



# THE GREEN BANNER

## NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

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Vol. 5 Number 3

September 2011

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### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

**W**e are pleased to announce that seven annual members joined the Association since the last issue of the Green Banner; Dianne Currie of Stayner ON, Chantal McPherson, Oh Jang Yoon, and Elle McPherson-Yoon all of Mississauga ON, John G. MacPherson of Kingston ON, William Smith of Brampton ON, and Chris McPherson of Dunvegan ON.

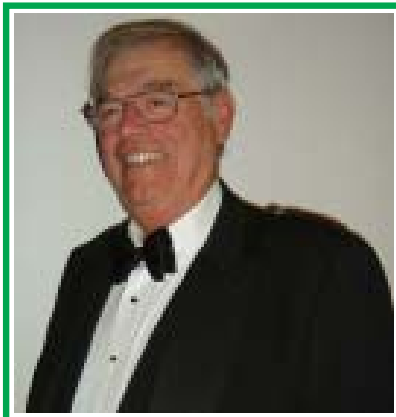
Two new life members joined us; Thomas Ralph MacPherson and Brenda MacPherson of Newmarket ON - son & daughter-in-law of William & the late Dorothy MacPherson of Maberly ON

We wish to congratulate all of these new members on their decision to join CMA and hope to see them at the rally in Toronto.

In addition Jeffery Smith of Simcoe ON transferred from annual to life member status. Bravo Jeffery, you are in good company!

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### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



**I**t's hard to believe that Labour Day is past and summer is coming to a close. For those who have kids in school this may bring some relief and certainly brings changes to daily routines. For those of us who are retired, it just means that the weather is getting a little cooler at the cottage.

Summer has been a busy time for CMA. A number of us were fortunate enough to travel to Scotland and many others attended Highland Games in Canada. For all of us who got together with other members of the Clan association it was a rewarding experience. While we as individuals encompass a wide range of age, experience occupation and skills, we have a common bond as we seek a community spirit and the comfort of spending time with others who share interest in our common heritage.

Those of us who grew up in smaller towns and villages or in a rural setting inherited a community, with all of its benefits and occasional tribulations. Others in larger cities made their own communities amongst schoolmates, workmates or neighbours. Many of us now move residences and occupations frequently, are busy with work and family and feel somewhat isolated yet surrounded by people who are strangers to us.

Our Clan Association is a great way to build and maintain a community of friends with interests in common. I have seen many examples recently of members who care for each other and of the provision of support and encouragement. This is most rewarding.

Our gathering at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto on September 23 to 25 is a great opportunity to build on our sense of community and in particular, to welcome a number of new members to our group. Our CMA Chairman, Shelagh Macpherson-Noble and husband Alistair will be with us to bring news and information from Scotland and around the world, and Clan Piper Hugh Macpherson, one of Canada's best, will be there to provide the stirring music to enhance every event.

I hope you will join us.

Yours aye, **John C. Gillies**

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## PRE-RALLY ISSUE

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## FERGUS GAMES 2011

By Jacqueline Murdoch

**T**his August, over 30 members from the Toronto area met at the Fergus Highland Games to watch



*L to R.. Bill Macpherson, Mississauga ON, Bob Archibald, Port Hope ON, Chantal Macpherson, Mississauga ON, Sondra Archibald, Brantford ON, Jim Jr's wife, Jim Macpherson Sr., Jim Macpherson Jr., Jean Whitten, Toronto ON, Jim Sr.'s wife, Robert W. Archibald, Brantford ON, and John Gillies, Collingwood ON.*

(among other things) c a b e r t o s s i n g , h i g h l a n d d a n c i n g , t u g o f w a r s , a n d o f c o u r s e , t o g e t t o g e t h e r w i t h f r i e n d s a n d f a m i l y . S o m e m e m b e r s j o i n e d B o b a n d M a r l e n e A r c h i b a l d i n t h e i r o v e r n i g h t c a m p i n g e n d e a v o u r s .

Others just tried to meet up with family, friends, and cousins for a few hours.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**T**our Editor wishes to acknowledge the contributions of John Gillies, Tia Hall, Jacqueline Murdoch, Gordon Macpherson, and Bob Archibald 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

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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

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What is most important is that we all had a great time. It was a time for family and friends to meet when we otherwise wouldn't. As the mother of 3 children, 15 years plus, it was a nice day to spend with my children, sometimes hard to do in today's busy world. I was also blessed to have my cousin Jean Whitten, a close friend (Linda - (a Brit no less!)), and another cousin Susan Murdoch, join me. What more can a person ask!

We will continue this new-found tradition next year. We hope you continue to come, and bring your children and grandchildren.

See you next year!

## WE REMEMBER

**W**e regret to note the passing of two members about whom we learned belatedly since the last issue of the Green Banner: Dorothy J MacPherson of Maberly ON a long-term life member, on July 23, 2010. Ronald Allen Macpherson of Winnipeg an annual member, on August 5, 2010.

## THINGS TO DO AT THE RALLY

By Jacqueline Murdoch

**I**f you haven't booked your family in to this year's Canadian Rally, don't let any more time go by because this year's event promises to be better than ever! This year's rally will be held at Le Meridien King Edward Hotel September 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> in Toronto.

Meet in the Consort Bar for a cocktail and catch up on the latest gossip and activities of your fellow Clan members. While some members will be heading to the CNE grounds to cheer on their favourite knight in shining armour at Medieval Times, others have opted for a quieter evening with dinner and quiet chat.

Saturday afternoon is the time to explore Toronto. Head over to Centre Island and ride a family bicycle for four, shop in Yorkdale or do something we all want to do but never have - take that Hippo Bus Tour.

The action happens at the Windsor Ballroom at 6pm. Meet with friends and make new friends from across our wonderful country. (And don't forget to bid on our awesome auction items.) Hugh will be piping us in to dinner at 7pm, and Bill will be brilliant with his toast to the haggis. And then the Ceilidh happens. Glow Bowling is suggested as a late night event.

The Church service on Sunday will take place at St Andrews Presbyterian, King St. & University at 10:30 am. After the services, brunch together is planned.

Considering the large number of CMA of members living in the Greater Toronto area, we hope to see all you out on the rally weekend. If anybody needs a ride, or hope to carpool, let us know.

We can't wait to see you all there!!

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## CMA AT THE HIGHLAND GAMES THIS SUMMER

By Bob Archibald of Port Hope

**T**he 2011 Highland Games season started for Marlene and I on January 15<sup>th</sup> at the Central Florida Games in Orlando. We have been visiting these games for the last 15 years and have, over time, made many friends and acquaintances.



US Branch march at Orlando. Bob is in the second rank on the right

**T**he Georgetown games are the first we visited back home on June 11<sup>th</sup> and everyone it seems likes to get out because they are the first of the season in Ontario. Pipers and dancers have

been practicing all winter and they now have the opportunity to show their skills off.

Lois Musselman from Wasaga Beach along with some Scottish country dancers showed up and paid us a visit. Lois informed us her foot, injured before the rally last year, was much better but she was still not able to dance. A short while later we signed a new member, Chantal Macpherson. Chantal was delighted we were at Georgetown and informed us of her plans to visit the CMA Gathering in Scotland. We gave her what information we had about who might be there from Canada and heard later she had a wonderful time.

On June 25<sup>th</sup> we drove the 10 kilometres from Port Hope to the Cobourg Games and set up our tent for a rather enjoyable day with family and friends visiting all day long. These games are not large but we support them because they are close to home. Marlene and I have done this off and on since 1963. We usually sell some Clan items at Cobourg and this year was no exception.

The Glengarry Games at Maxville Ontario was our next stop on July 28<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>. These games are the home of the North American Pipe Band competitions and are well worth a visit. This year was designated The Year of the Clans and they were out in good numbers. Clan McLeod was celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and Donaldson McLeod was the President of these Games. McLeod's came from all over North America and were the largest contingent in the Clan Parade.

Clan Macpherson was not deterred and put seven people on the field for the march which caught the eye of the local paper. We were front page news with the largest photo in the paper, thanks to three very

enthusiastic young ladies dressed in spandex saltire suits!



Glengarry Games, Maxville...L to R Annie-Laurie MacPherson, Timmins ON, Graham MacPherson, Prescott ON, Bob Archibald, Port Hope ON, Leslie Macpherson, Mallorytown ON, Peter Fish, Keene NY, Keith Williamson, Stittsville ON, and Holly Pankhurst, Prescott ON

We came away from Maxville with three new members John G. MacPherson, William H. Smith and Chris McPherson a piper from Dunvegan

Then it was off for another day at the Montreal games on July 31<sup>st</sup>. The weather was lovely with lots of warmth and sunshine. They had their first Clan Parade this year in all the years I have visited. Graham Macpherson from Prescott Ontario volunteered to march with me. Graham's wife plays in the Glengarry pipe band and he came down with her dressed and ready to go.

At the end of the day I bumped into the New West Minister Police Pipe Band. They had won the top spot in the Grade 2 band competitions in Maxville and again in Montreal to be undefeated in their competitions for the year. That achievement is probably due in large part to the efforts of their Pipe Major Angus Macpherson. The band wears the muted Macpherson tartan and my kilt is cut from that very same cloth. When shopping for this kilt I was shown the tartan the band had chosen and my measurements were thrown in with those of this band.

On Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> we left for the games at Fergus and spent an enjoyable day on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Several members of CMA, including our Chairman, helped to staff the tent and paraded in the opening ceremonies. Later on we enjoyed each other's company with a BBQ. We all had a good time with plenty to eat and drink and stories to share.



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## CHAIRMAN'S VISIT TO SCOTLAND

By John Gillies

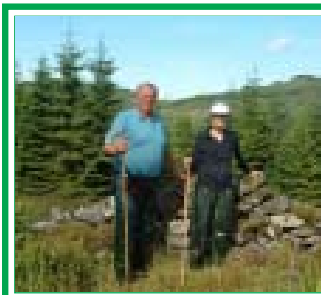
Wendy and I have recently returned from a great trip to the Clan Macpherson Association Annual Gathering in Scotland. There were 15 members from Canada and 6 of the 7 Branch Chairmen from around the world were present at the Council Meeting and AGM. Seven of the Canadians were attending their first Gathering and it was an exciting experience for all of us.

In the march of the kilted Macphersons from the bridge at Old Ralia to the Elan, the grounds of the Newtonmore Highland Games, Donald Pearson of Calgary carried the Canadian Cromag and I had the honour of guarding Cluny's Banner by carrying the Canadian Sword. This was a special privilege for me as my father; Dan Gillies of Wheatley donated the antique sword to the museum many years ago and carried it in the parade as well. Today, modern reproduction swords are used in the march as the originals are too fragile to leave the showcase in the museum - but the history, sentiment, and honour are still there.



John with Lord Lyon at the heraldry wall in the Clan Museum

There was a special event at the Clan Museum that was a delight to attend. Gordon Macpherson, Niagara Herald Extraordinary and Ewan Macpherson of Scotland had rehung all of the armiger's shields and revamped the heraldry section of the museum. The Lord Lyon, King of Arms for Scotland attended to cut the ribbon to open the area. The wall of shields looks magnificent and contains the arms of all Macphersons who have received a grant of arms, including many Canadians. It was truly unfortunate that Gordon was unable to be present for this occasion.



John with Wendy at the ruins of Duchra

This trip to Scotland was a true "homecoming" for me. I have been researching our family tree and determined that my great, great grandfather left Argyllshire in 1830 to come to Canada. His residence was a Township called 'Duchra' situated in Kilmartin Parish "Township". In those days was equivalent to "farm" I can place ancestors on that property as early as 1750. The buildings have long been ruins but the stones of the collapsed house and barn are still there, surrounded by reforested land. People on the neighbouring farm, Iain and Anne MacNicol of Turnault Farm very generously scouted out the location and then drove Wendy and me on an old forest track to the top of a high hill

overlooking the ruins. They helped us down to them and then back up. We then went to their farm for a tour and a great lunch. The hospitality was outstanding and we had a wonderful day.

Our whole trip was a great family affair and I would commend a trip to the Gathering to all of you who have not already do so.

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## FACEBOOK AND THE CMA

By Mark Macpherson

Those of you who were in attendance at the 2009 Branch AGM in Québec may remember, Jacqueline Murdoch making a presentation suggesting that CMA participate in social networks on the internet to help attract more and younger members. She was encouraged to send the presentation to the CMA Executive in Scotland for consideration.

At the 2010 AGM in Scotland a project was approved to design and implement a Facebook page for the CMA. Your Editor, who was then the Branch Chair, was asked to head up a project committee, including Jacqueline and others, to implement the page. As there was much apprehension on the part of many members of CMA regarding social networks, most of which had to do with internet security, and possible inappropriate postings reflecting badly on the CMA, the Committee had to allay these concerns if the final product was to be accepted.

A survey, designed by the Committee was administered to the entire governing Council of CMA. The object of this survey was to provide input to a set of requirement specifications for the page. The interest in and response to the survey was excellent and it did provide the guidance the page design team needed to produce the specifications. The specifications were drawn up in consultation with the Project Committee and approved by the CMA Executive in March 2011. Now work on the page could start in earnest.

Jacqueline Murdoch carried out some research on existing Facebook pages that might satisfy the approved design requirements. We discovered that organizations had different looking pages to those produced by normal users who were very constrained by the Facebook template. The normal template would not allow us to meet the specifications and we had to learn how to make the organization page design.

Andrea Macpherson-Mesa of the US Branch, who had some facility in coding for the website, was contacted to help with the Facebook page, Andrea determined how to implement the special pages we required to meet our specifications, and offered her services to do so, based on input drafts the Committee provided to her. This work resulted in three custom tabs accessed the special pages on our Facebook site.

A few words about Facebook are in order for those who may not know how it works. First-time visitors to the CMA page land on the special Welcome page displaying the arms of CMA, provides a very brief outline of the CMA, and our policy with respect to content.

*continued on page 5*



## FACEBOOK AND THE CMA

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The visitors can then select among standard tabs including the “Wall” where their comments can be posted, “Info” where there is much detail on the CMA, and “Photos” which is currently being used to display news of the branches in visual form. The custom tabs include, in addition to the “Welcome”, an “About Us” tab that describes the CMA and the museum, with links to the website, and a “Membership” tab that tells the visitor how to join the CMA. All of the custom tabs include the same banner as is used on the website which helps to have a common identification or brand with the website. The wall photo which appears on every page is the arms of the CMA, which is a recognizable brand for the site.



*What the first-time visitor sees on entering the CMA Facebook page*

The need for a brand for CMA on Facebook became apparent when we found several Facebook pages titled “Clan Macpherson” placed there by well-meaning individuals purporting to represent the Clan or the Association. Thus, the title of our page is “The Official Clan Macpherson Association” which along with our branding, clearly differentiates us from the others. The new CMA Facebook page was launched at the AGM in Scotland this year. Bill (Glenfearach) the webmaster, gave live demonstrations of the page to the Council and later to the AGM.

Since the launch of the Page at the beginning of August 2011, the CMA Facebook page has attracted considerable interest from Macphersons, and others, resulting in numerous active users, and over 100 “likes”, a vote of approbation by Facebook users.

## THE EARLY DAYS

*by RGM Macpherson*

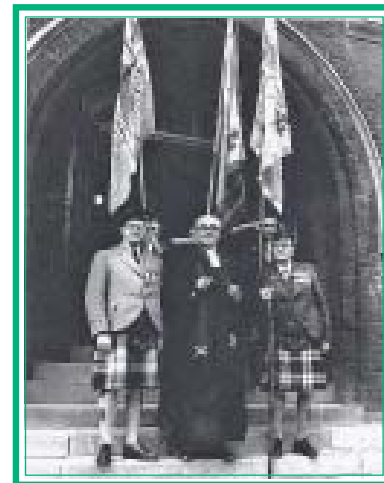
Although the Canadian Branch was established in 1948 by the late Col. ER Rivers-Macpherson OBE, of Ottawa, the first annual meetings of the branch were informal affairs which were held at the home of Col. Macpherson.

A Toronto Committee was formed in 1956 with Rev. Dr. Macpherson as Chairman and Major Alex F Macpherson as Secretary. The highly motivated committee began planning a two-day event and arranged to send a notice to every clansman listed in the Toronto telephone directory. In addition, they were fortunate in obtaining the support of the Toronto Evening Telegram and the Globe & Mail who gave the branch a full-page spread to advertise the Rally. CBC television opened their doors to telecasting in Toronto in 1952 and Col. Rivers and Dr. Cluny Macpherson were invited to appear on the Canadian Television network to tell the country about the Clan Macpherson. What a great beginning it was!

The following day we held our 8<sup>th</sup> AGM in the Church Hall of Riverdale Church and the meeting was well attended by local clansfolk from Toronto and vicinity who were curious to find out more about the Clan Association. We were pleased to welcome Hugh Macpherson from Edinburgh, our International Vice-President, who brought greetings from Clan headquarters which greatly encouraged us.

After the meeting, the usual ceilidh was held assisted by the pipers of the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders, with Col. Rivers-Macpherson as “fear an tighe”

Sunday, the 9<sup>th</sup> September, was the culminating mark, when over 150 clansfolk attended the Church Service



*During the service, three Armorial Banners bearing the personal Arms of L. to R; Dr. Cluny, Rev Dr. A. Macpherson,, and Col. Rivers, were dedicated.*

This meeting proved to be a rallying point for the clan, and a score of new members joined the Association. Thus drew to a close three memorable days and the first weekend-long gathering of the Canadian Branch.