



# THE GREEN BANNER

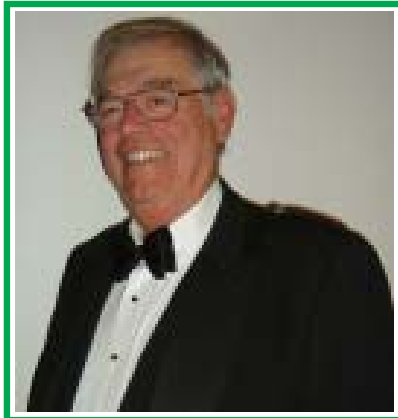
## NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 5 Number 1

March 2011

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Variable, is the description of weather in central Canada this winter. We have experienced record high temperatures with rain and some flooding along with bone chilling cold, blizzards and whiteouts. Fortunately this has not had the severe negative impact of the disastrous weather in Australia and the UK.

To some extent, the weather is a symbol of the volatility of activity in our Clan Macpherson Association. We get all geared up for trips to Badenoch in the summer, highland games in various parts of Canada and our Annual General Meeting in the fall. We then seem to go into hibernation for the winter and start the cycle over in the spring.

Fortunately, we are blessed with some dedicated volunteers who remain active while the rest of us are somewhat somnambulant. Mark and June of course keep busy keeping us informed through the Green Banner and the soon to be updated web site. As well, Mark and Jacqueline are working hard on the facebook project for international use. Jacqueline also is doing the groundwork for next year's AGM and has negotiated an excellent contract with the King Edward Hotel for our September 23-25th meeting. Our new Registrar, Tia, has been busy with membership renewals and distribution of the Creag Dhubh. Bob and Marlene, have already booked space for the Fergus Highland Games and some others and will look forward to having many of us join them.

One of the items that will be on the agenda for our AGM is amendments to the Constitution. These relate to some housekeeping issues such as punctuation, spelling etc. as well as to making provision for the new office of Registrar. Details will be sent in advance of the AGM for your review and comment.

The success in any voluntary organization is totally related to the degree in which members maintain an active involvement. The corollary to this is that the enjoyment that one derives from membership in an organization is directly proportionate to the active participation one has in it.

The members of your Executive have been looking for ways that will allow more members to participate in more Clan related events and activities. We realize that the best way for this to happen is for members to think of the things that they like doing, and then invite other members to join them. Our new web site and facebook adventures should allow members to post such invitations and I encourage you all to think of things such as pub nights, dinners out, celebration of St. Andrew, Burns etc. that you would enjoy doing with your 'cousins'. If we are lucky, Wendy and I might get invited to join you in some of them.

Please keep in mind that new members are always welcome and it would be appreciated if you would encourage any Macphersons or related family connections to obtain membership and get involved. Applications are available through the CMA web site which can be reached at [www.clan-macpherson.org](http://www.clan-macpherson.org) on the Canadian Branch Join CMA page

Your thoughts, comments, suggestions or questions are always welcome and I would be glad to hear from you.

Yours aye,  
John C. Gillies,  
[jcgillies@rogers.com](mailto:jcgillies@rogers.com), 705-446-0280

## LIFE MEMBER FUND DONATION RECEIVED.



Our Registrar, Tia Hall reports that a further donation has been received for the Life Member Fund. Members were advised last year that the provision of services such as the publication and mailing of Creag Dhubh, the Green Banner etc. are subsidized heavily by CMA general revenues. Life Members pay one fee and incur no further fees for dues in their lifetime. In earlier times the fee for this membership category was relatively low and many of us have benefited by this for many years. Most of the fee for this membership category is sent to the CMA in the UK and a small balance is invested in our Life Member Fund, the earnings of which are used to pay for services to these members. Due to low interest rates in recent years this fund is woefully inadequate so donations to the fund are most welcome. It is our practice not to publish the names and amounts of individual contributions but the Chairman is advised of the generous actions of any individual.

## 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

We have just been informed of the passing of Hugh R. McPherson of Seaforth, Ontario. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Bernice, and his family.

## BOOK REVIEW

### THE BARD OF WOLFE'S ARMY

James Thompson, Gentleman Volunteer

1733-1830

*Reviewed by June Macpherson*



A book launch for *A Bard of Wolfe's Army* was held at the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders in Montreal. The editors of the book, Earl John Champman and LCol Ian Macpherson McCulloch CD, were present to sign copies. Many will remember Ian from our Joint Rally in 2005 at Albany. Ian delighted us with many historical anecdotes while on the bus to Fort Ticonderoga.

The history of this fascinating Highlander is well researched. James Thompson kept journals throughout his life. As he was in the ranks and very literate, unusual for that time, he presents a view of life which is not often available. Ordinarily only the officers were educated and kept details of their lives. From the capture of Louisbourg to the Battle of the Plains of Abraham and the Battle of Sillery the next year it is possible to enter into these events in a way that one cannot from a history text book. John Thompson lived and worked in Quebec City until he died at age 93. His was a rich and interesting life and the book is well worth the read!

Paperback • 978-1-896941-62-2 • Canada \$34.95  
Signed hardcover limited edition • 978-1-896941-63-9 • Canada \$59.95

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The position of Secretary of the Canadian Branch is still vacant and we are seeking a person willing to work for short hours and even shorter pay. The basic task is to take and record the minutes of meetings of the Executive and the Association Annual General Meeting. Executive meetings are generally by email or SKYPE so no travel is involved. Any member willing to volunteer for this position should contact the Chairman

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## CMA CHAIR UPDATE FROM SCOTLAND



I should be writing this update from New Zealand where Alastair and I intended to spend seven weeks, visiting and meeting with Macphersons; however due to severe family illness, our trip had to be cancelled and I write this from a cold and windy Scotland. I am

most grateful to Lesley Gray, South Island and Reynold Macpherson, North Island in New Zealand who did a huge amount of organization for our intended visit. We hope to re-instate our plans for this time next year.

I am sure you will join me in sending our best wishes to our cousins in New Zealand who have suffered greatly due to the recent earthquake. I have been in touch with Tim (NZ branch chairman) and Lesley (NZ branch secretary) and the news is, as far as they are aware, none of our members have been injured. Communication is difficult and many people have lost their homes and businesses.

Our Australian cousins have also suffered over the last few months and I am grateful to John L, (Australian branch chairman) for keeping in touch with our members and checking they are all safe. Some have experienced floods and cyclones and others bush fires. Some of the reports coming from CMA members have been quite horrific with the added dangers of venomous snakes and crocodiles swimming in the main streets.

I received the 2011 Creag Dhubh and everyone should have their copies shortly. Once again we have an excellent journal and our appreciation goes to retiring editor George (the George who lives in France) for the wonderful job he has done over many years. His successor, Jan Macpherson, Glenfarg has already taken over the reins and has been in contact with the editorial team. I wish her well in her new position.

I am pleased to say that our new information leaflet has been collected from the printers and the costs were covered by the funds raised by our whisky project last year.

As a follow-on from our Highland Tiger project to raise awareness that the Scottish Wildcat is now classed as an endangered species, Norma Bierens, Wichita, has put forward an idea to create a Clan Macpherson Cookbook that would raise funds for the initiative. This will be discussed at the next Executive meeting and my thanks go to Norma for her great idea.

Bill Macpherson, Glenfarg is making very good progress as web master. He has been working hard all winter and the web design ideas are progressing. The MEM is now fully incorporated into the CMA Web site with over 1000 separate pages, "Glimpses" Part II to

Part IX have been converted to PDF and are on the Web site, Alan G's papers have been converted to PDF and are also on the site. Thank you to Alan for the effort in checking the converted data. The US Calendar for 2011 is on the site and on-line booking for the 2011 Gathering is now open (full details are also in Creag Dhubh).

The Facebook project is progressing and team leader Mark Macpherson, Canada recently asked the Council to provide guidance for the Facebook Project Committee to enable the preparation of a requirement specification for the Facebook page.

We hope to have a good attendance from all our branches at the Gathering in Badenoch in August and bookings are being received daily. If you intend coming, the Duke of Gordon Hotel, Kingussie is offering B&B for Macphersons at £40 per person, per night if you book before the end of May. Although the hotel's website states the hotel is fully booked for the period of the Gathering, there are still 25 rooms available for Macphersons.

And finally . . . are any CMA members going to be involved with the 2012 Olympics? I know of one who is hoping to take part in the Archery competition. Frank Maguire, a Scottish Branch member, has just won the Scottish Championship for the compound bow (his discipline). He is going to be assessed for the Olympic squad and I wish him every success in the selection process.

Shelagh Macpherson-Noble  
Chairman CMA

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## COMING EVENTS

### Tartan Day Meet and Greet - April 9th.

In honour of Tartan Day, we will be hosting another pub event in Toronto on Saturday, April 9th. Tartan Day is a celebration of Scottish heritage. Look for an email announcing details soon. We hope to see you wearing your tartans!

### Clan Macpherson Rally in Scotland – August 5 to 8

If you have been putting off a trip to the Rally in Scotland now is the time to make your plans for this year. As well as the fascinating time you will have at all the events and the opportunity to meet people from all over the world, you might take advantage of your trip to take a tour of the Highlands or a cruise off the Scottish coast. Mark and I took a tour of northern Scotland last year. At my insistence we turned in our rental car and let the tour people do the driving; thus giving us both the advantage of seeing the wonderful scenery as well as having the tour guide take care of tickets, hotels, baggage, etc.

## E. RODERICK SMITH ARMIGER

Rod Smith, Provincial Executive for Ontario, was granted armorial bearings on September 15 2010 through the Canadian Heraldic Authority. Gordon Macpherson developed with Rod the design and display of armorial achievements and acted as heraldic consultant and artist.

Each Coat of Arms is unique to each armiger and denotes him or her in the heraldic sense. The use of unique coats of arms started in the eleventh century when knights needed to identify themselves and their retainers on the battlefield. The arms were displayed principally on their shields and surcoats protecting their armour from the weather. Hence the origin of the term "coat of arms". Today the grant of arms is an honour within the Canadian honours system.



As with most Macpherson coats of arms, Rod takes his inspiration from the arms of our Chief and applies his unique differences relating to his personal achievements which are displayed symbolically in the artwork. The official version of this symbolism was provided to us by Gordon who executed the arms for Rod:

The lymphad or galley is taken from the Cluny Arms and the castle signifies descent from the Macleods through the maternal line. It also recognizes the armiger's career in engineering and building restoration. The Anvil a blacksmith's tool, refers to his surname.

The wildcat Crest, a common symbol of the Clan Macpherson, is seated upon a mural coronet, representing the armiger's membership as a Guardian of the Clan Macpherson. The mural coronet is charged with a red Trillium to indicate the family's long residence in Ontario as well as representing Mr. Smith's service to the Scouting movement. The wildcat is holding a Torch to honour the educational accomplishments of the armiger and the other members of his family.

The motto is an answering motto to that of the Chief's "Touch not the cat but a glove", one of the finest features of Scots Heraldry.

Rod can be proud of this addition to his family history granted by the Governor General of Canada under authority of the Queen and found in the Public Register Vol. 5, p. 555. Our congratulations are due to Rod and also to Gordon for another excellent piece of heraldic art.

## ALEXANDRIA VIRGINIA. SCOTTISH WALK.

By David McPherson

Our family tradition, for the last three years, on the first weekend in December is participating in this walk. The walk is approximately 3 km distance through historic old cobbled streets in downtown Alexandria. The children pass out candy canes and have adopted the royal wave. Yes, Santa wears a kilt and about 15,000 people participate in the walk.

An audience of some 30,000 view multiple pipe bands, various re-enactment groups, and the marchers. It seems



David, son Davy, Lynn, daughter-in-law Margaret, and in front, grandchildren Evan and Molly at the Walk

Clan Macpherson always gets placed about 170th position- Usually just back of the Scottie and Westie dog associations. Perhaps a few more participants would move us up.

This is the finale of The Campagna centre's Scottish Walk Weekend event. The Campagna center is an Alexandria based charitable

organization, founded in 1945. The center serves more than 1,700 Alexandria children and families, with head start, extended day childcare, pre-school programs, and family literacy programs.

After the walk, usually chilled, our family adjourn to a dinner with other Macpherson marchers at the old fish market, this year organized by Xerxes Harrington of the US Branch, who with his large bristling moustache and after the Cape Breton gathering, needed no introduction. The remainder of the afternoon is traditionally spent in local pubs and we have made some great friends among the American Macphersons.

## COMING EVENTS

### US Branch Rally - September 16 - 18

After meeting so many Americans at our Joint Rally in Nova Scotia you should consider attending the rally in Wichita, Kansas. It will be a pleasure for all to renew friendships which were made at Baddeck. Although it is not a joint rally we know any members of the Canadian Branch who are able to attend will be welcome and will have a terrific time.

### Canadian 62nd Annual Rally and AGM - September 23-25

This year our Rally and AGM will be held in Toronto! Mark down the dates in your calendars and prepare for grand activities at le Meridien King Edward Hotel in the heart of downtown Toronto. Check your in-boxes, mailboxes and [www.clan-macpherosn.org](http://www.clan-macpherosn.org) in the next couple of weeks for all of the details. We're excited to offer a wide range of activities to suit all of our members interests, from the very young right up to our most senior members. Look for details soon!