7th
Gurghas circa 1944
from a sketch by S Packham*

Ian Macpherson's ancestors came to Nova Scotia from Skye around 1830. He was born in Regina in June 1921, a fifth generation Scot in Canada. From early youth he was accomplished on the pipes.

Ian was a cadet at Royal Military College, Kingston when the Second World War started. In 1940, on graduation, he was one of the last to go to the Indian Army from RMC.

He served gallantly during the tortuous British withdrawal from Burma in 1942. In 1943 he joined General Wingate's Chindits for their first operation behind Japanese lines. He was killed in action during the second Chindit operation in April 1944, again behind enemy lines in the jungle.

His commander Brigadier Calvert wrote of him;

"His company must have accounted for 40 to 50 Japanese that day (in April 1944). His NCO's and men loved him. One of the bravest and most carefree soldiers I ever met."

For his bravery during the operation in which he lost his life, he was awarded the Mentioned in Dispatches posthumously. He was 23 years old and has no known grave.

Source: [Prisoners of Hope](#) by Brigadier Michael Calvert.