



# THE GREEN BANNER

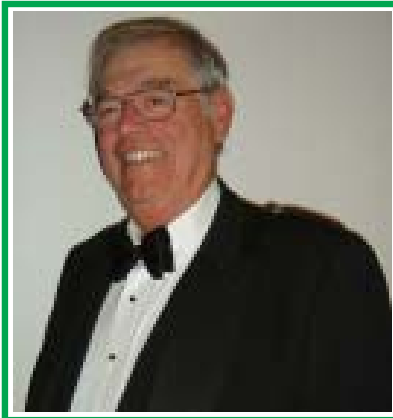
## NEWSLETTER


Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 5 Number 2

July 2011

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



reetings Cousins

Spring is here with both wonderful explosions of greenery and colour and damaging examples of nature at it's worst. It is tragic that among all of the severe floods, there can be such disastrous fires. My thoughts are with those affected by either.

In regards to Clan Macpherson Association activities, it has been a quiet winter. As your Chairman I was able to participate in a CMA Executive meeting via a SKYPE connection. The meeting was held at the Clan museum in Newtonmore. Among the issues addressed were an update on the website which is being improved by the new Webmaster, Bill Macpherson of Scotland. Col. Mark Macpherson of Canada is providing and maintaining the Canadian content. Much progress has been made in regards to the Facebook project under the direction of Mark with professional input from Jacqueline Murdoch

of Toronto.

Best wishes were extended to our Chief, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie on the occasion of his 85th birthday on April 1.

The CMA Constitution is being updated and the Canadian Branch has had considerable input into this project. The Canadian Branch Constitution was reviewed last year and notice of amendments given at our AGM in Cape Breton. This might be delayed until the changes to the CMA Constitution have been approved in order to ensure that our Canadian version is compliant with that of the CMA.

A new Clan Macpherson Association membership pamphlet has been designed and will be used as a handout at highland games or sent to prospective members.

I am aware of a few gatherings of Macphersons in Canada over the winter but we don't do nearly enough to keep in touch with each other. There are a lot of highland games in the summer and there will be a Clan Macpherson presence at many of them thanks to Bob and Marlene Archibald in Ontario and Don Pearson in Alberta. You are encouraged to attend one or more of the games and consider helping host our tent in the future.

Plans for our Canadian Branch AGM in Toronto on September 23-25 are well underway and I encourage you to come and join us there. Details are elsewhere in this edition.

The Clan Rally and Annual General Meeting on the first weekend in August in Scotland have been well planned and preregistration has been heavy. Some of the events are already sold out. Wendy and I will be in Scotland this August for the Rally. If you are planning to go, please let us know and we can arrange for a Canadian get together sometime during the weekend.

Lastly, annual membership renewals were sent out some time ago and the response has been underwhelming. A copy of the renewal form is enclosed with this issue in case your original has been lost.

Yours aye, **John C. Gillies**

### BRANCH SECRETARY WANTED

The position of Secretary is still open.

As most meetings of the Executive are held using Skype, the famous free long distance conferencing system, you can live anywhere in the world and do this job.

If you have a little time and an interest in helping your Branch, please come forward. With the recent re-organization of tasks this job is definitely not onerous.

**Contact John at [jcgillies@rogers.com](mailto:jcgillies@rogers.com) as soon as possible.**

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Tia Hall, Registrar



**G**reetings from sunny Meaford! Last year we had 212 active CMA members, of whom 76 were Annual or Junior members. I am happy to welcome two new annual members; Selena Sliger, and

Gloria O'Donnell. I look forward to meeting both of you at the Branch rally in Toronto this fall

Unfortunately, of last year's 76 Annual and Junior members, there are 33 who have not yet renewed their membership. If you are one of these members, and are interested in continuing your affiliation with the association, please remit your 2011 dues as soon as possible.

If for some reason you are not interested in maintaining your membership, please contact any of the Executive including me. If there is something you feel is lacking in the association's activities which influences your decision please share it with us. We may be able to do something about it, and hopefully regain your membership in the future!

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your Editor wishes to acknowledge the contributions of John Gillies, Tia Hall, Audrey Collins, Ewen MacPherson, Jean Macpherson, Barbara Reyelts, Jacqueline Murdoch, and Bob Archbald in making this issue of the Green Banner possible

## THE GREEN BANNER

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

### Officers:

John C Gillies, Chairman  
William Macpherson, Vice Chairman  
Ken Gillis, Treasurer  
Tia Hall, Registrar

### Executives:

Jacqueline Murdoch, Convenor AGM 2011  
LCol Mark F Macpherson CD, Editor  
June Macpherson, Administrative Advisor  
Jean Whitten

### Provincial Executives:

Maj. Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec  
Rod Smith, Ontario  
Dr. Brian Macpherson, Manitoba  
Donald E Pearson, Alberta  
Robert Sinclair MacPherson, BC

Inquiries and articles may be addressed to Mark Macpherson, email: markmacpherson009@sympatico.ca or by post to PO Box 528 Hemmingford QC, J0L 1H0

## WE REMEMBER

**J**ohn Whitten a long-time member of the Branch passed away on May 29 in Mississauga at the age of 89 years.

John joined the CMA in support of Jean, his soul mate, who is a Macpherson. John was a consistent in his attendance at branch events wherever they were held and always wore a Macpherson kilt. One year he organized in Toronto what was then the Annual Branch Dinner. This event was very successful and led to the annual rallies we hold today. John was very proud of his membership in the Branch and the fact that up to now he was the "oldest" member

He was very generous, even lending his highland day wear jacket to the Chairman who was going from the Canadian Branch Rally to the US Rally and had forgotten this item. John didn't want to see our chairman going to the US looking like a poor cousin!

John's cheerful presence will be sorely missed at our events.

## SAY "HELLO" TO A NEW CLAN MEMBER



**N**atalie Aileen Hall was born at 3:00pm on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 in Collingwood, ON. She weighed in at 9lbs, 9oz, and measured 21.5 inches. Proud parents are Tia (Branch Registrar) and Kevin Hall of Meaford, ON. Natalie is the new granddaughter

of John (Branch Chair) and Wendy Gillies of Collingwood, ON. Tia and Kevin look forward to the Rally, where Natalie will be able to meet her CMA extended family.

## ONCE AGAIN - EMAIL ADDRESSES

**I**f you are receiving the green Banner by post and do have an email address we would appreciate it very much if you would share it with us for our records.

Contact Tia at [tiahall75@gmail.com](mailto:tiahall75@gmail.com)

In these modern times email is fast becoming the system of choice. For the Branch, we save on postage costs and can use the money for other services to our members. For you the member, you receive the Green Banner in colour as soon as it is published.



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## CMA CHAIR UPDATE FROM SCOTLAND

*Extracted from the April Update by Shelagh Macpherson Noble, CMA Chair*



The last time I wrote an update I talked about the floods, cyclones and bush fires in Australia and the earthquake in New Zealand. Now it seems to be the turn of the USA and Canada and our thoughts go out to our cousins who are dealing with wild fires in California, Texas and Alberta. It seems that nature is in turmoil, or is it, as my sister in Orkney seems to think, that my travels, past, present and future, tend to put the world in a spin!! Over the last few years I seem to have put a 'jinx' on the countries we have visited (or planned to visit) and Mother Nature has wreaked havoc, starting with the tsunami in Thailand, fire and flood in Australia, earthquake in New Zealand, fires in the US and Canada, and last week when Alastair and I were in Spain, they had an earthquake.

Unfortunately perhaps for my sister, we are spending a week with her in Orkney in June!

In all the chaos it is heartening to know that the Clan Macpherson Association and Museum are in very good health and I am delighted to report that two of our main projects; Facebook and the CMA Website are being managed excellently by Mark Macpherson in Canada and Bill Macpherson in Scotland. Real progress is being made on both projects and my thanks go to Mark and Bill, along with their respective teams who are busy working behind the scenes.

The CMA Executive and Museum meetings were held at the end of March and we were delighted that John L Macpherson, Australian Chairman and John Gillies, Canadian Chairman were able to join the Executive meeting via Skype. This was the second time we had used Skype and it was very successful. It allows overseas chairmen to participate in the meeting and I value the contribution they make. The only down-side to this is the time difference around the world and it is not everybody who is willing to stay up until the 'wee sma' hours' to participate.

Plans for the Gathering in Badenoch are well in hand, thanks to John & Iris Macpherson, Montrose. For the first time, Ball & Ceilidh bookings have had to be stopped before the closing date of 30th June. Both events are over-subscribed; however John has started a waiting list and if any cancellations come through, the returned tickets will be re-distributed to those on the list. The Gathering is always a popular event, but unfortunately our numbers are restricted by the limitations of the hotel, the only one of its size in the Badenoch area.

If I don't cause any earthquakes, fires or floods in Orkney, I look forward to seeing many of you at the Gathering.

Best wishes, **Shelagh**

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## BARBARA MACPHERSON-REYELTS



Barbara Macpherson Reyelts, a long-time member of CMA, was born in Prince Albert SK and was educated at the University of Saskatchewan. She is the daughter of Jean Macpherson, former Branch Provincial Executive for Saskatchewan, and sister of Pipe Major Hugh Macpherson CD, Clan Piper. Barbara lives in Duluth MN with her husband of 40 years - Steve. She works as an executive and journalist in broadcasting and Barbara has received many awards for excellence in her field,

Barbara is well known in Duluth for her many activities in support of Scottish events there. Barbara started at age 10 as a Highland dancer, studying the art in Saskatoon and continuing on in the summers in Nova Scotia under James L MacKenzie. She started teaching highland dancing in Prince Albert when she was 12 years old. She has continued to be a successful dance teacher in Duluth with many of her students winning awards.

In addition to highland dancing, Barbara is in demand as a tenor drummer in pipe bands in Minnesota and has won several awards in solo competitions. She also teaches drumming in Duluth.

In 2010 Barbara was honored with the Minnesota Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minnesota Tartan Day Cooperative for her efforts to keep Scottish culture flourishing through her years of service as a Highland Dancer, a Highland Dance teacher, and a participant in Bagpipe bands.

In 2011 Barbara was voted in as the newest member of the Minnesota Museum of Broadcasting Hall of Fame. The Branch is indeed proud to have Barbara as one of its illustrious and very talented members.

## EWEN - A POET FOR CMA



Father Ewan MacPherson, a long-serving life member, is an accomplished poet. This year he wrote a trilogy on the topic of Culloden, the first poem of which appears below:

### CULLODEN 1

When our men fought and fell on that bleak moor,  
In sight of Moray Firth and Inverness,  
The osprey flew; caught fish and fed her young.  
The salmon swam the Ness and rowan trees,  
Their berries red as blood, swayed in the wind.  
The corncrakes, wide with fear, to burrow ran;  
And high above, in larches, squirrels hid.  
Pine martins, hardly seen, took quivered flight,  
As if they understood the evil thing,  
Which scarred a land that was so beautiful.  
Across the glens, the dreadful senseless war  
Destroyed a way of life the landscape made.  
A thousand sculptured years; we shaped the land  
And in this shaping, so the land shaped us,  
'Till herds and crops and songs and verse and love  
All came together and the land a womb  
In which we all began our earthly life;  
And then the senseless slaughter killed the land;  
And we, our women, children lived no more.  
Only the ghosts, and screaming in the wind  
Waiting the prayers to all the Saints and Christ,  
Who was himself in horror crucified.  
Only his love could heal the ruined earth.  
The eagles fly above Culloden Moor.  
They have no sin, and yet they understand.  
They see a future with our life restored  
And we, the pilgrims, gathered round our Lord.

Now a little about our poet: Father Ewan was born in 1943 and grew up in Tiverton, Devon U.K. He graduated from the University of Toronto with degrees in English Literature, BA Hons; University College and Divinity, M. Div.; Wycliffe College. He was ordained an Anglican priest in 1979 at St. James Cathedral, Toronto. While at university he won the Norma Epstein prize for Literature (Poetry). In 2000 his book of poems, The Bridge of Moonlight was published with the preface written by Cluny. In 2009, Ewan was chosen Poet of the Year by the Fellowship of Christian Poets (USA).

In retirement after a stroke, Ewan now resides in Wells, Somerset UK with his wife Po Wo and they worship at Wells Cathedral. Ewan celebrates the weekday Holy Eucharist at St. Patrick's Chapel, Glastonbury Abbey and writes the 'Christian Comment' in the Wells Journal. Each year he is called upon to give recitations of poetry at the Annual Poets and Pints Evening in Westbury-sub-Mendip, his former parish.

## TRAVELS IN SCOTLAND



Audrey Macpherson Collins of Guelph ON, a loyal life member, sent us this news of her daughter Heather's (also a life member) travels in Scotland this spring in company with

grand-daughter Erika:

"Above is a photo of my grand-daughter Erika Emerson and my daughter Heather Macpherson Emerson taken in the Isle of Skye. They were on their way to visit the Macpherson museum in Newtonmore, where Heather's Grandfather's shield, Maj. Hume Macpherson, is hanging on the heraldry wall. He was the North American Chairman of the CMA in the sixties, so this made it a very special visit to our clan museum for my family.

They did a lot of hiking in Macpherson country and loved seeing the sheep, rugged hills, and the highland cattle. Only thing missing was the heather, which was just starting to bloom, but otherwise found the scenery absolutely fascinating! "

Your Editor thanks Audrey for this news.

## HIGHLAND GAMES SUMMER 2011

Bob Archibald our "unofficial" games expert promises to have Branch presences at Fergus and Maxville and maybe Montreal this summer. Don Pearson, Alberta Executive, is looking at Branch participation in Alberta. Both of these members look forward to seeing as many members as possible at these games. Help with staffing our tent is always welcome. If you are available on the dates of these games please contact Bob or Don. Also, if you attend don't forget your camera and photos for the Green Banner!

If you would like to scan for information on highland games in Canada visit [http://web.ripnet.com/~nimmos/highland\\_games.html](http://web.ripnet.com/~nimmos/highland_games.html) to see what is going on in your area. Each games location also has a website. Here are the games for July through September:

July 3 - 10	Antigonish NS
July 9	Kamloops BC
July 22- 24	Fredericton NB
July 15 - 16	Cambridge ON
<b>July 28 - 30</b>	<b>Maxville ON</b>
July 30 - 31	Pierrefonds QC
July 31 - Aug 6	Winnipeg MB
<b>Aug 12 - 14</b>	<b>Fergus ON</b>
Sep 4	Calgary AB
Sep 5	Canmore AB

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# COATS OF ARMS, BADGES, CRESTS, AND CMA

by Mark Macpherson

This is a short trip through the garden of Clan and CMA heraldry. I cannot possibly cover this extensive subject in the short space we have in the Green Banner. However there are some interesting points that may help us to differentiate the various terms such as crest, logo, and coat of arms that we hear from time to time and may even misuse as well. On the heraldry wall at the Clan Museum in Newtonmore for example, we find the shields of the armigers of Clan Macpherson. The shields are not the complete arms but are the principal element as we will discover.

## The Arms of the Chief of Clan Macpherson



Without going into the blazon (heraldic description) or symbolism (explanations of the charges on the arms) the arms of the Chief of Clan Macpherson are registered by the Court of Lord Lyon (Scottish Heraldic Authority) as the grant of personal arms to the current Chief, Sir William of Cluny. In the heraldic

tradition, these arms will eventually be inherited by his son Jamie and then his grandson and so on through the direct line. These arms include the following principal elements; the motto, the crest, the shield and the supporters – in this case the two clansmen holding the shield.

The word “crest” has come to be used to connote badges, shields, and the complete coat of arms. In the broad public context it has also come to describe emblems of various kinds not related to heraldry like those on sports jerseys. In heraldry, the term is unambiguous and refers to the device sitting on the helm which in turn appears above the shield in the heraldic design. In this context crest simply means “top of “ and relates to its position on the coat of arms. In Scottish tradition the motto appears above the crest.

## Clansman’s Crest Badge



The crest from the arms of the Chief appears in the clansman’s crest badge surrounded by a strap with a buckle on which his motto is inscribed. By tradition all clansmen may use this badge on their bonnets or sporrans.

Armigerous clansmen may have a different crest badge based on the crest in their personal grant of arms

## The Arms of the CMA



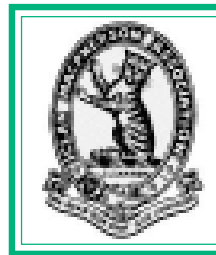
In 1995, the Lord Lyon (the Chief Herald of Scotland) granted to the CMA a coat of arms, which although it is based on those of our Chief is different in many respects.

In Heraldic tradition as no two sets of armorial bearings can be identical, all Macpherson arms which are based on those of the Chief are “differenced” by the use

of variations of one or more of; charges on the shield, variations in the crest, or the use of different mottos. Interestingly, in heraldry mottos do not have to be unique but most armigers adopt different mottos than the Chief, often answering mottos containing a portion of the Chief’s motto.

The complete “achievement” of the Association arms, as pictured above, is appropriately used to denote the CMA on such things as certificates, the CMA website and newsletters.

## Badge of CMA



The badge of the CMA designed in 1947, predates the grant of arms to CMA and presents a design differenced from the clansman’s crest badge. Interestingly the design is based on the Lyon Court matriculation of “old Cluny’s” wildcat in 1873. It is presently employed in the design of items such as the

CMA “pin” available for the use of members and on letterhead by some branches. The crest in the Arms of CMA is based on this wildcat

## Logo of the CMA



A logo is a generally a commercial device to denote the organization and may be registered as a trademark but is not synonymous with the heraldically registered coats of arms and badges of the CMA.

The present copyright logo in use by CMA contains the arms of CMA surrounded by the association name. This found principally on letterhead used within CMA and its branches although some branches still use the older badge of CMA for this purpose.

*The author wishes to thank R. Gordon Macpherson and Bill Macpherson of Glenfarg for their assistance in preparing this article*

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## COMING EVENTS

Jacqueline Murdoch, our Convener AGM 2011, sends this news of events planned this summer and fall including advance information on the Rally and AGM:

### Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games August 12 - 14



*Jacqueline and others  
shucking corn for lunch at  
Fergus Games 2010*

Clan MacPherson Association is happy to invite all members to join us at the 2nd Annual Macpherson Day at Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games

Bring family and friends to celebrate a day of fun, or stay at a local B&B and make it a mini-break for the family. Bob & Marlene Archibald have once again kindly rented a campsite for us to use

throughout the weekend and are setting up the Clan tent

Join us on Saturday August 13 from 9 AM to 8 PM for a fabulous get together with old friends and new, participate in the Clan March and attend various activities throughout the day! Bring your favourite salad or dessert and contribute to our pot luck lunch.

See you there!

### 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rally September 23 - 25



*Elegant lobby at the King  
Edward Hotel Toronto*

Join us this September 23 to 25th in Toronto, Ontario at the Le Meridien King Edward Hotel, a fabulous hotel located in the heart of downtown Toronto, right near Union station.

Bring your family and join us for a weekend of fun, friends, family and entertainment. We'll have live entertainment after dinner this year, so don't delay booking your room at the hotel to obtain the special rate which ends on August 23:

Le Meridien King Edward Hotel  
37 King Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1E9  
416-863-4700  
contactus.toronto@lemeridien.com  
Reference: Macpherson Gathering

A registration form for the rally is enclosed with the distribution of this issue. An early response is most appreciated to assist us with organizing this important annual event.



### 62<sup>nd</sup> Rally PROGRAM TORONTO September 23 - 25

#### Friday

6:00 PM Meet & Greet  
At the Hotel bar.

#### Saturday

9:00 AM Executive Meeting  
Chelsea Room

10:00 AM Branch Annual General Meeting  
Chelsea Room

12:00 PM Cocktails  
Hosted by Cluny and John Gillies

1:00 PM Afternoon - Free time  
optional organized activities.

6:00 PM Pre-Dinner Reception (Cash Bar),  
Windsor Foyer

7:00 PM Dinner/Dance  
Windsor Ballroom  
Highland Evening Dress / Black Tie  
Live music by Charles Lemon

#### Sunday

10:30 AM Church Service  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
73 Simcoe Street (at King Street)

12:00 PM Brunch (at own expense)  
At a location to be determined