



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 3 Number 4

November 2009

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

It is with pleasure that we announce the names of individuals who have become members of the Canadian Branch: Arlene Macpherson of Camrose; Paul McPherson of Fort Erie; Ian McPherson and Carla Cesaroni of Toronto; Jeffrey William Smith of Simcoe; and Murray W. Smith of British Columbia. Stuart H. MacPherson of New Hampshire, Membership Secretary of the US Branch, has joined the Canadian Branch. John Gillies, the Canadian Vice-Chairman, and Stuart will co-chair the committee to plan and organize our Joint Rally in Nova Scotia in 2010.

A Lost Sheep has returned to the fold - Ron Macpherson Collins of Oakville who became a life member in 1967 was lost and now has been found. Hurrah!!!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Now that our successful rally and AGM in Quebec City is completed we are looking forward to the joint Canadian-US Branch rally in Cape Breton in 2010. John Gillies, his team, and I, look forward to seeing as many Canadians as possible on October 13 to 17 next year. This is a good occasion for those of you who live afar to circle your calendars and plan a trip to Nova Scotia in the fall to enjoy the Celtic Colours celebration in Cape Breton. I am particularly hopeful that our members in eastern Canada will be there in force. More information will be forthcoming as plans for the event progress. In the meantime put us in your plans.

We passed the Branch Constitution that you had received for review, prior to the AGM. I would like to thank those members who took the time to provide their comments and suggestions. The constitution will help with the continuity of the Branch. However new members, particularly younger people, are the life blood of any organization such as ours. Once again I am encouraging all of you to find new members from among the thousands of Macpherson clansmen and clanswomen and cousins who live in communities across Canada. We know they are there because we see their names in the phone book.

Your Provincial Executives can only do so much when it comes to contacting potential members for the CMA, so your help is needed and appreciated. Don't forget your children and grandchildren. I was recruited by my late father many years ago and I am still at it. My sons and their children are also members. Let's sign up new members in every province in 2010 and encourage them to come to Cape Breton. **Mark F Macpherson**

GREETINGS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CHAIR



I was proud and honoured to become the Chairman of the Clan Macpherson Association on 1st August during the annual gathering in Badenoch, Scotland, taking over from 'Tokyo' Bill Macpherson from Seattle with whom I worked as Vice Chairman over the last 3 years.

For members who don't know me, my father was Allan Grant Macpherson from Inverness, and in the late 1940s he was a founder member of the Association. In the early 1950s he was involved in the purchase of the Clan House and Museum in Newtonmore. In 1963 he became International Chairman and it was then he made my sisters and me life members, so I am proud to be following in his footsteps. Members of the Canadian Branch were always made welcome at our home in Inverness.

In September, my husband Alastair and I attended our first Canadian Rally in Quebec City and we had a wonderful time. Canadian Branch members gave us such a warm welcome and made us feel at home and my particular thanks go to June & Mark who extended their hospitality to us once we returned to Montreal.

We are now planning and looking forward to attending the joint Canadian and US Branch Rally in Cape Breton in October 2010, and it promises to be another successful event. I hope to meet many more Canadian branch members and to renew the friendships we made at this year's rally. **Shelagh Macpherson-Noble**

LA BELLE VILLE AND THE RALLY

By June Macpherson

The most exciting event this year was our Annual Rally that took place in Quebec City in September. The weather was amazing. Most of our members were able to walk about in the warm sunshine, eat outdoors at various terrace restaurants, visit historic sites, and generally enjoy the warm ambiance of French culture.



George McPherson US Chair, Shelagh Macpherson-Noble International Chair, and Mark Macpherson at AGM

To our intense enjoyment, the International Chairman of the Association, Shelagh Macpherson-Noble and her husband Alistair, joined us at Quebec. It was the first time many of our Canadian members had met Shelagh. We also had the pleasure of having our American cousin, George McPherson, Chairman of the American Branch, and friends attending. Although, of course, we missed our Chief, Cluny, who has supported the Canadian Branch so faithfully through the years by attending our rallies, we look forward to seeing him next year in Nova Scotia at the joint Canadian/American Rally. The task of organizing the rally has been given to the Canadian

Vice-Chairman, John Gillies, who is to be assisted by the appointment of Stuart MacPherson of the American Branch.



Toast to the Piper and the Chef. On the right Bob Archibald has just completed his address to the Haggis.

One of the difficulties we encountered in our plans for Quebec City was finding out that the Chef at the Hotel had no clue about haggis. He looked even more mystified with the explanation but brightened up considerably when we informed him that the Chef was to be given a drink of whiskey at the end of the ceremony. Everyone agreed that it was the best haggis they had ever had—perhaps it was due to the special sauce that accompanied the haggis and like many dishes in Quebec was flavoured with just a bit of maple syrup! Another difficulty was finding a piper but we did succeed in obtaining a marvellous French-Canadian piper from the 78th Frasers whose mother was a Wallace. He enlivened our proceedings considerably with his piping and had no trouble with Macpherson's Rant.

We were fortunate indeed to have Lois Urquhart-Musselman once again conduct a dancing class. After a convivial evening of dancing and chatting with old friends a busy day came to an end.

It seemed that Sunday morning came all too quickly as Clan members got ready to go to the Citadel in Quebec to see an exchange of swords between the 78th Highlanders and the Franche Marine to mark the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. After that there was a Church Service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The very first pastor of St. Andrew's was Robert Macpherson and we were warmly received by the Minister and congregation. After a light luncheon at the church we said our good-byes and left beautiful Quebec City certain in the knowledge that we would all meet again in Nova Scotia.

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
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DR BRIAN MACPHERSON, EXECUTIVE



Brian Macpherson Provincial Executive for Manitoba is long-time resident of Winnipeg. He was born in Lethbridge and with his family lived in Edmonton, Regina and finally in Winnipeg. He obtained B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from the University of Manitoba and a Ph.D. in Statistics

from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

He began his academic career in 1963 at Memorial University of Newfoundland. In 1965 he joined the University of Manitoba and retired 43 years later as Professor of Statistics. He has served as Acting Head of his Department on several occasions and was Associate Dean of the Faculty of Science.

During his tenure at the University of Manitoba, he received the Dr. and Mrs. H.H. Saunderson Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Dr. and Mrs. Campbell Outreach Award for his external work conducting hundreds of workshops for companies and organizations in the area of quality improvement using statistical methods.

Outside of the University Brian served on the Board and as President of the Alumni Association Inc. of the University of Manitoba, and was President of Southwood Golf and Country Club. He is currently active with the Guardian Angels Benefit for Women's Cancer, and the United Way campaign for Retirees of the University. In addition to these activities Brian is working to increase the presence of the CMA in Manitoba particularly in the Winnipeg area.

DUES INCREASE FOR 2010

Annual Dues. The Executive was informed shortly before the Annual General Meeting in September that the International Association of Clan Macpherson had voted an increase in annual dues at their Annual General Meeting in August. This increases the dues that have to be sent to Scotland from \$10.72 to \$17.86 or approximately \$7.00. However the Executive proposed that the annual membership be raised from \$25 to \$30. This motion was passed. Thus the Canadian Branch will absorb the additional \$2.00 from general funds.

Life Dues. At the Annual General Meeting of 2008 a motion that the dues for a Life Member be increased from \$300 to \$400 was tabled to the 2009 Meeting. This motion was passed.

June Macpherson, Secretary-Treasurer

AMERICAN RALLY 2009 CHARLOTTE

by June Macpherson

The wonderful weather we had for the Canadian Rally in Quebec City followed us down through the spectacular colour display in the Adirondacks as mark and I drove from our home to North Carolina. We arrived in Charlotte to be warmly greeted at the Registration Desk by Jean Macpherson of Florida and found many friends from previous years in the hospitality suite, among them Larry and Lilas who had been at the Rally in Collingwood.

We had dinner that night with Shelagh and Alastair as well as the incoming Vice-Chairman of the American Branch, Jack Raines. As we had arrived a day early we had a chance to see something of Charlotte and had a lovely surprise when our oldest son came from Atlanta to partake of the festivities.

Other Canadians at the Rally were John Gillies and his wife, Wendy. John had travelled to Charlotte to extend an invitation to the Americans to join us in Nova Scotia for the Joint Rally in 2010.

At the Annual General Meeting on Saturday morning John informed the group of the arrangements that had been made and of the various activities and events that were planned as well as encouraging members to take advantage of the many interesting sites that it was possible to visit along the way.

A trip to an 18th century farm had been planned for the afternoon and a tour guide arranged to take people to several interesting historical sites on the grounds.



Howard Parsons delivering the address to the haggis with Stuart McPherson and Xerses Harrington attending

That evening we enjoyed a reception on the terrace of the hotel and later were piped into dinner. Howard Parsons gave a wonderful theatrical performance of the Address to the Haggis that was enjoyed by all. Afterwards a dance band provided the opportunity for those inclined to kick up their heels to the music.

Our thanks go out to Marty McMahan, Convenor of the Rally in Charlotte, for the splendid organization of the weekend. Also we would like to mention the wonderful reception we received from all the American cousins at the Rally and especially George McPherson, the American Chairman, whom many of you met at the Quebec Rally and who made us Canadians feel right at home. If you haven't had the pleasure of attending an American Rally I would urge you to do so and if you have the opportunity to attend next year's rally I am sure you will meet many of our American cousins.

SCOTLAND IN '09

by Robert W. Archibald, Brantford

After last year's AGM in Blue Mountain, Sondra and I had decided that it was time for us to return to Scotland and take part in some of the festivities planned for the big reunion year. So we started planning around Christmas and by early February had pretty much everything booked for a three week visit. On July 23 we left and arrived in Edinburgh the next morning. We never look forward to passing through Heathrow (based on past experiences) but I must say it went very smoothly this time (both going and coming back).

That first evening in Edinburgh it poured rain (we got wet going for dinner)—not an auspicious start. BUT! That was the only significant rain for the whole trip; we had only the occasional shower during the rest of our visit. We must have been living right.

The next morning (Saturday), off to Holyrood Park for the beginning of the Gathering. We met old friends and made some new ones and had a good day wandering around the grounds. Then, in the evening, one of the highlights: the march in clan groups from Holyrood up the Royal Mile to the Castle. It was great fun; both the marchers and the spectators were having a wonderful time. The pageant at the Castle following the march was interesting. Again on Sunday there were more games, bands, etc. We heard estimates of 6000 or 7000 in the Saturday march and 40 to 50 thousand weekend visitors to the events at Holyrood. I am always skeptical of such crowd estimate numbers but there were a lot of people there.

After the weekend, we picked up our rental car and headed to Badenoch for the Macpherson rally events in Kingussie and Newtonmore. This was our first time there and we met many people and enjoyed it thoroughly, along with touring the surrounding countryside.

Never having been north of Inverness on previous trips, after leaving Badenoch, we headed up to Wick, John o'Groats and on to Orkney. The archeological sites on



Castle Urquhart with Loch Ness in the background as viewed during our drive north from the rally in Newtonmore

Orkney were fascinating and the scenery throughout ranged from pleasant to spectacular. After Orkney we went west via Thurso, Tongue and around the north-west corner to Durness and Ullapool. The roads were mostly good, albeit a little skinny on some of our side excursions, and traffic was generally light

All in all, a splendid trip: fine weather, interesting and enjoyable events and sites, good food (with few exceptions), and friendly people. What more could a couple of old folks want?

MY RALLY IN QUEBEC

by Jacqueline Murdoch

When I asked my 3 teenaged children if they wished to accompany me to the Macpherson AGM in Quebec City, I was surprised when they all (eventually) agreed. Motives aside, including the fact that they would skip out of a day in school, I could not answer any questions about what we would be doing, exactly.

We rented a car, and set out for the 8-1/2 hour drive from Toronto to Quebec City (QC), with shotgun seats arranged carefully along the way. Jamie, the best French-speaking one of the lot, got the final stage, navigating through QC, having to put up with both brother and sister constantly telling her she was navigating me in the wrong direction. She was not.

I had not met too many people in person, but in true Scottish fashion, when we arrived we were welcomed warm-heartedly by all. Friday evening after dinner, my two younger teens and I ventured out into old QC. With our lives fast-paced and busy, it was delightful to have a couple of quiet hours alone with the kids.

After the AGM on Saturday, the kids and I, blessed by fabulous weather, meandered through the Plains of Abraham, the Citadel and the old town. Rebekkah and David were let loose on their own for a few hours, while Jamie and I browsed through the shops of the old city. She is still trying to convince me that we need to return on a "girl shopping trip." Jamie did manage to buy her first t touque of the season: a monkey hat!

Saturday evening was a challenge. While the girls were more eager than David to get dressed up, none was looking forward to an evening of highland dancing. However, they were quite surprised, and under the fabulous tutelage of Lois Urquhart-Mussleman, the three of them had a fabulous time flinging each other around the dance floor.



Rebekka,, Jamie, and David at the Citadel

The early Sunday morning ceremony and the rain nearly contributed to a teenage rebellion. However, they dragged themselves out of bed to watch the Fraser Highlanders, and thankfully, the rain gave way to sunshine.

Our trip was too short. The reception and dinner Friday, AGM Saturday morning, free afternoon, dinner Saturday and an early Sunday morning ceremony at the Citadel left us feeling rushed. Next year, I will definitely book an extra day or two (even though it means the kids will be out of school—if they decide to attend) to explore the local area (well worth the time out of school by the way) and to have a bit more relaxed family experience.

It would be nice to see a few more young folk out at next year's event in Nova Scotia. Hopefully we can encourage more families to come out, explore Canada, and enjoy some of our heritage!

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SCOTTISH

by Jacqueline Murdoch

Being an 8th generation Canadian of Scottish heritage, I pondered what it meant to be Scottish. So I found myself on Scottish soil, in the pouring rain this July, trying to navigate myself to my hotel on Princes Street, through a city clogged with detours to learn just that.

I must start this by saying the obvious: Being Scottish is to love three things: Scotch Whisky; Beer; Freedom. I learned it is also to be hearty and somewhat poetic. Regardless of the weather, there seemed to be gentlemen below my hotel room window, on the streets of Edinburgh singing, talking [loudly I must say], complaining or cheering [hard to say which]. I think it all goes back to the three things Scottish people love.

Being Scottish is to appreciate and know every aspect of their history. I met Scots people [pretty much every one of them, I might add] who could tell me more about their country, kinsmen, and history for the past 1,000 years or more, and be proud of every aspect of it, for the good, the bad, and the changes it created for their country. For a person like myself, being born into a country that is more about its future than its past, this is a wonderful point that stands out strongly about the Scots that I met, young and old.

The Scottish people definitely know how to throw a party! There was such magnificent food, company, music, merriment and dance! I had even received proper dance instruction prior to the ball I know the Gay Gordons [um, I am of Scottish descent!]. I would have remembered the Virginia reel eventually, as I had learned it in school [some 30 years ago]. The ladies and gentlemen in attendance were quite accepting of my stepping on their feet, and quite happy to face me in the direction I was supposed to be dancing in. It was the highlight of my time in Scotland. Really!

But most of all, I learned that to be Scottish must mean that you are kind-hearted, warm and generous, tolerant, with a good sense of humour, because these are the people that I met constantly, whether Scottish born natives, or like myself, born outside of Scotland but of Scottish descent. From our very own Chief, Sir William Alan Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie TD, to the amazing Scottish, Greek, Australian, American, German and Canadians that I met, I was welcomed, embraced, and my incessant chatter was put up with!

As my birth certificate and passport indicates I'm Canadian. I'm one of the many very proud Canadians in my wonderful country. Scottish heritage is everywhere in Canada. Thank you to all who aided in the first part of my education. I'm beginning to know what it might mean to be Scottish. I look forward to my return to Scottish soil to continue my education.

PHONESS, A FIGHTING MACPHERSON

The author wishes to acknowledge the following source:

"A Pinch of Snuff: Ensign Malcolm Macpherson of Phoness", by Earl John Chapman appearing in the June 2009 edition of "The Despatches of the St Helen Garrison of the 78th Fraser Highlanders

PHONESS, A FIGHTING MACPHERSON

By Mark F Macpherson CD

The year of the 200th anniversary of the battle of Quebec is winding down and one more article on the Macpherson involvement in this battle that changed the course of North American history is in order.

Malcolm Macpherson of Phoness distinguished himself as an elderly Ensign (Second Lieutenant) on the Plains of Abraham in 1759. His ferocious attacks on the French soldiers facing him came to the notice of Brigadier Townshend who took command of the British formation after the death of General Wolfe. When Townshend remarked on his intense application of his sword during the battle, Malcolm replied "If the French had kept their promise to Prince Charles, the Highlanders would never had lost at Culloden."

Malcolm was born in Badenoch, the eldest son of William Macpherson of Phoness. The Phoness family can trace its roots to the Gillies branch of Clan Macpherson. As one of Ewan Macpherson of Cluny's six captains he served under Bonnie Prince Charlie in several of the battles and skirmishes leading up to the Battle of Culloden. Like many Highlanders he blamed the final defeat on the French. After Culloden he was forced to go into hiding emerging after the Act of Indemnity in 1747. Thus, in 1757, he jumped at the chance to join Lord Lovat when Simon Fraser was raising a regiment to fight with the British in North America. This was an opportunity to get back at the hated French. When gazetted as an Ensign in the English army he was well into his 60's. He led a band of 25 Badenoch men from his own family during the battle of Quebec.



Malcolm with his snuff box in the uniform of the 78th Frasers

On return to Britain after the fall of Quebec, Townshend invited Phoness to be presented to King George III in recognition of his bravery. When presented, Malcolm who was versed in court etiquette, placed his snuff box in the King's hand and then shook it snuff box and all. The King recognised this mark of loyalty and took a pinch of snuff from the box. The King was so impressed by the old soldier that he offered him a generous pension to return to Badenoch to enjoy his hard-earned reward for the rest of his life.

This "pinch of snuff" incident brought Malcolm some notoriety and by January 1760 he was a celebrity in Scotland. He was made a free burgess and guild brother in the City of Edinburgh for his good services, "but particularly for the bravery for which he behaved at the battle of Quebec." He resigned his military commission in 1763 and it is said when he died he had his broadsword in bed with him.

JACQUELINE MURDOCH, EXECUTIVE

Jacqueline Murdoch was elected to the position of Executive at Large at the AGM in Quebec City. She is the Director of Strategic Planning for a media management company and runs a small freelance business that she hopes to grow into a full-time job.



She is the mother of three active teenage children, Rebekkah, David and Jamie.

Jacqueline keeps active. Her hobbies consist of marathon running, downhill skiing and working on her

family tree. Jacqueline volunteers as a hospice care worker for Alliance Hospice, and edits for a national magazine. Born, raised, and presently living in Toronto, she enjoys travelling on her own and with her children.

Jacqueline is very interested in new ways to attract and retain members to CMA, particularly those who are up on the latest internet technology and younger people. We will be hearing more about social networks such as Face book, and how they might be applied to the Association.

SPECIAL NOTICE FROM THE CLAN MUSEUM

by John Macpherson, International Vice Chairman CMA

Our Clan Museum and shop has now closed to visitors until the spring of 2010. As Christmas is now fast approaching, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you that an excellent range of Clan Macpherson items can be purchased at our on-line Clan Shop.

That special Xmas gift may be just what you wanted and is on the shelf for you now. This service is available at all times by clicking on to:

www.clan-macpherson.org/shop

or

Long distance to UK: +44(0) 1540 673332

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JOINT CANADIAN - USA BRANCH RALLY 2010

by John Gillies

The Annual Rallies of the USA and Canadian Branches will be held as a joint meeting in Baddeck, Cape Breton Nova Scotia from October 15 to 17, 2010.

Accommodation and events will take place at the Inverary Resort where arrangements have been made for significant price reductions in normal room rates for our group.



Inverary Resort, Baddeck Cape Breton, Nova Scotia

The dates and location were selected to coincide with the festival, Celtic Colours, which is an annual Nova Scotia event. Dates for performances of this event are October 9 to 17, 2010. See their website for full details. www.celtic-colours.com.

The Inverary Resort is at the start and finish of the Cabot Trail and is connected to the Celtic Trail as well. The resort is on the shores of the Bras D'Or Lakes and has 11 acres of property. There is an excellent Spa on site and golf nearby. It is close to the Alexander Graham Bell museum.

Our Chief, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie plans to be in attendance as will Shelagh Macpherson-Noble, International Chair of Clan Macpherson Association. A number of other 'cousins' from Scotland are presently making plans to attend.

Accommodation will be available as rooms in the main lodge or cottages on the shore. There are 123 modern guest rooms, 10 executive/junior suites, 5 cottage suites and 4 efficiency cottages. There is a campground with full facilities nearby and additional lodging in the neighbourhood. For information see www.capebretonresorts.com.

Information on things to see and do in Baddeck is available at www.baddeck.com and extensive information on the Province of Nova Scotia at www.novascotia.com.

Details on the activities and events will be included in the next issue of the Green Banner and on the Clan Macpherson website.

BRANCH PHOTO ALBUM



Bob Archibald at the Maxville games in August in his "unofficial" capacity as representative of CMA. Bob signed up one new member on this occasion



Gordon receiving the Clan Chattan Award at the Rally from Shelagh, International Chair in recognition of his personal contribution to the Federation



George McPherson US Branch Chair and Bonnie Macpherson at the Citadel after the 78th Fraser ceremony marking the Battle of Quebec



A group of Fraser Highlanders on parade before the ceremony at the Citadel



Sondra and Rob Achibald with Jacqueline Murdoch at the Ball in Badenoch this summer



Wendy and John Gillies with Shelagh at the Rally dinner

BRANCH PHOTO ALBUM



Arielle Macpherson at Quebec Harbour snapping some photos during the Rally free time



Stuart MacPherson Membership Chair, US Branch, who joined the Canadian Branch recently standing with Carol McPherson at the AGM in Quebec



Lois Mussleman-Urguhart (centre) conducting the dance class at the Rally dinner. Jamie Rogers (Murdoch) at left. Bob Archibald in foreground



A few of our members gathering before the dinner at the Rally in Quebec



The Vice Chair table at the supper on Friday evening at the Rally in Quebec. left to right Ron Fitton, Carol McPherson, Wendy Gillies, John Gillies, Mary Margaret Gillies, and Dana Fitton (né Gillies)



St Andrews Presbyterian Church Quebec- after the combined CMA 78th Fraser service on Sunday