



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 4 Number 2

July 2010

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We wish to take this opportunity to welcome two new members who joined CMA since the last issue of the Green Banner: Franklin Alexander Gillis of Espanola Ontario, and Peter Macpherson of Mahone Bay NS.

June Macpherson

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I noticed with some surprise that winter has turned to spring and spring to summer since our last edition. Since February we have collected the annual dues and note that although we gained members over the past year we did have some resignations and other losses to bring the total to 219, which is about the same as last year at this time. Obviously all of us should address the issue of recruiting new members whenever we learn of a clansman or woman in our area.

On a more positive note I can report that the Joint Rally Committee consisting of John Gillies and Stuart McPherson (US Branch) has been working hard on the program for the rally in Baddeck Nova Scotia. Seventy members have confirmed their intentions to attend and we have noted that 38 of these have booked their accommodation at the resort to beat the rate deadline of August 15, and 24 have pre-registered so far. With this response, and the program planned by the Committee, I expect we will have an excellent rally this year. We will be seeing Cluny, our Chief, Shelagh Macpherson- Noble our International Chair, and other notables and friends from the UK, so if you haven't already made up your mind to attend, or haven't booked your accommodation at the resort, you shouldn't delay as this will be the best event that you will find in the fall this year!

I must compliment Jacqueline Murdoch on her initiative setting up the Meet and Greet program in Toronto and encourage our members and Executives across the country to do something similar. We need more events between annual general meetings. I would also like to recognize Jacqueline's initiative on the international front in proposing a Facebook® entry to promote the CMA. I am sure that we will hear more about this project later on.

You will find interesting articles in this edition submitted by our members. I must remind you that this newsletter does not appear all by itself and does rely on input from you, the members, for its success. Please take the time to think if you have anything interesting in your family, personal experiences, or knowledge appropriate to the purpose of the Green Banner that you can share with us. Send your suggestions to the editor at the address in masthead on the second page and I will be forever grateful.

To close, I wish everyone a fine summer and look forward to seeing you at Baddeck in the fall

Mark F Macpherson

PLANES, TRAINS, AND AUTOMOBILES

June Macpherson

No matter your mode of transportation to reach Baddeck you may wish to take a few extra days and stop in Halifax. Halifax has the second largest natural harbour in the world and is a wonderful small city. Mark and I had the good fortune to attend a conference in Halifax in June. We stayed at the Delta and it was just a five or ten minute walk to the harbour or to wonderful seafood restaurants. Scallops, shrimps, lobster, crab and various kinds of fresh fish are available. We never ate anything but seafood while we were there.

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View of Halifax Harbour

GILLIS WEDDING

By Thom Gillis

On November 27th 2009 in Las Vegas, James Bartholomew Gillis and Stacey Keller were joined in Holy Matrimony. Jamie is the eldest grandson of Mary G. Gillis, CMA Canadian Branch member from Middleton, Nova Scotia.

Several family members and friends travelled to Las Vegas to attend the ceremony including two Canadian Branch life members from Nova Scotia, Uncles W. Bruce & Thom G. Gillis. The Groom, best man, ushers and several family members were outfitted in Gillis Tartan & Nova Scotia Tartan kilts for the occasion



l to r; Thom Gillis, Bruce Gillis, Stacey Gillis, Jamie Gillis, Debbie Gillis, Jeannine Parker

THE GREEN BANNER

Published from time to time to bring news to the members of the Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association

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WE REMEMBER

We learned of the passing in June of Bruce Roffey Macpherson of Napanee, Ontario, a long time member of the Canadian Branch. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

BOAT TRIP OPPORTUNITY

The Joint Rally Organising Committee has announced that a boat trip with lunch on beautiful Brador is being offered on Saturday afternoon as an option at the low price of \$35.

For those who have not yet registered, see the updated form enclosed with this newsletter. If you have already registered for the rally and wish to take up this option, please indicate whether or not you intend to take the trip and send in your cheque.

PLANES, TRAINS, AND AUTOMOBILES

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With our free time we did the usual tourist things. We visited the Citadel, a national historic site, the last of four forts which were built there to protect Halifax. It has a wonderful museum and each day is marked by the firing of the noon gun. Tours of various lengths are available. The Halifax Public Garden is an absolute delight. It is a perfect place for taking photos. There is a small jewel of an Art Gallery as well as a Maritime Museum. Along the harbour front you can find Privateers Wharf and Passage, restored historic properties, which now contain shops so that you can shop til you drop. as well as a dinner cruise. However we had to forego that last treat as our time was limited; but we plan to include it when we travel to the rally in the fall. For those who are interested and have the time there are whale watching cruises as well. I advise all who are interested to go to the web to research the various attractions or contact the Provincial Tourist



Gun drill at the Halifax Citadel

TORONTO MEET AND GREET

By Jacqueline Murdoch

Saturday afternoon April 23 nearly a dozen CMA members got together at the Irish Embassy Pub & Grill in Toronto to chat, laugh and exchange information on what has been going on in each other's lives. It was truly a remarkable afternoon allowing us to meet some new friends while old friends could catch up with each other. I know that a number of members in the area had to cancel at the last minute, or were not able to make the appointed time. Rest assured, we'll continue to offer up these afternoons so we can continue to meet. After all, our common connection is why we're members and have become friends.



CMA Toronto members enjoying the first meet and greet

We are going to be inviting all of the families in the Greater Toronto area to meet together at the Fergus Highland Games in August. We'll be posting additional email messages about the details of this particular event, as well as a few others throughout the season. Bill and Irene Macpherson came up with the idea at our last meeting, and have been working diligently with our resident games experts Bob & Marlene Archibald. We encourage everyone to get out to one or two of the highland games in your area during the summer. I confess that I've only been to my first games last year in Scotland. I'm hooked now, and will be attending at least two throughout the season.

Keep the requests and email coming to me at jacquelinemurdoch@rogers.com. It's delightful to hear comments and requests. We want to try to accommodate all requests and identify possible pub change locations in the Greater Toronto area. We have been asked for an east and a north location. So for our next location we could be moving to reflect requests from all members, with a priority to keep it central and easily accessible to the greatest number of members.

PLANNING TO ATTEND THE RALLY IN BADDECK?

Remember to book your resort accommodation before August 15 to receive the CMA rate.

TRAVEL TIPS TO BADDECK

By Stuart H. MacPherson, US Branch
adapted for the Green Banner

The joint rally this year will be a wonderful time at the scenic Inverary Resort in Baddeck Nova Scotia! Traditionally, every five years the two Branches meet together for a weekend to hold our respective AGM's and enjoy dinner and libations together afterwards. Last time, in 2005, the US Branch hosted the Canadians in Albany, NY.

So where is Baddeck, Nova Scotia and how do I get there from home? Hopefully, we can help with travel plans.

Airports - One can fly into Halifax or Sydney The major difference is the distance between the airports and Baddeck and the available flights. If you plan to rent a car, the drive from Halifax is 3 ½ hours. The drive from Sydney is 1 hour.

Flying into Halifax has the most flexibility. Air Canada has 9 flights a day from Toronto, 4 from Montreal, and 3 from Ottawa with connecting flights from other points. Westjet also has flights from these cities as has Porter. Flying into Sydney on Air Canada has one non-stop from Toronto with arrival is at midnight. Westjet has three flights a week to Sydney arriving at 1817 h.

Based upon my research, there are numerous 1 stop flights that fly into Halifax and then on to Sydney. If you are flying from the west coast travel times can be up to 14 hours including the time zone changes. Note that Nova Scotia is one hour ahead of the Eastern Time. If you plan to leave the west coast very early in the morning, you will arrive in Nova Scotia very late at night. You may want to stay at a hotel close to the airport before moving on to Baddeck

Shuttle from Halifax - Four companies operate a shuttle service from Halifax airport to Baddeck. They mostly run one trip a day each leaving the airport at either 1345 or 1800 h. The trip takes about 3 1/2 hours in nonsmoking mini vans which hold 7 to 9 passengers. The cost is about \$60 per person one way. Several of the companies will discuss trips at designated times for a group of passengers.

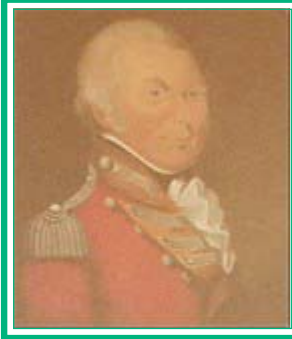
Shuttle from Sydney - There is also a shuttle from Sydney to Baddeck. Currently the cost is \$50 per person but a minimum of \$100 for the trip. Again, it is possible to charter a van for additional cost savings.

I suggest that people traveling by air be aware of the shuttle times and plan their arrivals accordingly. I will be working with John Gillies of Canada to see if we can arrange to have groups arriving on the same plane picked up at more convenient times with perhaps a reduced price. If you are interested in this, advise John

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LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DONALD MACPHERSON

By Mark Macpherson



Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Macpherson, was born in Scotland, presumably in Laggan in 1755. He started his military career when he was twenty years old, being connected with the 71st Highland Light Infantry, the Gordon Highlanders, the 9th, 10th, and 4th Royal Veterans, sailing for Canada with the 10th Royal Veterans and being in command of the 4th Royal Veterans at Kingston, Upper Canada in 1813, where he built earth works and block houses to protect the harbour and town.

Donald Macpherson pursued his soldiering career assiduously and steadily climbed from ensign (Second Lieutenant) to Lieutenant Colonel of the 10th Royal Veterans. Under General Lowther Pennington's command, the company to which Donald was assigned was sent to Quebec in 1807. As a young man he had served in the 71st Regiment, infantry unit, under Major-General Simon Fraser, a regiment that embarked for service in the American Revolution in 1775. Lieutenant Colonel Donald Macpherson was the commander of the garrison at Kingston during the war of 1812-14. During his service he completed work on his home in Kingston, which he called Cluny House.

The first wife of Lieutenant Col. Donald Macpherson was Elspeth Macpherson, She gave birth to one child Allan Macpherson born in the Badenoch District of Scotland at Laggan in 1785. Who according to an extract from the Baptism of the parish of Laggan, Scotland, dated the 11th day of November 1808, and signed by Pat Grant Session Clerk states " Lieut. Donald Macpherson and Elspeth Macpherson, Cluny, had one child baptized Allan the 17th day of January one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five."

After the death of Elspeth, Donald married Anna Shaw and together they had nine additional sons. He died at his home, on the 25th of February 1829 at the age of 74. He was buried with full Military honours after serving 41 years in the army.

Source; Laurie C. C. Stanley biographical sketch on Donald Macpherson with acknowledgements to Professor Alan G. Macpherson and the Honourable George F. G. Stanley.

Material supplied to the Green Banner by Lisa Bird of the Lennox and Addington Historical Society

HIGHLAND GAMES AND FESTIVALS SUMMER 2010

By Bob Archibald

	ALBERTA
Aug 28	High River Highland Games
Sept 4	Calgary Highland Games
Sept 5	Canmore Highland Games
	MANITOBA
Aug 8-14	FOLKARAMA WINNIPEG
	ONTARIO
July 16-17	Cambridge Highland Games
July 16-18	Orillia Scottish Festival
July 30-31	Maxville Highland Games
Aug 6-8	Celtic Roots Festival Goderich
Aug 13-15	Fergus Scottish Festival
Aug 21	Bracebridge Highland Games
Aug 21	North Lanark Highland Games
	Almonte
Aug 28	Gathering of the Bands Kincardine
Sept 10-12	Scottish/Irish Festival Trenton
	QUEBEC
Aug 1	Montreal Highland Games Pierrefonds
Sept 3-5	Quebec Celtic Festival Quebec City
	NEW BRUNSWICK
July 19-20	Moncton Highland Games
July 23-25	New Brunswick Highland Games
	Fredericton
	NOVA SCOTIA
July 17	Halifax Highland Games Dartmouth
Aug 1	Highland Village Day Iona
Aug 5-7	Festival of Tartans New Glasgow
Aug 13-15	The Hector Festival Pictou

NOTE: Events in bold type will have Clan Macpherson Association representation

TRAVEL TIPS TO BADDECK

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of your flight and time of arrival in Halifax or Sydney. We will be your shuttle agents. Members who indicate their intention to attend can advise John they would like to use one of the shuttles, and will be given more information later on as things develop

Rental Cars - No special deals are offered. Depending upon your choice of transportation to the Rally, I recommend you make arrangements with the car agency of your choice.

Driving - Baddeck is reachable by car from Toronto, Ottawa, or Montreal if you allow two days for the trip. There are plenty of accommodations that can suit your needs and budgets. If you have more time for sightseeing you can extend your tour and take the bridge to Prince Edward Island then take the ferry to Nova Scotia after which Baddeck is a short drive. Alternatively you can drive to St John NB take the ferry to Digby NS have some Digby scallops and continue on to Baddeck. The roads in the Maritimes are excellent and you would have the advantage of having your car with you on the trip

For additional information on travel to Baddeck contact John at jcgillies@rogers.com or me at stuart.macpherson@comcast.net