



# THE GREEN BANNER

## NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 6 Number 3

September 2012

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

In the membership front we have some new members to report along with renewals of membership after a short break, and a member who was “found” since the last issue of the Green Banner.

We welcome Gerry Curry of South Ohio NS and Stuart MacPherson of Aurora ON. We look forward to meeting them in person at the Gathering in Kingston.

Warren and Sonia Lees of Garson ON along with Jim Place of Hamilton ON, rejoined us recently – Welcome back!

In from the cold from the “Legion of the Lost”, we welcome Heather Emerson a life member with whom we lost contact during her travels.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



This is a summer of reunions for me. On the August holiday weekend my sisters and I returned to the small village in southwestern Ontario where we grew up, for a weekend-long gathering and celebration of our local culture. It was a lot of fun but also very nostalgic.

In the latter part of August we had a cousins’ reunion at our cottages on Georgian Bay. Eighteen of us gathered for a weekend of food, fun and a re-telling of the old stories.

On both weekends our ‘roots were exposed’ as we talked about so many things that happened in the past - and so many people who are no longer there to share the fun with us. These two weekends ended with questions as to why we don’t get together more often, and promise to do so - these will be by and large not kept.

I am looking forward to another family reunion in September when our Clan Macpherson Association Branch gathers in Kingston. Each year that I have attended has been a great time to get reacquainted with friends of long standing and to meet new members who I hope will become friends.

While each of these occasions had a different basis, the rationale is the same. It is our universal need to have a sense of community and an identity with our roots. In our fast paced modern culture, growing up and staying in one community for life is no longer the norm. In pursuit of our personal and financial objectives we are called upon to pull up stakes leaving family and friends behind with hopes of making new friends where we land.

But family and roots are always there. Our Clan Association is one more place to nourish our roots and to maintain that sense of community that is so important.

Wendy and I hope to see many of you in Kingston in September.

Yours aye, John C. Gillies

### COME ONE, COME ALL



Coat of Arms for The City of Kingston

The 63<sup>rd</sup> annual Canadian Branch Gathering will be held at the Radisson Kingston Harbourfront hotel commencing Friday September 28th in the evening with a Meet and Greet buffet, and finishing with our traditional church service on Sunday September 30th. A busy schedule has been arranged featuring a Highland dinner with all the trimmings on Saturday evening.

Based on registrations received at the time of publication, we expect 50 members and guests. From Scotland, our Clan Chief Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and his guest Lady Hilary Burnham will join us, along with William (Bill) Macpherson of Glenfarg, Chair of the Scotland Branch, and his wife Jan. From the USA, Ken Croker, Chair of the US Branch, will be present with his wife Carolyn, plus Stuart McPherson, who is US Branch Membership Chair, in addition to being a member of the Canadian Branch.

Kingston on this the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812 is of special significance to us since a commander of the garrison at Kingston in that period was Lt.-Col. Donald Macpherson, one of Cluny’s ancestors, and the uncle of Canada’s first Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald.

Come and join us for this signal event.

For additional information visit <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/rally.html> or call the Gathering convener Bill Macpherson (905) 824 2957.



One of three Martello Tower redoubts. A post -1812 fortification found at Kingston

## LEGION OF THE LOST

One of the problems our Registrar has to solve is maintaining our members' database so we can keep up our association with you. Often members move and fail to advise us, thus we ask for your help to locate those with whom we have lost contact.

In the last two issues we noted the following members need to be located:

Mr. Davis Smith	Toronto ON
Mrs. Anne Macpherson	Tecumseh, ON,
Mr. Roderick Ian MacPherson	Kanata, ON
Mrs. Wallace C. MacPherson	Halifax, NS
Col. Glen W. McPherson	W. Vancouver, BC
Mr. John D. & Glenna McPherson	Vancouver, BC

If any member knows where any 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](mailto:chantal@mdsscanada.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, open to any member old or brand new. Please seriously consider joining Council. Contact John Gillies at [jcgillies@rogers.com](mailto:jcgillies@rogers.com)

## 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 W 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

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## JOHN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN



I was very honoured to be able to address the Clan Macpherson Association as the new Chairman and my thoughts and deeds will always be in the best interests of the Clan. My wife Iris & I have been attending Macpherson Gatherings at Newtonmore for 23 years, Clan Chattan for 10yrs. We have visited Canada twice before in 1993 and 2000 at the joint gathering in Ottawa, we spent a few days in Kingston before returning home.

I was the first Chairman of the newly formed Scottish Branch after the dissolution of the four smaller branches in 1997 and, have been a M.A.C. and Executive Committee member for many years, one of my

remits being the fabric of the Museum. I had the honour of making the memorial gate at the Cairn site (Glenruim) and the Museum gates in memory of my late Aunt Nettie. Iris assisted me in both the installation and finishing of these gates. Home for us is a small town in the North East of Scotland called Montrose where the famous Marquis of Montrose and Robert Brown, Britain's first & greatest botanist were both born. James V11 the Old Pretender spent his last night in Montrose before sailing off to exile in France.

I served my apprenticeship as a blacksmith in Montrose and was involved in the manufacture & installation of the Gates & rails at Balavil house in the 1950's. I spent 3 years in the merchant navy with Ben Line (Leith) while Iris completed her nurse training. We were married in 1964 and have daughter, son and three grandchildren. I set up a blacksmith business in Montrose and after 24 years decided to work as a full time farrier (Horse Shorer), this is work which I still am involved in to this day.

We will be visiting Banff in Canada in January 27, 2013 for one week for a family wedding and hope that we may meet some Clans folk at that time.

## TREASURER'S CORNER



In July we received a bequest from the estate of the late Carol Macpherson who served as Hon. Treasurer prior to 2004 and was a loyal supporter of CMA. It is my intention to add this money to the Life Membership account. The Life Membership account currently holds two GICs with a combined value of \$4,327.83 plus \$2,350 held in our current account for life memberships. The addition of the bequest will bring the amount in the Life Membership account to over \$9,800. There may be a more money coming from the estate and from new life memberships this year at which time I will purchase a single GIC. The purpose of this GIC will be to earn income to pay for life member service expenses into the future.



## FAREWELL FROM SHELAGH



It is difficult to believe it is 3 years since I took on the role of CMA chairman; however the Council has worked hard and a great deal has been achieved. I can report that Alastair and I have met over 400 overseas Macphersons, and I can confirm there is nothing to beat Macpherson hospitality worldwide.

The generosity and kindness of the Canadian membership has left us with lasting and fond memories. The hospitality we received was exceptional.

In 2009, whilst attending my first Canadian Gathering, I was invited to attend the Council meeting. I was impressed with the gavel and block used and made comment about how useful it was. I thought nothing more of it, until a parcel arrived in Scotland containing a beautiful hand-made gavel & block as a gift from Bob Archibald, known from then on as 'Shelagh's Shillelagh'.

The Canadian branch contributes a great deal to the Association, for example: over the last 20 years the Canadians have generously sponsored a Scottish Wildcat at the Highland Wildlife Park, near Kingussie. Last year the Association launched its own Facebook page and this could not have been achieved without a huge amount of work and organisation carried out by Mark Macpherson and Jacqueline Murdoch and last, but definitely not least, Gordon Macpherson has made an outstanding contribution to the CMA by producing all the shields on our heraldry wall in the Museum in Newtonmore. On a personal note, I am extremely grateful to Gordon for guiding me through my Petition for Arms which was granted earlier this year.

The Council has achieved a lot in the last 3 years and my time as Association chairman has been challenging, interesting, educational, but above all great fun. I would like to thank the Canadian branch officers for all their assistance to help me 'make things happen'.

Best wishes and kind regards.

Shelagh Macpherson Noble

## NEWFOUNDLAND THIS SUMMER

By Ken Gillis

Newfoundland and Labrador was the only province of Canada that Ella and I had not visited; so when it was suggested, we jumped at the opportunity. We had three items on our wish list; to see an iceberg, whales, and puffins.

We flew into Deer Lake / Cornerbrook to begin the tour in the south western corner of the province and headed north up the Viking Trail following the western coast through Gros Morne National park and visited the fishing port of Port au Choix. From there we turned east toward St Anthony and L'Anse aux Meadows, the home of Lief the Lucky and the Viking people who settled this area around 1000 AD. It was here that we sighted our first iceberg.

We crossed the Straits of Belle Isle on a ferry to Labrador, where we visited Red Bay which was a whaling station for the Basques people in the early 1500's. Then it was back to Newfoundland by ferry where the tour headed south along



*The Arches on the Viking Trail*

the Viking trail visiting The Arches, no not McDonalds, but a rock formation carved out by the action of the sea.

Both of us became "Honorary Newfies" when we were "screeched in" during a boat tour on Bonne Bay. This involved dancing a wee jig, kissing the cod, repeating the Screech oath and drinking a shot of Screech rum. Probably because of the rum I only remember the oath ending in "in cod we trust."

We headed east to Grand Falls where we saw Atlantic salmon making their way up a fish ladder to get by the falls. The tour, amongst other places, stopped at Bonavista, where John Cabot made landfall in 1497. We traveled the Avalon Peninsula where we took a boat trip out to the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve and saw our first puffins.



*The puffins at Witless Bay*

The most eastern point of North America, Cape Spear, is our last stop before entering St John's, the oldest city in North America. It has interesting places such as Signal Hill, which includes Cabot Tower where Marconi received the first transatlantic radio signal in 1901, and its famous



*The Honorary Newfies at the Cabot Tower on Signal Hill*

"Jellybean" houses, so named because each house in the row is painted a different bright colour.

The tour was exciting and rewarding, in spite of not seeing any whales although people on the other side of the ferry did. We did see icebergs and puffins; so, I guess two out of three is not too bad.

## AT THE GAMES THIS SUMMER

By Mark Macpherson

In the July issue of the Green Banner we reported on the games that Bob Archibald and Marlene had attended in June on behalf of the Branch. Since that time Bob has organized our booth at three games and Bill Macpherson a fourth in August. We have set up our report in the order in which each of these games occurred:

### Highlands of Durham Games July 28

July 28 was a great day for the games at Uxbridge. The Organizing Committee had proclaimed Clan Macpherson as the "Honoured Clan" so we were out in force this year for the opening parade. Bill our Vice Chair led the colour party consisting of Robert J. (Bob) Archibald our games expert, Chantal our Registrar, Robert W Archibald our Hon. Secretary, and his lovely wife Sondra. Mary Margaret Gillies and Jim & Marlene McPherson joined the group later on to help staff the Macpherson tent with Bob and Marlene Archibald.

Bob's granddaughter Hilary, danced both Saturday and Sunday and aced it both days; four first place medals both days, and a trophy each day for her performance in her age group (14 to 16 yrs). She also received a Dancer of the Games trophy, which although is normally shared, she has it for herself for a year topping 400 other dancers in all other age groups by her superior accomplishment.



Part of the Clan tent staff at Uxbridge. Left to right: Sondra and Robert W. Archibald, Chantal McPherson, Robert J. and Marlene Archibald. Missing: Jim and Marlene McPherson, Bill Macpherson, and Mary Margaret Gillies

### Glengarry Games August 4

It was a sweltering sunny day with temperatures of 33°C and humidity over 80% at Maxville. Nine enthusiastic clansmen and clanswomen lined up behind the Clan Macpherson parade banner for the march on the opening ceremonies. Spirits were high as we carried the old green banner, the new association banner displaying the CMA arms, and three tartan banners. Several Macpherson war cries "Creag Dhuhb!" were shouted as we marched around the track. We didn't hear any answering cries from the other more stolid clans present, so we held the ground.

In the clan exhibit building (a feature of the Glengarry games, which certainly beats a tent when it rains), Bob and Marlene Archibald had set up the Clan booth. Several passersby were attracted to the Clan Macpherson display some of whom were Macpherson's visiting Canada from the USA. These people were encouraged to join the US Branch.



The Clan Macpherson parade group for the opening ceremonies at Maxville Left to right: Chantal McPherson, Shannon Bush Prescott ON, Bob Archibald, Mark Macpherson, Peter Fish representing the US Branch from Keene NY, Annie Laurie Macpherson, Timmins ON, Graham Macpherson, Prescott ON, Gordon McPherson, Ottawa, who is Chantal's brother. Missing is June Macpherson who took this photo, and Marlene Archibald who is looking after our booth during the parade

The Glengarry games this year attracted a large contingent of pipers, athletes, and dancers who competed in the heat during the day. There were lots of merchant tents some of which were able to extract some money from us for things such as a badly needed fur sporran and some Scottish items for this year's Christmas gifts.

### Montreal Games August 5

The forecast for Sunday August 5 at Montreal was not encouraging with heavy showers. Bob was not sure on the 4<sup>th</sup> that he and Marlene would be taking the "coach" from Maxville to Montreal – a trip of about an hour. On reflection later, he recalled that Clan Macpherson was to be the honored clan, so he decided to put in an appearance where after setting up the tent in the morning, Marlene and he participated in the opening ceremonies at noon along with a few other clans present. Shortly after the opening, the rain "arrived in torrents" and our contingent decided to pack up and return to Port Hope. Bob advises that all was not lost as the local beer and smoked meat sandwiches were great!

### Fergus Scottish Festival August 11

The Fergus games this year were a little wet which dampened the spirits of the visitors.. The Macpherson tent was in evidence and attracted a few people who expressed an interest in joining CMA. Some took away application forms so we will see if we have some new members in the fullness of time. Sales were also good with revenue exceeding costs which always makes our Hon. Treasurer happy.

Bill Macpherson, Ed Smith and Robert W. Archibald (Brantford) braved the inclement weather to march in the parade and show our colours. This was done with due dispatch, marching in and straight out again to the tent where a wee dram was served by Sondra Archibald to drive out the damp

*I wish to acknowledge the input of Bob Archibald and Bill Macpherson which contributed materially to this article. MFM*

## DEADLINE

The next issue of the Green Banner is scheduled for November. I am looking forward to receiving articles and photographs by October 26 — Ed



## REPORT FROM THE GATHERING IN BADENOCH

By Ed Smith



Ed with the Canadian Cromag at the Games

I arrived at the Duke of Gordon Hotel at Kingussie a few days early in order to allow me to visit friends met during an earlier trip and take in a bit of the scenery in the Cairngorm region.

The Association Council meeting on Thursday was called to order by Chairman Shelagh. I had been invited as an observer on behalf of our Canadian Branch. I was extremely impressed with how the meeting progressed and the dedication and professionalism of all those who attended.

On Friday we went to the open air Highland Wildlife Park. It has been twenty years since the Canadian Branch presented a donation for the preservation of the Scottish highland wild cat. Cluny and Shelagh unveiled a plaque commemorating this anniversary. There were two pairs of cats and a pair of kittens in attendance that were very entertaining.

The traditional Highland Ball started on Friday evening with the Chief's reception, followed by dinner in the dining room. After the meal we then adjourned to the ballroom where the dancing commenced. Everyone, including the young people took part, had a whale of a time.

On Saturday morning the AGM at the community hall in Newtonmore was opened by Shelagh. For the next hour and half, we heard reports from the various executive members including an interesting bit of news from the Museum on the newly available archive of all the past issues of Creag Dhubh on DVD. Following the election the new Association Chairman, John Macpherson, the branch chairmen read their reports. The Canadian report was presented by me as the representative of our Chairman. Our Chief ended the meeting noting the wonderful effort made by Shelagh during her term. He welcomed the new slate of officers and expressed gratitude to all those who were in attendance.

The Newtonmore games got underway under sunny skies at the local shinty field while some seventy plus kilted men of Clan Macpherson were led off with colours flying and kilts swaying in step with the pipes and drums. At the head of the column strode our Chief, Cluny. What a grand site! We marched past in a salute to the Chief of the Games, Sir Tommy Macpherson. During the march I was honored to carry the Cromag for the Canadian Branch.

The Ceilidh were the order of Saturday evening, where a hilarious time was had including; music, singing, and assorted other performances by various clansmen and women. I contributed by singing Loch Lomond, which in my opinion was rendered to the credit of the Canadian Branch. In short, a really good time was had by all.

The Sunday morning church service was held at St Columba Church in Kingussie, and in the afternoon there was a picnic at the site of the Association Cairn at Glentruim. The view was spectacular as we sat upon blankets spread for our sandwiches, and family fellowship. Later in the day we were treated to tea at the invitation of the Macpherson-Fletcher family at Balavil House built originally by James Macpherson of Ossian fame. This was the first time I had experienced a cucumber sandwich!

*Continued on page 6*

## MY GRANT OF ARMS

By Shelagh Macpherson Noble - Armiger



On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012 I was granted my Coat of Arms by the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, under the Lyon King of Arms Act, 1672.

The inspiration was born whilst attending the joint US & Canadian Gatherings in Baddeck, Nova Scotia in 2010, when Gordon Macpherson, Niagara Herald Extraordinary persuaded me to consider petitioning the Lord Lyon in Scotland.

With Gordon acting as heraldic consultant and artist, the Arms soon began to take shape. We started with some of the traditions taken from the Arms of Cluny, our

chief, including the galley, crosslet and dagger. To make it personal to me, there is an open book that represents my profession as a teacher. In addition, the wild cat is holding a gold coin to indicate my work in the financial world. The 3 bay leaves are taken from the Noble Coat of Arms and I am particularly proud of this because the Lord Lyon is usually reluctant to include reference to a spouse; however he told me he would make an exception in my case.

My motto is in Gaelic: **Daingeann ach cothromach** which means "Firm but Fair", something I was always considered to be during my working life.

You will see that my Arms are not on a shield and this is because shields are reserved for gentlemen; ladies Arms are either on a diamond (or lozenge) shape or on an oval. I chose the oval.

I am pleased to be one of the few lady armigers in the Clan Macpherson Association and I owe a huge thank you to Gordon for his help and advice. The results of his wonderful artistry can be seen on



Shelagh standing proudly at the heraldry wall with the "oval" from her arms

## CREAG DHUBH DVD

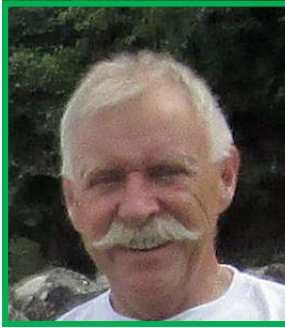
Through the efforts of Bill (Glenfarg) our Webmaster Emeritus, and others working diligently for the past few years, the complete collection of Creag Dhubh annuals from 1947 to the present is now available on a DVD from the Clan On-Line Shop.

Each year is available on the disk as a separate PDF file which can be read using Adobe Acrobat Reader. If desired they can be printed using your computer printer or simply read as time and interest permits.

The price for this important Clan archive is a canny £10 which means anyone can afford to own it. Visit the on-line shop today at <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/> and order your copy.

Our thanks are due to Bill Macpherson, Rod Clarke, and the others who worked hard to make this DVD available to us.

## EDWARD SMITH



Edward (Ed) Smith joined the Canadian Branch three years ago and has been an active participant at our Gatherings ever since. He discovered CMA and his Clan connection while attending games in California. In 2010 he attended the Clan Museum in Newtonmore and was sufficiently impressed that he decided to attend the Gathering there this summer. As the sole participant from Canada this year,

he represented our Chairman at meetings and carried the Canadian cromag in the march on the games from the Elian.

He is a native of Paris ON and grew up there. He was married and raised three children with his Scottish wife. He has six grandchildren.

Ed is a metal worker who started on the shop floor and worked his way up to Engineering where he was responsible for the Welding department. He also took on jobs as a long-term supply teacher to fill his time when he was on shift work. When things slowed down in the metal fabrication industry he went on the road as a long-haul truck driver where he worked for nine years before retiring.

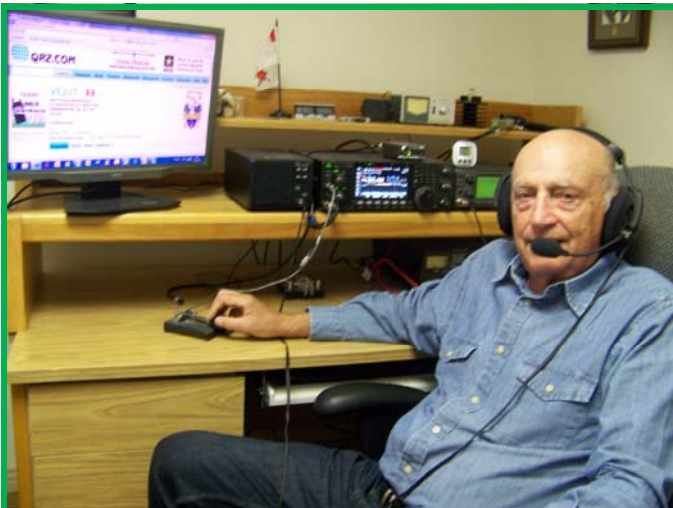
He served in the militia for 27 years in an artillery regiment, finishing in the rank of Master Warrant Officer. He enjoyed his military service particularly when he was an instructor.

Ed has many interests outdoors: He has sailed in races on the Great Lakes, plays golf, indulges in kayaking, canoeing, cycling and fishing. Indoors, he keeps busy with model railroad-ing, as well as boat and aircraft model building

## A SUMMER MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

By Mark Macpherson

While I was making some radio contacts on my amateur radio station in the spring I realized that I had access to a public database in which all radio amateurs in Canada were listed. I thought that maybe if I approached Macpherson's and related family names who were ham operators, as another Ham, this could help to break the ice. I did a search of this database and came up with 160 hits across Canada.



Mark operating his radio station call sign VE2JT

A package was designed with a personal letter from me addressed to the ham operator, a personalized application form, and a copy of the July Green Banner. At the same time the Provincial Councillors agreed to look up the telephone numbers of the prospects in their province and call them to determine their interest.

The important thing to take away from this is that we must think of innovative ways to reach as many Macphersons in Canada as we can, without breaking the bank. Possibly some of you are members of a national organization that will share their members' list with you so you can sort out the Macpherson members and follow the model in this campaign. If you can do this or something else, let me know and we can put our heads together.

## REPORT FROM THE GATHERING IN BADENOCH

Continued from page 5

On Monday I undertook a Clan walk led by John Barton to the Black Officers Monument located in Gaick. Enroute, we came to a loch from which the Gaick flows eventually to the Spey. The



Ed at the Black Officers monument at the end of his walk in Gaick. Proof, as he says, that he made it up there.

heather was not quite in bloom; however patches of bell heather along with blue bells decorated the sides of the steep hills. We visited the stone monument not far from the steep walls of the glen on which a metal plaque identified the occasion when Major Macpherson and four friends died in a slide that swept away their cabin.

This was my very first Clan Macpherson Gathering and is something I will long remember. I encourage every member to make the effort to attend The Clan Macpherson Gathering.

I did it - so can you!

## ADVERTISING IN THE GREEN BANNER

Members are reminded that there are opportunities for advertising space in the Green Banner. We would like to defray the expenses of publishing and distributing our newsletter and also contribute to Branch operations. The rates per issue are as follows;

Eighth Page	\$12
Quarter Page	\$20
Half Page	\$35
Full Page	\$65

The Green Banner is read by adults and children alike across the country and is circulated outside of Canada.

Anyone wishing to advertise their business, services or talents, or events that might be of interest to our readers, should contact [Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org) for more details and multi-issue rates

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our Editor wishes to thank the following members for their excellent contributions to the September issue; Robert J Archibald, John Gillies, Ken Gillis, Bill Macpherson (Mississauga), Bill Macpherson (Glenfarg), John Macpherson (Montrose), Shelagh Macpherson-Noble (Inverness), Chantal McPherson, and Ed Smith.