



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 6 Number 1

February 2012

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members; Mr. Reeves Gillis of Slave Lake AB, and life member Mr. Robert Hajduczek of Burlington, ON. Robert is cousin to CMA member, George B. Clunie of Dunkeld, Scotland. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Robert on his recent marriage this past November, and wish the couple a long life of happiness!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Greetings Cousins!

By the time this is published, I will have participated in a traditional Robbie Burns dinner which our family does each year with a group of friends. We do the toasts, sing the songs and even have a drink or two. This nostalgia is wonderful and helps keep me in touch with my roots. Much as I treasure my Scottish heritage, I am really happy to be living in Canada in this century.

The thermometer outdoors is a balmy 12 C below zero. It is a bright, sunny day with no wind and from my window I can see the local ski hills that are being well used today.

I'm glad I'm not wearing a kilt and not living in one of the bothies or black houses that sheltered our ancestors in Scotland. Thanks to our fore-bearers who had the courage and the foresight, or the necessity of leaving their homes to come here, we can enjoy the vast opportunities that arise from living in Canada.

Our Clan Macpherson Association is in some ways a microcosm of our Canadian society. We exist to learn about and celebrate our heritage but we operate with modern methods and conveniences. We have enjoyed success because of the efforts over the years of a relatively small group of talented and dedicated leaders. And we all participate as members and "citizens" of our association.

Current officers are doing very well at carrying on that tradition of service. Vice Chairman Bill Macpherson has almost completed the arrangements for our gathering in Kingston this year with some interesting new features. Our new Registrar, who is also a relatively new member, Chantal McPherson, has updated the membership base and is busy getting in renewals. Ken Gillis, our Hon. Treasurer has produced a very readable annual financial report and is keeping on top of our funds. While the amount of money is not huge, the details of managing it are important. Bob Archibald (Brantford), Hon. Secretary will be increasingly active with the annual gathering activities gaining momentum. Past Chairman and Editor Mark Macpherson has almost a full time job with the content of the web site, editing and publishing the Green Banner and most importantly, providing constant wise counsel to the current Chairman who is much in need of it.

We have a Council member in almost every province and each of them is looking for ways to make the organization of more value to members in their area. They need your help and input.

Membership provides many privileges and opportunities but it also involves responsibilities. We are looking for members to be more involved and to generate activities which will attract members to enjoy spending more time together and to find additional methods of celebrating our heritage.

Please send me your suggestions.

Yours aye,
John C. Gillies

LEGION OF THE LOST

The following members have had mail from the Branch returned by the post office or email provider and your Registrar is requesting the assistance of all members to locate them or determine their current status.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Mrs. Anne Macpherson | Tecumseh, ON, |
| Mr. Roderick Ian MacPherson | Kanata, ON |
| Mrs. Wallace C. MacPherson | Halifax, NS |
| Col. Glen W. McPherson | W. Vancouver, BC |
| Ms. Janet Ann MacPherson | Port Sydney, ON |
| Mr. John D. & Glenna McPherson | Vancouver, BC |

If any member knows where one of these lost members is presently residing, please send an email or note to:

Chantal McPherson, Registrar
991 Matheson E #13
Mississauga ON, L4W 2V3
Email: chantal@mdsscanada.com

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

If you have not already done so, it is time to think about your annual membership dues for the coming year. Now that the busy Christmas season is over and your bank account has recovered from all that cheer you were passing around you can renew for 2012.

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

OUR SON'S WEDDING

By Debbie and Bruce Gillis

The wedding of Paul Jones, son of Debbie and Bruce Gillis, to Mary Butters was celebrated at Burnbrae, the Gillis "estate" in Paradise, Nova Scotia on July 2nd 2011.

The Groom's party resplendently kilted, including Paul in Nova Scotia tartan, and his brother Rob in Gillis ancient. Over 200 guests enjoyed a sunlit ceremony on the lawns followed by food and entertainment that lasted well into the night. Parents and friends have mostly recovered since the summer.



Left to right: Andy Lansdale, Rob Gillis, Stephen Phinney, Paul Jones, Mary (Butters) Jones, Beth-Ann Fischer, Kendra Gillis and Jennifer Jones

BRANCH WEBMASTER

Our Executive is pleased to advise that Dr. Ewan Macpherson, life member, a busy professor at the University of Western Ontario, has accepted the appointment of Branch Webmaster. We wish to thank Ewan for his continuing dedication to CMA on assuming this important role in the Branch.

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
Robert Archibald PhD, Honorary Secretary
Chantal McPherson, Registrar

Councillors-at-Large:

Jacqueline Murdoch
Jean Whitten
Lois Urquhart-Musselman

Provincial Councillors:

Bruce Gillis QC, Nova Scotia
Major Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec
Rod Smith, Ontario
Brian D Macpherson PhD, Manitoba
Donald Pearson, Alberta
Ian Gillies, British Columbia

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

FACEBOOK UPDATE

By Jacqueline Murdoch, CMA Facebook Coordinator

Last year at the AGM in Scotland, the CMA Facebook page was officially approved by CMA Council. Input from key members around the world helped to make this happen, under the direction of our past Canadian Chairman, Mark Macpherson.

Those of you who are not internet savvy, at least not members of Facebook, Twitter, or other prominent social network platform, may not know that Facebook was started by two Harvard students as a way to communicate to each other. This social network grew to be international in scope, extending its reach from Harvard, to all post secondary schools, and then eventually to anyone in the world with a computer, tablet, or mobile phone.

Our page now has over 334 "Likes" from visitors who elect to click on the "Like" button. We also have numerous "posts" from visitors who want to leave a message and/or photo. Think of this as a free subscription to a magazine. These subscriptions stem from UK, Europe, South Asia, Australian and New Zealand, Africa, the Americas, and most recently South Sudan! We expect that the CMA Facebook page will attract new members. Several people in the Americas and Australia have indicated interest. Many people with surnames associated with our ancestral clan did not know there was a Clan Macpherson let alone a Clan Association!

In addition to being able to reach out to our cousins worldwide, you can check the site regularly for activity updates. We are posting various CMA activities and get-together's from around the world, such as the Robbie Burns dinner held this year in Guelph.

We hope that the Facebook page will generate interest in the CMA by our younger folk and provide an excellent safe medium for them to communicate with each other. Please encourage your children and grandchildren to touch base with us and their friends by visiting "The Official Clan Macpherson Association", as our page is called.

ADVERTISING IN THE GREEN BANNER

By Bill Macpherson, Vice Chairman

At our Canadian Branch AGM this year the membership expressed an interest in using our newsletter The Green Banner to generate some income from advertising and I was given the task of creating some guidelines. Well here they are!

Our cousins in the USA Branch have for some time given members the opportunity to advertise in their journal 'The Urlar' and I propose we charge in Canadian Dollars the same rates (a bargain).

Quarter Page	\$25
Half Page	\$50
Full Page	\$100

This price is per issue. If an advertiser wants to take out a full page ad for four issues (a full year) the cost would be \$400.

Keeping in mind our Newsletter is read by adults and children alike and has distribution outside of Canada all products and services advertised must be suitable and not likely to cause offence. It is sufficient to say "the Editor's decision is final on these matters".

Anyone wishing to advertise their business, services or talents, or events that might be of interest to our readers is welcome to contact the Editor.

DUBLIN MARATHON—A PERSONAL JOURNEY

By Jacqueline Murdoch



Ready to run

My father's family is Scottish. My mother's family is a mix of Irish, Dutch and French: Irish predominantly. My mother has 137 first cousins in Ireland. I had met one, Ann. Last Christmas I was trying to decide (in equal parts) which marathon to run next, and where to spend my next vacation. Ireland has been on my list because I have family there that I've never met. The Dublin Marathon was scheduled for October 31 2011. Not my first choice of vacation season, but I was hooked. I signed up for the marathon December 28th, 2010.

My grandmother, Margaret McLaughlin, was born 1906 in County Tyrone, near Plumbridge. As a Canadian, I have all of the romantic visions of my ancestry. So, with the help of Facebook, the internet, and my mother's youngest sister who had been to Ireland, I booked a 17 day vacation: 7 days in Northern Ireland, 6 days in Dublin, and 3 in London.

Jamie, my 15 year old daughter, and I took off for Ireland. My marathon was 8 days into my vacation. The plan was to visit the North in the first week, run the marathon, then visit Dublin, and finish with a few days in London (my fav city so far).

I ran a practice 9k in Derry. The river Foyle is paved for pedestrians and bicyclists alike. And one can run both sides of the river. I laughed when one woman was huddled in her coat and scarf walking across the bridge, saw me run up the bridge and down the bridge. She thought it was cold and that I was crazy. Derry is amazing. It's the only walled city left in Ireland. And it's wonderful.



A rebel from Toronto in Belfast

Belfast is wonderful. I loved the city. Hate the politics. Jamie and I took the Black Cab tour of the "political" tour. A wonderful tour, and as a Canadian, I think our tour guide gave us a bit more. My tour of Belfast concluded with a run along the river Lagan in Belfast. This was by far the best run I have

ever run! I was in the city but I felt like I was in the country and it was so beautiful. I regret that I didn't bring my camera.

October 31, 16 degrees, rain. The race was hard. I had been told Dublin was flat. And please note that I hate running hills. The entire first half of the marathon was up hill. Some steep, but most a slow 10 degree uphill run. I was hoping for a 4:10 time, but 5 miles in I doubted I could run any good time. So I prepared myself for a dismal run, and just set out to enjoy it, rain and all.

Unlike Toronto, there were hundreds of thousands of people cheering the runners on. No car horns were heard at intersections. Everyone was happy to see the runners and cheered us on.

I finished, in a torrential downpour, with a personal best time. I beat my last time by just over 2 minutes. Not what I was hoping for, but quite acceptable.

We all have in us a passion; a desire to succeed; a will to do the best, to conquer, to beat the odds. Running is a mind game as much as a physical game. I decided to beat my last time. And I came up the energy to do so. We can all find that energy in our lives. We are Scots. We are Macphersons. With that same desire, we will conquer, succeed and beat all odds.

My next run is a ½ marathon in Burlington, Ontario. Here's hoping for no snow, no wind, and reasonable temperatures. Maybe a Scotland marathon is in my future?

But I hate running hills...

BRANCH GATHERING 2012

By Bill Macpherson Vice Chairman

Please be sure to mark your calendars!

We are holding our Branch AGM and Dinner in Kingston Ontario at the Radisson Harbourfront Hotel. Plans are underway to host a buffet style supper and Ceilidh on the evening of Friday 28th September, our AGM on Saturday morning 29th September and formal dinner in the evening. A church service will be held on the Sunday morning and I am looking to organize 1 or 2 excursions over the weekend. A contract covering our food and meeting arrangements has been signed and a group rate has been negotiated for hotel accommodation as follows:

Group Block Name: 201209CLAN

Rates:

Standard Guestroom:	\$169.00
Executive King Guestroom (1 King Bed):	\$169.00
Junior Suite: 1 King Bed with boardroom table	\$199.00

Contact: Radisson Kingston Harbourfront Tel. 1-888-548-6726 or (613) 549 8100.

Be sure to quote Group Name to get the discount room rate.

Kingston has a host of alternative accommodation options for families on a tighter budget. Let me know if you plan to attend our functions but will not stay at the Radisson.

The registration cost should be similar to last year and I am currently trying to include the extra buffet supper in that price. I would encourage members planning to attend to make their hotel reservations early as it will help in my final negotiations and menu selection if the hotel sees some early reservation activity.

Continued on page 4

BRANCH GATHERING 2012

Continued from page 3

Note also that the Royal Military College reunion is the same weekend, so I would expect hotel accommodation to go fast. You are strongly advised to book early this year

Registration forms for the Gathering will be available on the Clan Macpherson website when details are finalized.

The Friday evening has traditionally been our "meet and greet" night, as members arrive for the weekend, and we hope to continue to develop our informal Ceilidh on that evening. If anyone is interested in sharing their talent with us (musical, singing, dancing, poetry recital, humour, etc, etc, please let me know.

Updates will be provided on our Branch page on the Clan website (www.clan-macpherson.org), the CMA Facebook Page and The Green Banner Newsletter as arrangements firm up. Nearer the time I will be looking for volunteers to help organize our raffle, The Choir, Table Decorations, Registration Desk, Welcome Packages and a host of other small duties. Let me know if you would like to help or have access to printing or supplies that can help to keep our costs down.

Looking forward to a great weekend in Kingston!

MACPHERSON ART & ARTISTS

By Ewen S. L. MacPherson, Clan Museum Trustee



Duncan Macpherson at his desk

A special exhibition on 'Macpherson Art & Artists' will be staged in the Clan Museum this coming season. Wide publicity will be given to the fact that all of the paintings on public display have undergone conservation treatment in recent years.

A display of '21st Century Macpherson Artists' will include Gordon Macpherson of Burlington, Ontario who is renowned for his heraldic art. Also of particular interest to Canadian visitors will be a display on the work of Margaret Campbell Macpherson (1860-1931) of St. John's, Newfoundland, thanks to the kindness of Ian C. Macpherson of St. John's. The portrait of Dr. Cluny Macpherson (1879-1960), also of St. John's and the nephew of Margaret Campbell, is on display and was the subject



Margaret Campbell Macpherson

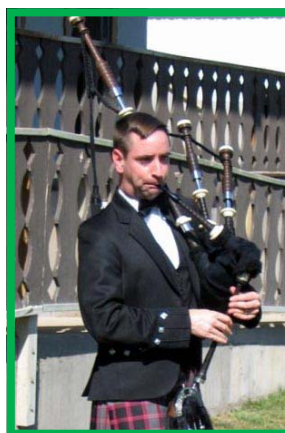
of conservation treatment thanks to the financial support of the Canadian Branch of the CMA. Another Canadian to feature will be Duncan Macpherson (1924-1993), the distinguished political cartoonist of the Toronto Star. This display is being supported by Duncan's widow, Dorothy, of Beaverton, Ontario, the Toronto Star, his fellow cartoonists and others.

The principal display includes the portrait of Eliza Gordon Macpherson of Cluny (1785/86-1863) found in Cluny Castle ten years ago having suffered serious fire damage. The full story regarding Eliza and her husband, Lt. Gen. Robert Barclay Macpherson, will be the subject of an article in the next issue of *Creag Dhubh* by Dr Alan G. Macpherson of Newfoundland, who also helped with the cost of restoring the portrait.

The exhibition will also include Robert Turnbull Macpherson (1814-1872) the foremost photographer of Rome, Giuseppe Macpherson (1726-1779) Florentine miniaturist, Douglas Macpherson (1871-1952) artist at the opening of the tomb of King Tutankhamun, Emma Macpherson of Blairgowrie (1833-1916) Australian Pioneer, A&J Macpherson, 19th century lithographers of Edinburgh and 'Four Generations of Macpherson Artists'.

All clansmen and clanswomen visiting the Clan gathering this summer in Scotland will have an additional reason to drop in to our museum for a visit and see this fine exhibit.

EWAN A. MACPHERSON PhD



Ewan A. Macpherson, Branch Webmaster, was raised in St. John's, Newfoundland, where his parents Professors Alan G. and Joyce Macpherson still reside.

Following an interest in acoustics and sound perception, he attended Queen's University for undergraduate studies in Engineering Physics, the University of Waterloo for Master's studies in Physics, and the University of Wisconsin, where he completed his Ph.D. in experimental psychology in 1998. He was a researcher at the University of Michigan until 2009, when he returned to Canada to take up a faculty position at the University of Western Ontario. There, he is an instructor and researcher at the National Centre for Audiology.

There, he is an instructor and researcher at the National Centre for Audiology.

Ewan has played the pipes since childhood, and had the honour of piping at the Scottish Clan Rally in 1980 and 1996, for the US Branch contingent in the Tartan Day Parade in New York City in 2004, and at the Canadian/US joint gathering in 2005. He also organized and arranged the pipe music for the Jubilee Rally in 2006. He is one of the official Clan Pipers, and has had several commissioned tunes published in *Creag Dhubh*. He was the Pipe Major of the Ann Arbor Pipes and Drums from 2001-2005 and has participated in solo competitions at the Grade I level, including an invitation to the prestigious Nicol-Brown contest in 2004.

Ewan was a member of the US CMA branch for many years during his time in the States, and is now a life member of the Canadian branch. Inspired by his father's life-long contributions to the Association, Ewan is happy to be able to contribute as Piper, *Creag Dhubh* Editorial Committee member, and now Canadian Branch Webmaster.

Ewan is married to Nancy Davis, a clinical psychologist in London, Ontario. They have two children, Jessica (5) and Aaron (3), who both have a keen interest in piping and drumming.