



# THE GREEN BANNER

## NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

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Vol. 3 Number 2

March 2009

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### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure that we announce the enrolment of a new life member, Murna Mae MacPherson of Fredericton NB. Murna advises that her great-great-great-grandfather William MacPherson served in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highland Regiment. As well one of our long-time annual members, Robert W. Archibald, and his wife, Sondra, of Brantford ON have become life members. We would also like to welcome several new annual members to the Clan Association. Janet Hill of Mississauga ON and Saul MacPherson of Calgary AB joined in February. In March Lachlan and Isabelle Cattanach of Markham ON and Linda Pearson, wife of member Donald E. Pearson of Calgary AB, joined. It is heartening to acknowledge that so many individuals wish to be members of an Association which unites so many people around the world.

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### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Now that winter has passed into spring and the days are getting longer, most of us will be thinking about our various outdoor pursuits. June and I attempted to advance our spring by visiting our son Robert (a life member) and his wife Jessica in Carrollton GA at the end of February and then driving over to Myrtle Beach for a few days of golf. In Georgia we were greeted with a 4 inch blizzard, a once in 100 year event. At Myrtle Beach, the first day was so cold the golf course was closed. It was the first week of March! However we did play two games as the weather warmed up before we had to make the drive back to Hemmingford - over 3000 km in the round trip with our new car.

When we returned from our trip, we started picking up the threads of the Clan Macpherson Association making the final arrangements with the Palace Royal Hotel in Quebec City for September. With this newsletter you will find a registration form for the rally and for the hotel. I suggest that you don't delay as many of you are used to doing each year. Note the hotel deal has a cut-off- date of August 11, so book your room early. It also helps our planning to receive your registrations earlier than the day before the weekend starts. I don't think that you will find anything better to do than come to Quebec between September 11 and 13 this year. We have an interesting rally planned at an interesting location.

June, our hard-working Secretary-Treasurer, advises me that the annual membership renewals are trickling in, albeit rather slowly this year. I hope that those of you who are tardy will get your small annual dues into us so you can continue your association with your cousins in Clan Macpherson. We have received several new member applications for 2009 for which we are grateful. I look forward to meeting both old and new members at the rally in September. Included with this newsletter is your copy of the clan annual, *Creag Dhubh*, in which you will find the international news of the Clan. Have a good read.

Lastly I want to report that our membership campaign continues across the country with our Provincial Executives working hard. We have been using Canada 411 as a basis for making calls to Macpherson and other sept names. This is a slow process and I hope that those who live in different areas of Canada will actively assist your Provincial Executive when he or she calls for your help. You can imagine that it is quite a surprise to many people when we call, to find out that we as a Clan Association exist. Many do not realize that they spring from our historic Scottish Clan. One gentleman with the name Macpherson, who was contacted, was utterly convinced he was a member of Clan Ferguson! We have expanded our efforts and have started a telephone campaign in Ontario which is now well under way in some areas. I will be contacting other Ontario members to head up a campaign in their area as time goes on. The potential everywhere is huge and we need all the help we can get!

Mark F Macpherson

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## MYLES MACPHERSON, DIRECTOR



**B**orn in Montreal, Myles presently lives in Kirkland, a suburb of Montreal on the West Island. He is married to Linda, also a life member, and has one daughter, Arielle, currently a junior member of CMA. He joined as a life member in 2001 and has been to several clan events since then including the Big

Dhubh in Scotland, August 2006.

He plans to attend highland events in Montreal and surrounding areas this summer to promote the CMA.

Myles is a graduate of Concordia University having been granted Commerce and Master of Business Administration degrees. Up to recently he was self-employed working on various projects such as sales of wellness products and home renovations from his home office.

He is active with the Canadian Forces Reserve in the rank of Major serving with the Canadian Grenadier Guards in Montreal. He took an overseas posting to Bosnia with NATO a few years ago and has presently accepted a full-time assignment in Ottawa on the staff of the Chief of Reserves for the Canadian Army.

His goal with the CMA over the next year is to build the membership in the Quebec area. Like all of our Provincial Executives he welcomes any help members can offer and will contact people in the Montreal area in this regard.

## 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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Jean Macpherson, Saskatchewan  
Donald E Pearson, Alberta  
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## JEAN MACPHERSON, DIRECTOR



**J**ean was born in Scotland, immigrating with her parents and three brothers to farm in Leask Saskatchewan. She went to high school in Prince Albert, serving with the RCAF during World War II. After the war she married Colin Macpherson and raised five children in Prince Albert and Saskatoon, two of whom, piper Hugh, who resides in Ottawa,

and Barbara, who is a TV broadcaster in Duluth MN, are also members of the CMA

Jean joined the CMA several years ago and is proud of her membership although originally born into Clan Buchanan. She has attended many rallies in Badenoch as well as with the Canadian Branch over the years. She fondly recalls the Branch rally in London ON in 2001 as it was the occasion of a family reunion after a twenty-year gap. Those of you who were there will remember Hugh and his first class piping as well as beautiful blonde Barbara, who was attending with her husband from the USA.

Jean has been retired for some time, moving around from London to Minnesota and Virginia, now in Saskatoon where she resides at Abbeyfield, a retirement residence for independent seniors. When asked to take on the responsibilities of Provincial Executive in Saskatchewan Jean immediately threw herself into the task, working through the local telephone book. She has made countless calls coming up with 51 interested persons so far, one of whom has already joined the CMA. Jean says that it is interesting work as she meets many new clansmen and clanswomen on the phone. She is not done yet in Saskatoon and Regina beckons.

## WE REMEMBER

We remember the following long-time life members of the Canadian Branch of the CMA who have passed away since the last newsletter. We join with family and friends in remembrance.

Ethel Gilbert Jolley (nee Macpherson) of Winnipeg who died in the summer of 2008.

John (Jack) Duffy of Owen Sound who died in January 2009.

Joan McPherson of Rockwood who recently passed away.



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## RALLY AT QUEBEC CITY IN SEPTEMBER

By Mark F Macpherson

Your Executive is in the process of planning and executing the 2009 rally at Quebec City on September 11 to 13. At the AGM in 2008 we decided to venture out of Ontario and to tie in to local events of a Clan or Scottish nature. The rally at Quebec fulfils this requirement admirably with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham in which several Macphersons participated.

The 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders who took part in this battle included some prominent Macphersons amongst its officers and men. Today there is a heritage unit devoted to carrying on the history of the Frasers with garrisons across the country. This unit is organizing weekend celebrations of their own and have graciously consented to have the CMA participate in their activities on Sunday September 13, the actual date of the battle. This will include a march onto the Plains of Abraham, a sword exchange ceremony with the Franche Marine a francophone heritage unit with strong links to New France, a march to city hall in Old Quebec to receive the freedom of the city, ending with a service at St Andrews Presbyterian Church whose founding pastor was a Robert Macpherson.

Although every Canadian has heard about the Plains of Abraham during their school years, perhaps a little review is in order. Although it was the important battle for the English it was not the deciding factor that resulted in Canada becoming part of British North America.

The battle for Quebec started on June 24 1759 with the landing of the English at Levis across the St Lawrence River from Quebec. Artillery bombardment soon began and a war of nerves and manoeuvre was initiated. The English had the advantage of more trained regular troops, more artillery, and the dominance of the Royal Navy in the St Lawrence. The French side had more soldiers but less regulars and an excellent knowledge of the area. The French under the Marquis de Montcalm were forced to defend a large area to the east of Quebec where the ground was suitable for manoeuvring and contained many strategic points. As summer was coming to a close General Wolfe, the English Commander, realizing that a hard winter was coming, devised a daring plan to scale the heights to the west of the town where the defence was light.

The lead troops in this endeavour were the Highlanders against whom Wolfe, as a Major in the Duke of Cumberland's army at Culloden, had fought. Wolfe was impressed with the fighting prowess of the Highlanders and insisted that they be included in his force. Amongst other things to attract these soldiers, concessions were

made to allow the wearing of highland dress and the use of bagpipes both of which were proscribed by law in Britain following Culloden.



It is not well known that after the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, in which both Commanders lost their lives, the war continued with the French winning the Battle of St Foy to the west of Quebec in April 1760. This resulted in a stalemate which wouldn't be broken until the Royal Navy appeared in the river

with supplies for the English in May. This led to a march on Montreal and the eventual surrender of New France in June. To dig deeper into this history, visit [http://www.ccbn-nbc.gc.ca/\\_en/batailles.php?section=2](http://www.ccbn-nbc.gc.ca/_en/batailles.php?section=2) on the World Wide Web.

Quebec City is a modern seat of Government for the Province of Quebec. The old city on the heights still retains many of its walls and gates that existed in 1759. One of the gates – the St Jean, located just outside of the Place Royal Hotel, leads to a shopping street. A short walk down St Jean Street leads to the City Hall and St Andrews Presbyterian Church. The Plains of Abraham are located a short distance to the south. There are many other features that are attractive in Quebec I suggest a visit to one of the tourism websites such as <http://www.quebecregion.com/e/for> more information



St Jean Gate

The Hotel is a full-service establishment in a modern building with comfortable accommodations To see more, visit <http://www.hotelsjaro.com/palaceroyal/contact.aspx>

As I come to the end of this article I should note that most of the planning is complete. At this point, in March, some details remain to be settled but the most important thing is that the hotel is ready to receive your reservations. We have included a draft program for the weekend with this newsletter with an update promised for the next issue of the Green Banner due to be published early summer. Note however the hotel deal has a cut-off on August 11. Last year many members who wanted to attend the rally waited until the hotel prices had returned to normal and had problems. An early decision is indicated as Quebec is a busy place with high demand on its hotel rooms. I hope that all members will support our rally at this new location by attending in September. I am sure that you will agree that it is a very interesting and worthwhile venue to visit.