



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol 5 Number 4

November 2011

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

It is with pleasure that we welcome Thomas and Brenda MacPherson of Newmarket ON. to the Association and hope to see them at CMA events in the future:

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Thanksgiving has come and gone and Christmas approaches. We enjoyed unbelievable weather at the cottage as we enjoyed Thanksgiving with most of our family. We are really looking forward to Christmas, as all three of our children, their spouses and our two granddaughters will be with us. It is the first time that we will be all together for several years.

Family thoughts lead to Clan and Association thoughts. Wendy and I very much enjoyed our Canadian Branch Gathering in Toronto in September. It felt very much like a family gathering and it was really nice to get together with friends that we had not seen for some time. We missed others who could not be there but whom we expect were there in spirit.

As I get older I gain an appreciation for family, both my immediate family and our extended connection through the clan. People are incredibly busy making a living and most families are spread out at considerable distances due to the nature of employment today.

Our modern communication devices such as emails, SKYPE, Facebook, Twitter etc. certainly help keep us in touch with each other and this is wonderful. However, none of these wonderful devices can replace the joy of holding a loved one in one's arms – especially if one is a new grandparent.

The annual gatherings of our Clan Association, both here in Canada and in Scotland are wonderful ways of keeping in contact with members of our extended families and even though we are not related by blood in most cases, we have many other reasons to think of ourselves as members of a family.

I envy our British cousins in the England and Wales Branch and in the Scotland Branch who have a number of events during the year in which many members get together. While distance in Canada precludes a lot of national events, there have been smaller gatherings initiated by members in the Toronto area that have been a lot of fun. I commend this initiative to members in other parts of Canada and I will be helping the Provincial Councillors to organize events in various regions this year.

I hope all members will find the time and opportunity to spend some quality time with other members of our extended family.

Yours aye, John C. Gillies

ALBERTA REPORT

In September 3 and September 4, Don Pearson, our Provincial Councillor for Alberta and his wife Linda set up at the **Calgary** and **Canmore** Games respectively, for a first time appearance for Clan Macpherson. Don reports that there was considerable interest in the CMA by Macpherson visitors at both of these games and he is hoping to see some new members in Alberta.



Don and Linda Pearson at the Canmore games in September

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Chantal McPherson
- Robert W Archibald
- Book Review—Behind Enemy Lines
- Follow the Yellow Brick Road
- Association Chairman's Letter
- Heraldry in the US Branch
- Canadian Branch Rally 2011
- My Connection with Robbie Burns
- Bruce Gillis
- Your Council 2011-2012

CHANTAL McPHERSON



Chantal, our new Registrar, joined the CMA this year after visiting our display at the Georgetown Games. She was born and raised in Montreal where her father was an airplane pilot and aircraft engineer. Chantal attended two St Andrew's Balls during her time in Montreal and is no stranger to things Scottish. She is proud of her Macpherson connections which go back to Scotland through her grandparents and great grandparents. On her maternal side she has Campbell antecedents with a great grandmother who was a Gil-

lies.

Chantal worked in the fashion industry in Montreal from 1976 to 1993 as a sale representative, a model for the Audrey Morris Agency, and later as a booking agent for Match Models. Chantal and her husband Oh Jang Yoon, a Grand Master 9th Dan World Taekwondo Federation have been married for 25 years. Their daughter Ellie, is attending Queen's University Kingston and is expected to graduate next year. Chantal holds the 2nd Dan, World Taekwondo Federation and now enjoys the game of golf.

In 1993, their family business, Montreal Dobuk & Sport Supplies Inc. / Daedo Canada, moved to its present location in Mississauga, Ontario. The company specializes in distributing martial arts equipment & supplies. This successful family enterprise continues today.

THE GREEN BANNER

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

RGM Macpherson CM, KStJ, Honorary Chairman

Officers:

John C Gillies, Chairman

William Macpherson, Vice Chairman

Ken Gillis, Honorary Treasurer

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Chantal McPherson, Registrar

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Jean Whitten

Lois Urquhart-Musselman

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Major Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec

Rod Smith, Ontario

Brian D Macpherson PhD, Manitoba

Donald Pearson, Alberta

Ian Gillies, British Columbia

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ROBERT W ARCHIBALD



Bob Archibald (Brantford), our recently elected Honorary Secretary, joined the CMA in 2003 and is a life member. He is a native of Whitby, Ontario where his father was Principal of the high school. Bob graduated from Queen's University in 1956 in Civil Engineering. While

supervising construction work at the Alexander Graham Bell Museum in Baddeck for National Parks of Canada in 1958-59, the sudden death of the Museum Curator forced him into double duty as Acting Curator. The visit to Baddeck for the 2010 rally last fall was a trip down memory lane, 51 years later.

After graduate studies in business and earning his Doctorate at the University of Western Ontario, Bob joined the faculty of the University of Guelph where he taught for several years. He then spent two years in Tanzania with the Canadian International Development Agency, returning to Canada in 1981 as Professor of Business Administration at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. He retired in 2000 and moved to Brantford, Ontario.

Along with Sondra, his buddy for 54 years, he has done considerable traveling including China, Russia, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Egypt, South America, Antarctica, Ireland, various other Western Europe destinations and, of course, to Scotland—four times in the past 11 years, including the rallies in Badenoch in 2009 and 2011. Bob's ancestral connections account for his interest in Scotland, from whence many of his great-great- and great-grandparents emigrated early in the 19th century. Bob has two daughters, a son, and six grandchildren so we may see more Archibalds in the CMA in due course.

Bob is active in his community, serving as a volunteer at the local hospital, on the executive of the Probus Club, the Grand Valley Group of Engineers and is currently on the Board of Directors of Enterprise Brant, a Community Futures Development Corporation.

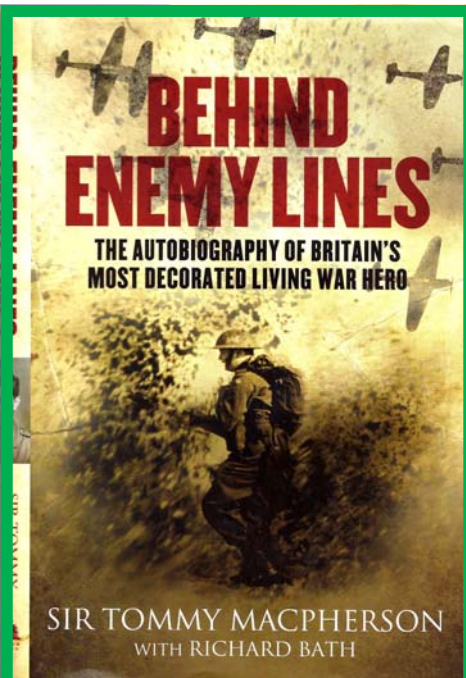
ANNUAL DUES

As this is the last issue of the Green Banner before year end, it is time to think about your annual member dues for the coming year starting January 1, 2012. Let's see if we can have all the dues in the Branch bank account by January. A mere \$30 gets you the Creag Dhubb, the best Clan journal going, and four issues of the Green Banner, the branch newsletter, as a minimum. Please send your cheque along with the renewal form enclosed with this issue to the address indicated on the form. We regret that at this time we do not have credit card facilities.

If there is some reason why you do not intend to continue your membership in the Association, we would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible on what we could have done better. In this case contact John Gillies at jcgillies@rogers.com

BOOK REVIEW – BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Reviewed by Mark F Macpherson



Athlete, soldier, businessman, Tommy Macpherson excelled at them all. In spite of suffering from a crippling childhood disease, taking inspiration from his older brothers Tommy became a first rate player in many sports leading to being a contender for the 1948 Olympic team as a miler. The last of seven children and as he suspected, an afterthought, Tommy was dispatched to boarding school where he was a

good student showing early leadership in sports and in the school Officers Training Program. This led to his commission in the Cameron Highlanders at the outbreak of World War II.

When he had an opportunity to join the Scottish unit of the Commandos, an elite special service force, he went with enthusiasm seeing his first action against the Vichy French in North Africa. He was taken prisoner and eventually escaped returning to service when he volunteered to serve with the Jedburgh units. These were specially formed to work behind the German lines in Normandy to encourage the French Resistance to interdict German logistics and slow re-enforcements to the Normandy beachhead. This he accomplished with élan ending up with three Military Crosses, three Croix de Guerres from France, and other recognition of his military accomplishments.

After the war he entered Oxford where he studied politics, philosophy, and economics, selected so studies wouldn't interfere with his athletic activities. On graduation he eventually joined the firm of William Mallinson, a significant wood and timber processor. He rose to become Managing Director of the firm and expanded its business worldwide through acquisitions and adopting diverse products. On leaving this company, he moved into the world of finance and served on several boards. He was elected President of the European Chamber of Commerce where he made significant contributions. Through his military connections he became adviser to several defence ministers in the UK. He was recognized for this service with a knighthood becoming Sir Thomas Macpherson of Balivil.

The book is a good read. In keeping with his reticence to discuss his wartime experiences, like many combat veterans, Tommy leaves the reader feeling there is more to this story that could be told. Tommy is much more proud of his athletic accomplishments than anything else. Although the title is Behind Enemy Lines, it is really the story of a remarkable life with an extremely gripping military interlude.

Behind Enemy Lines by Sir Tommy Macpherson with Richard Bath, published by Mainstream Publishing. Available on-line from Amazon.com.

FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

By June Macpherson

And that is just what Mark and I did. We followed the Yellow Brick Road all the way to Kansas where our American cousins were holding their annual rally in Wichita. The theme of the rally was the film *The Wizard of Oz*.



Canadian Branch welcomed at the US Rally. L to r. Bill Macpherson, Irene Macpherson, Ken Croker, Chair US Branch, Carolyn Croker, June Macpherson, Mark Macpherson

At the ceilidh on Friday evening a contest was held to see who was wearing Dorothy's ruby red slippers. Another contest presided over by blind-folded judges awarded prizes to the gentleman with the boniest knees and the one with the bonniest knees. Needless to say there was much hilarity occasioned by this latter event. A wonderful Celtic band, a sing-song and dancing completed an evening of fun.

Several activities were planned for Saturday afternoon and the dinner dance took place in the evening. Table assignments were according to whether your ticket showed a cowardly lion, a tin man, the scarecrow, Toto, or the wizard. The head table was piped in by a very young piper, 11



The winning ruby slippers worn by Shelagh



Misha Murdoch after taking his dram

year old Misha Murdoch. He did a marvellous job, but after the Ode to the Haggis, when presented with the traditional dram of whiskey (much watered), he tossed it down with great élan only to present a face of great amazement and chagrin to the audience.

Attending the rally from Canada were the Vice-Chairman, Bill Macpherson, and his wife Irene. Although we all missed Cluny we were delighted that the Association's Chairman Shelagh

Macpherson-Noble and husband, Alastair, were able to join in the festivities.

ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

By Shelagh Macpherson-Noble



Alastair and I had the pleasure of attending the US and Canadian Branch Gatherings this September and due to the generous hospitality of Jack Raines, US Branch Vice Chairman and John Gillies, Canadian Branch Chairman, we were able to extend our time in both countries.

After a successful US Gathering in Wichita, Kansas, we flew to Toronto a few days ahead of the Canadian Branch event. Mary Margaret Gillies kindly offered to show Alastair and me around Toronto, so along with Linda & Don Pearson from Calgary, she took us on an informative tour and we visited places we would not have found had we been on our own. In addition, Dana & Ron Fitton entertained us to dinner at their home.

We thoroughly enjoyed our time meeting with old friends and new and I would like to send a special thank you to Jacqueline Murdoch, who made all the arrangements for the weekend.

On Friday evening, we joined about 20 members for dinner at Medieval Times in Toronto. This was a new experience for Alastair and me, as there is nothing similar to this type of event in the UK, as far as we are aware. It was great fun to watch 'medieval knights' galloping up and down the arena jousting and putting their horses through their paces, whilst eating dinner with our fingers – quite a messy affair!

After church on Sunday, John & Wendy Gillies took us back to their beautiful home in Collingwood where we were their guests for a few days. During our time with them they showed us round the nearby countryside, including an orchard selling Mac Red apples, Alastair's favourite and we left with a bag of freshly picked apples, a gift from the farmer.

The generosity and hospitality shown to us by our Canadian cousins confirms what a wonderful, world-wide family to which we have the privilege to belong.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The editor wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the following members to this issue: Robert Archibald PhD, Richard Barnes, John Gillies, Bruce Gillis, Thom Gillis, Bill Macpherson, June Macpherson, Shelagh Macpherson-Noble, Chantal McPherson, and Don Pearson.

HERALDRY IN THE US BRANCH

By Mark F Macpherson



Richard Barnes holding his heraldry course presentation power points

During the US Branch Rally in Wichita in September there were various seminars offered for those who were not taking the external excursion. As the weather was a little threatening I decided to take in a seminar on Heraldry being offered by Richard Barnes. Richard is a Macpherson through his great-grandmother's side and has been a member of CMA since 1982. He developed an early interest in heraldry following in the footsteps of his father who had a similar fascination.

To a Canadian who was granted armorial bearings in the right of the Queen, an American cousin having a strong interest in this subject is remarkable as US citizens do not have access to a grant of individual arms in their country. US Citizens can inherit arms in direct line from antecedents who were granted armorial bearings in Scotland or other countries having a heraldic authority. Some US members have done just that in the past. If this connection is lacking, heraldry is an academic or artistic pursuit.

I found Richard's presentation interesting and accurate. It was developed to show to visitors at the Macpherson tent at games in Utah where Richard resides. The objective of his presentation is to educate those interested in Macpherson heraldry and possibly with a broader interest in the subject. His work shows a deep devotion to the topic well beyond that to simply make his presentations. He is also a budding heraldic artist and has developed a concept for his own arms, which he would request if he is able to find some way to matriculate in Scotland, a project on which he is working.

WE REMEMBER

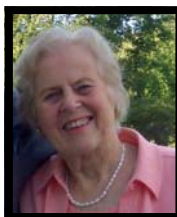
It is with sadness that we report on the passing of the following members of whom we learned since the last issue of the Green Banner; Life members; Lynus MacPherson of Dalkeith ON in May and Earl Gillespie of Brantford ON in February, Carol McPherson of London in August, Mary Gillis, mother of Bruce, the Nova Scotia Provincial Councillor for our Branch, in June. and Bruce D McPherson of Windsor ON in June

Our sympathies to all of the families of these late members



Carol McPherson was a great supporter of the CMA and a former Treasurer of the Branch. We were sorry to learn that she passed away on August 29 after a long, courageous battle with cancer. Carol made a point of attending our annual rallies whenever she could. She was notable because of her Clan project. Carol booked on two maiden voyages of Cunard liners and presented The Posterity of the Three Brethren to the ship's library to mark her presence on the voyage and to promote Clan Macpherson. She arranged to have the books annotated by Cluny. Carol invariably made sure that the Captain accepted the book on behalf of the ship. Her last voyage which was on the Queen Victoria was reported in the Green Banner of March 2008. She had been looking forward to the maiden voyage of the Queen Elizabeth last year but her health wouldn't allow it.

Carol's bright friendly presence will be missed by all of us.



Mary Gillis became interested in Clan Macpherson on a visit to Scotland in 1985 and got her family to join CMA. In 1987 she was instrumental in organizing a rally for the Branch in Halifax where she and her 5 sons presented a family choir entry in the ceilidh. Mary kept up her many contacts in the Clan over the years and visited Scotland with her family again for the rally in the summer of 1996. Mary lived in Middleton NS until her death this year.

At this point in 2011, sons, Bruce and Thom and their wives, Debbie and Dorena are the remaining members of the Branch from this Gillis family to whom we offer our sympathies.

CANADIAN BRANCH RALLY 2011

By Mark F Macpherson

The Annual Rally held at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto this year was a great success with kudos to organizers, Jacqueline Murdoch and our Vice Chair Bill Macpherson. We had 39 members attending along with Shelagh, the Association Chair from Scotland with her husband and partner Alastair. Starting on Friday, following registration in the hotel lobby, members congregated in the hotel bar mezzanine for a “meet and greet”. Several members including Shelagh and Alastair led by Jacqueline Murdoch then repaired to the Medieval Times show nearby for an evening of fun, undaunted by the horrible inclement weather. The dinner show was exciting, featuring knights in tournament and a royal court. The promotion for the show on their website tells it all:

“As you thrill to a rousing tournament, marvel at awe-inspiring horsemanship and falconry, Medieval Times serves a four-course meal fit for royalty”.

The next day the Executive rose early to conduct its business in accordance with the agenda prepared by the Chairman. The meeting was quite lively covering the activities of the members of the Executive for the past year.

The highlight of the meeting was the review of the revised Branch Constitution on which John had been working for the past two years. During the review we found that the “Executive” was now the “Council”, which will be the terminology from now on.

The Chair proposed that the Chair of the US Branch be made a complementary member of the Branch to reciprocate their making the Canadian Branch Chair a member of the US Branch. After some discussion it was agreed that the Canadian Branch would offer complementary membership to the Chairmen of all branches of CMA.

As the Council wound up its work, the members at large joined the Annual General Meeting, which started promptly under our able Chairman John Gillies. This meeting was also lively, hearing a report from Shelagh who also brought greetings from Cluny who was not able to attend this year, reports from the Council members on their work to serve the members during the year past and ratifying resolutions made at the Council meeting held earlier. It was decided to hold the 2012 Rally in Kinston Ontario under the stewardship of Bill Macpherson the Vice Chair.

After the AGM for 2011 adjourned, right on schedule, members gathered in John’s suite for a libation before lunch and then went about their business in the free time before the formal dinner in the evening. The weather in Toronto had cleared somewhat encouraging some excursions by members to shopping and other sites of interest.

The reception before dinner found many kilted members and their ladies in attendance joined in good fellowship as is typical of the Macphersons. It was great to see Douglas MacPherson, former Chair of the Branch, and Chris Cain from London ON present in full dinner regalia after an absence of several years.

Pipe Major Hugh Macpherson CD, Clan Piper, piped in the head table consisting of John and Wendy Gillies, Shelagh Macpherson Noble and Alastair Noble, with Gordon and Nancy Macpherson. Gordon presented the Selkirk grace with gusto, John offered the loyal toast, and the dinner got underway.

We heard the skirl of pipes in the hall and in marched the haggis party led by Hugh followed by the haggis borne by the hotel chef with Bill our Vice Chair completing the party. Bill gave

the “Ode” and properly killed the haggis in his usual delightful way. When it came time for the toasts to the piper and chef, the oriental chef was not ready to take her shot of the wine of Scotland and had to be encouraged by Bill to down it.



Haggis Party: left to right; Hotel Chef, Bill Macpherson, John Gillies, Pipe Major Hugh Macpherson CD



The choir: at the ceilidh L to R: Bill Macpherson, Irene Macpherson, Douglas MacPherson, Edgar Smith, Ken Gillis, Mary Margaret Gillies, Ella Gillis(hidden), Jacqueline Murdoch, Shelagh, Pipe Major Hugh, Dana Fitton, June Macpherson.

After dinner, the ceilidh conducted by Bill our Vice Chair, commenced with a round of excellent piping by Hugh. Bill recited his favourite poem by Robert Burns, *Tam O’Shanter*, complete with tam o’ shanter bonnet on head, accompanied by Tam’s trusty mare Meg, much body language, and punctuated by drinks as “Tam” was a drinking man. Bill’s recitations always both entertain and amaze the audience. Bill then introduced the choir, which as he said, is a tradition now two years old. The choir, which had one rehearsal in the afternoon, did a credible job leading the singing which prompted Ed Smith to try some solo numbers, again to the delight of all.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

The raffle draw featured Rebekka and Jamie Rogers, Jacqueline Murdoch's lovely daughters, who arranged for the tickets to be drawn and the prizes presented.

There were a lot of excellent prizes this year but alas, luck was mal-distributed and some fortunate members won more than two prizes, and of course many went home empty handed. Par for the course as they say!



Rebekka left, presents a raffle prize to her mother Jacqueline accompanied by Jamie her sister on the right

The older and less energetic withdrew leaving the more enthusiastic to try some dancing to a DJ or to chat for a while. The party was a super success, thoroughly enjoyed by all.



At the Church: L to R; Dr. Sandy Macpherson, Ron Fitton, Dana Fitton, Alastair, Shelagh, Wendy Gillies, Edgar Smith, John Gillies, Debbie Gillis, Bruce Gillis, Pipe Major Hugh, Jacqueline Murdoch, June Macpherson, Ella Gillis, Mary-Margaret Gillies, Sondra Archibald, Robert Archibald PhD, Ken Gillis

On Sunday we found ourselves, at least those who didn't have planes to catch, or needed some additional shut-eye, gathered in front of St Andrews Presbyterian Church, not far from the hotel on a beautiful sunny day. Shelagh read the lesson with her Scottish flourish followed by Reverend William Ingram, the pastor, who related to his Scottish heritage and tied it in to his sermon

titled "A Question of Authority...or Response". He gave an excellent address and everyone remained alert. Members of the CMA were invited to join the congregation after the service for a barbeque of hamburgers and hot dogs which was held in the church courtyard and consumed in the church hall. As the party broke up, members dispersed to their home stations vowing to meet again at the Branch rally in Kingston Ontario in the fall of 2012



Bill Macpherson as Tam O'Shanter with his trusty mare Meg

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT AVAILABLE

If you know what HTML is, then you can help the branch by accepting the appointment of Webmaster. If you don't know but have access to son or daughter who does then they could help you help us.

The work is not onerous and consists of executing an HTML upload to the Clan website about four times each year using content provided by the Editor. You will be working under the guidance of the CMA webmaster in Scotland who will advise on design issues.

If you are in a position to take on this appointment please contact John Gillies at jcgillies@rogers.com

PROVINCIAL COUNCILLORS NEEDED

If you reside in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, or Saskatchewan, the Branch needs you as a Provincial Councillor.

In order to grow the Branch and make Clan Macpherson Association a truly national organization we need a presence in each province where we have members,

The Provincial Councillor will advise the Chairman on means to increase our membership and presence in the province in which they reside. The amount of work required will depend on the time available to the individual Councillor and the assistance they can obtain from local members.

This is an important executive level position. Please seriously consider joining Council. Contact John Gillies at jcgillies@rogers.com

Errata

Jacqueline Murdoch advises that in the September 2011 issue in her article titled "Fergus Games 2011"; "Jean Whitten is not my cousin although she did join me at the games". Your editor apologizes for this error.

MY CONNECTION WITH ROBERT BURNS SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL BARD

By W. (Bill) Macpherson of Mississauga

The poems and songs of Robert Burns are an integral part of the school curriculum in Scotland and from a very young age I became an avid fan of his work. Coming from a working family background, I was inspired that the Ayrshire Ploughman, held in as high esteem among Scots as William Wallace and Robert the Bruce, could aspire to become Scotland's National Poet.

Over the years I have committed several of the bard's works to memory, the most recent being what I consider to be one of the finest narrative poems ever written, 'Tam O'Shanter'.

The characters Burns created in this epic tale were all based on his personal acquaintances. These include Tam the hard working and hard drinking chapman billy (peddler fellow) at the market in Ayr (Auld Ayr, wham ne'er a toon surpasses, For honest men and bonnie lassies) and Souter Johnnie. The Souter (Shoemaker) was styled on John Davidson renowned for his wit and jest and a family friend whom Burns regularly visited.

Excerpt from *Tam O'Shanter*:

But to our tale:-- Ae market-night,
Tam had got planted unco right;
Fast by an ingle, bleezing finely,
Wi' reaming swats, that drank divinely
And at his elbow, **Souter Johnnie**,
His ancient, trusty, drouthy crony;
Tam lo'ed him like a vera brither—
They had been fou for weeks thegither!
The night drave on wi' sangs and clatter
And ay the ale was growing better:
The landlady and Tam grew gracious,
wi' favours secret, sweet and precious
The Souter tauld his queerest stories;
The landlord's laugh was ready chorus



Old print showing Tam O'Shanter centre, with Souter Johnnie at his left elbow

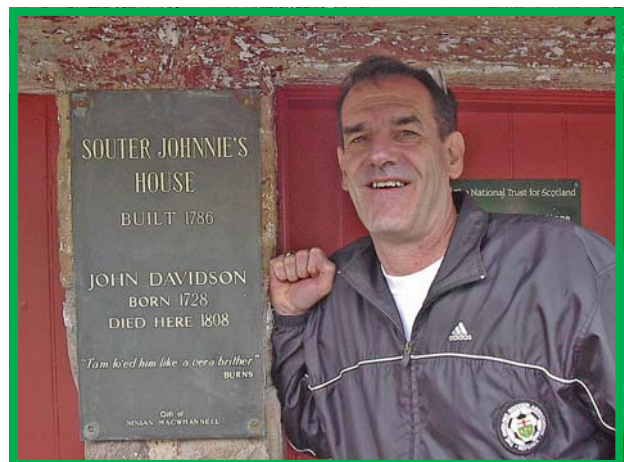
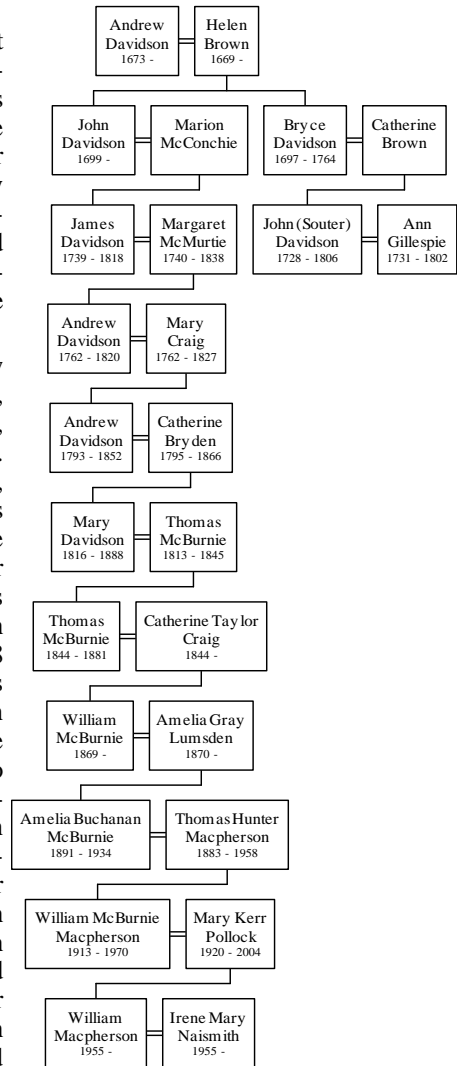
(The complete poem may be found in both Scots and English at http://www.robertburns.org.uk/Assets/Poems_Songs/tamoshanter.htm ed)

Genealogy is another of my pastimes and having reached a dead end (if you will pardon the pun) on the Macpherson side I recently decided to venture down my father's maternal side. To my great delight I found out that I am a first cousin 8 times removed of Souter Johnnie.

The chart on the right shows my relationship. However it is difficult to show one in the Green Banner that is completely readable, so I will describe a simplified version of my relationship to help the reader:

Starting with Andrew Davidson in 1673, who had two sons, John and Bryce. Bryce's son John, born in 1728 was Souter Johnnie, the shoemaker. The other son, John Davidson's line continued down to Mary born in 1818 who married Thomas McBurnie born in 1843. The McBurnie line passed down to Amelia, my Grandmother who was born in 1891. Amelia married my grandfather Thomas Macpherson who was born in 1883 and died in 1958. My father Thomas was born in 1903 and passed away in 1970 leaving me related to Souter Johnnie through my Davidson forbearers.

In 2007 when I was in Scotland for the CMA International Gathering I made a visit to Kirkoswald a small village in Ayrshire to see Souter Johnnie's Cottage (which is currently under the care of the National Trust for Scotland) and the auld church graveyard .



Bill at the Souter Johnnie house in Ayrshire

BRUCE GILLIS QC



Bruce Gillis, our new Provincial Councillor, for Nova Scotia, was born in Saint John, New Brunswick. He grew up in London, Ontario, and the Annapolis Valley Nova Scotia. Bruce graduated in science from McGill University, Dalhousie for law, and the London School of Economics for a Master of Laws. He considers himself primarily a Nova Scotian, where he now enjoys a small but

extremely busy rural law practice. He has the honour to be a Queen's Counsel (QC)

Bruce joined the CMA after a trip to Scotland in 1984, encouraged by Wallace Macpherson a former, now late, Chair of the Canadian Branch. A couple of years later he attended his first Clan rally at Newtonmore and Kingussie, in company with his mother Mary and his brothers. He has been keen on the Clan Macpherson Association ever since.

Bruce and Debbie, also a member, currently live in Paradise NS in a very large house consisting of a modest 23 rooms, on 250 acres of agricultural and woodland. They used to raise saddle horses and Bruce competed in Western Riding competitions for many years but has now slowed down that activity a bit, although they still have four horses they ride for pleasure. Bruce is involved in lots of other activities, including being Drum Sergeant in the Pipe band at Greenwood Air Force Base, so he has travelled quite a bit with them to Tattoos and the like.

Bruce and Debby have two grown up sons, and one daughter, who have all been to Clan rallies in Scotland and attended other functions. The children are keen on these activities, but at this point they have trouble finding time to be regular attendees.

Bruce is an armiger of Clan Macpherson as he was granted a coat of arms by the Canadian Heraldic Authority in 1993. His shield is on display at the Clan Museum, thanks to Gordon Macpherson.

Bruce hopes to be able to increase the number of CMA members in the Maritimes and get more clansmen involved in Clan activities.



Bruce Gillis' coat of arms

YOUR COUNCIL 2011 - 2012

The Executive of last year becomes the Council of this year following the changes introduced with the revised Branch constitution adopted at the AGM in Toronto. Although the name is changed to bring our terminology into line with the CMA constitution, the roles and responsibilities generally remain the same as last year. Following the AGM elections we find that we have a new Honorary Secretary to fill that vacancy and a new Registrar to replace Tia Hall who decided to retire for family reasons. We are pleased to report that Bruce Gillis of Middleton NS accepted the position of Provincial Councillor for Nova Scotia. We have three vacancies to complete our slate of Provincial Councillors and will be seeking to fill them in the coming year.

Note that the Editor and Webmaster are now appointments.

The composition of the complete Council appears below and you will find profiles for the new additions elsewhere in this issue:

OFFICERS:

Honorary Chairman RGM Macpherson CM, KSTJ.
Chairman John C Gillies
Vice Chairman William Macpherson
Honorary Secretary Robert W Archibald PhD.
Registrar Chantal McPherson
Honorary Treasurer Ken Gillis

COUNCILLORS

Immediate Past Chairman LCol. Mark F Macpherson CD.

Councillors at Large

Jacqueline Murdoch
Jean Whitten
Lois Urquhart-Mussleman

Provincial Councillors

Newfoundland *Vacant*
Nova Scotia Bruce Gillis QC.
New Brunswick/PEI *Vacant*
Quebec Maj. Myles G Macpherson CD.
Ontario Roderick Smith
Manitoba Brian D Macpherson PhD.
Saskatchewan *Vacant*
Alberta Donald Pearson
British Columbia Ian Gillies (Appointed after the AGM)

APPOINTMENTS

Editor Mark Macpherson
Webmaster *Vacant*

In addition, all former Chairmen remain Councillors ex-officio

ADVERTISING IN THE GREEN BANNER

The Green Banner is getting ready to solicit advertising to help defray costs. If you can obtain an advertisement for our newsletter, circulation about 300 across Canada, four times each year, please contact Bill Macpherson at bill.macpherson@rogers.com for rates and other information. We would like to see your ad in the February issue.

GREEN BANNER NEW LOOK

My venerable Pagemaker 6.5 is not supported by Windows 7 and in order to bring this issue to you, I purchased MS Publisher 2010. Although Publisher is not Pagemaker I endeavoured to make The Green Banner appear what is familiar to you, but there are differences. I hope you will forgive me. (ed)