



# THE GREEN BANNER

## NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 7 Number 1

March 2013

### NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

**W**e welcome Helen Macpherson of Prince George BC who discovered the Clan video and then visited the website. Well done Helen and we look forward to meeting you in the near future.

We have one additional piece of news; Stuart MacPherson the Membership Chair for the US Branch, and a loyal member of our Branch, has transferred to Life Member status with us. Congratulations Stuart and Bravo!

It is well past renewal time and some of you have been waiting for the Christmas rush to end. We have provided below, a list of annual members who are current in 2013. If your name is not on this list, please send in your renewal with your cheque right away.

John Audcent, Arthur Campbell, Gerry Curry, Mary Fleming, Eleanore Gillies-Saliba, Ken Gillis, Edith Higgins, Jean Hill, Sonja Lees, Warren Lees, Judy Lutes, Arielle Macpherson, Britta Macpherson, Christiana Macpherson, Donald MacPherson, Helen Macpherson, Joan Macpherson, Ken Macpherson, Robert MacPherson, Alexander McPherson, Susan McPherson, James Place, Barbara Reyelts, Steve Reyelts, Issa Saliba, Edward Smith, Tracy Sutton

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



**I** hope you are enjoying the crazy Canadian winter. The weather in Collingwood has been unusual to say the least. Wendy and I had tickets to fly to Vancouver in early February to meet our new grandson but our flight was cancelled so we had to try again in a couple of weeks.

A fortuitous result of this cancellation was our ability to attend one of the lectures from our local Life Long Learning group that we would have missed. We have been attending a series of weekly lectures on the Landscape and History of Scotland. The one that we would have missed was the story of the clearances.

The lecturer, Dr. Stew Hilt, Professor Emeritus, University of Guelph, stated as follows:

*“Little else in the history of the modern world compares to the appalling process of ‘clearing’ clans from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Nothing else had such a dramatic impact on the Scottish landscape, and nothing else contributed so directly to the settlement of southern Ontario by ambitious pioneers. Few other historical events have been described from such opposite viewpoints. The story of the clearances is at once tragic and inspiring, complex and heartwarming, and underlies the story of many Ontario families with Scottish ancestry.”*

By Dr Hilt’s calculations, less than 10 percent of the emigrants were a direct result of being forced off the land. The bulk of the people left to seek a better way of life. Of course this was prompted by the breakup of the clans and the conversion from that way of life to the payment of rents either in cash or kind for the land they held.

My family left the township of Duchra in Argyll and arrived on the north shore of Lake Erie in 1830. Wendy and I have been to the site at Ducra that was described, along with a photo of the ruins of the house, in an article I submitted in the September 2011 issue of the *Green Banner*. I have not been able to determine why they left but am mighty glad that they did as we have enjoyed what I believe is a much better life in Canada.

One of the many things of which all Macphersons can be proud is the fact that none of our forbearers who were living on lands under the control of our Chief at the time, Cluny of the Cave, were forcibly removed.

It’s great to be a Macpherson and I hope to see many of you will join me in Badenoch at the Gathering in August. I must also remind you to plan to come to the Branch Gathering in the fall in Waterloo which promises to be a fun event and a good time to meet other Canadian clansmen and women.

Lastly, we continue to look for new members for the Branch and have received some interest via the Clan Facebook page. It is also important that existing annual members renew for this year. If you haven’t already done so, please make sure you send your renewal to our Registrar, Chantal.

Yours aye, John C. Gillies

## JOHN C HOUSE, PROVINCIAL COUNCILLOR



John House joined CMA in the spring of 2012. Following our Gathering last September John agreed to take on the role of Provincial Councillor in Newfoundland and Labrador. He plans to encourage more Macphersons from Newfoundland and Labrador to become members of the association.

John grew up a southwestern Newfoundland community called the Highlands, where his maternal forbearers included Macphersons that had emigrated via Cape Breton from western Scotland during the early nineteenth century.

Currently residing in St. John's, he has been a member of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary for more than 30 years, and is currently the Superintendent commanding the Criminal Investigation Division.

John studied at Memorial University for several years before going on to complete a Master of Science Degree in Investigative Psychology at the University of Surrey in England. He continues to work closely with a network of academics exploring ways to improve policing methods.

In 2009, John was invested as a Member of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces by Governor General Michaëlle Jean in recognition of his contributions to policing throughout his career.

We congratulate John on his appointment to Provincial Councillor and wish him success in representing CMA in Newfoundland Labrador.

### 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  
Lois Urquhart-Musselman

#### Provincial Councillors:

John C House, Newfoundland and Labrador  
Bruce Gillis QC, Nova Scotia  
Major Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec  
Rod Smith, Ontario  
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 1005, Hemmingford QC, J0L 1H0

## A NEW ADDITION



than Michael John Winter, was born February 6, 2013 to CMA member Jory, and Chris Winter of Whistler BC. A grandson for Wendy and Chairman John Gillies.

Our Congratulations to mother, father, and proud grandparents.

## SECRETARY'S CORNER

Our Hon. Secretary, Robert Archibald, reports that the following were elected or appointed at the Annual General Meeting in September Note that John House, Regional Councillor for Newfoundland, was appointed subsequent to the meeting:

<b>Honorary Chairman</b>	R. Gordon M. Macpherson
<b>Officers:</b>	
Chairman	John C. Gillies
Vice Chairman	William Macpherson (Mississauga)
Hon. Secretary	Robert W. Archibald
Hon. Treasure	Ken Gillis
Registrar	Chantal McPherson
<b>Immediate Past Chairman (Ex Officio)</b>	Mark Macpherson
<b>Councillors-at-Large:</b>	
Jacqueline Murdoch	
Lois Urquhart Musselman	
<b>Regional Councillors:</b>	
Alberta	Don Pearson
British Columbia	Ian Gillies
Newfoundland	John House
Nova Scotia	Bruce Gillis
Ontario	Rod Smith
Quebec	Myles Macpherson
<b>Appointments:</b>	
Editor	Mark Macpherson
Webmaster	Ewan Macpherson
<b>Former Chairmen (Ex Officio):</b>	
Robert J. Archibald	
Douglas MacPherson	
Ian Macpherson	
Stuart MacPherson	
Neil McPherson	

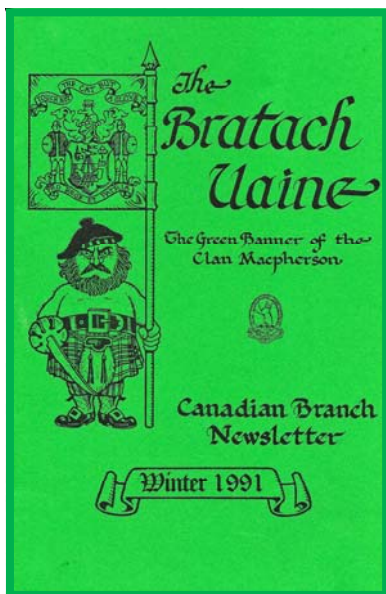
Bob also points out that some of our members hold appointments in CMA outside the branch serving the Clan in the international arena:

Clan Pipers:	Ewan Macpherson
	Hugh Macpherson
Facebook Coordinator	Jacqueline Murdoch

## WHENCE GREEN BANNER?

By Mark Macpherson

The current version of the Branch newsletter has been published since 2006 when June Macpherson then Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, decided to publish an end-of-year newsletter summarizing what the Branch had accomplished during the past year. In 2007, the newsletter was again published under the name "The Green Banner". It was a one-page news sheet sent out at the time of the annual dues notices and it was distributed to all members of the Branch. From 2008 until the present, "The Green Banner" has appeared three or four times each year moving beyond a simple news sheet to a short newspaper running anywhere from two to eight pages depending on the material available.



The idea of "The Green Banner" had earlier origins in 1990 when Stuart MacPherson, then Vice Chair, felt that the members of the Branch, particularly those living at a distance from the Toronto-Hamilton area, needed to be better served if we were to attract and retain members across Canada. The Branch newsletter was to be a magazine in half letter size (8 1/2 x 6 1/2) with a heavy weight green cover. Stuart designed the cover and Gordon Macpherson did the art work.

The magazine was titled *The Bratach Uaine* which means the green banner.

This is not to say that the Branch did not publish newsletters before 1990. Margaret Hambleton, who at the time lived in Nova Scotia, published a newsletter for a few years relying on material gleaned from newspapers and other sources, principally in the Atlantic Provinces, along with items from the Branch when these were available. Margaret's move to Scotland in 1991 precipitated the publication of the first issue of *The Bratach Uaine* as Stuart realized a new editor was required. He then edited and published the Winter 1991 issue.

In 1992, Stuart, who had, by this time, been elected Chairman of the Branch, asked Douglas MacPherson to take over the role of Editor for *The Bratach Uaine*. Douglas continued to publish at least one issue of the magazine each year and remained its Editor until 1997 when he retired from that appointment on becoming Vice Chairman of the Branch. When Douglas became Chairman in 2000 he published a letter-sized newsletter under the name "The Green Banner" about three times each year through 2003.

A little about *The Bratach Uaine*: It was an attractive conveniently sized magazine-style newsletter. It was printed in a typewriter font initially and then in a more professional one. Most issues had some black and white photos.

Colour would have been prohibitively expensive at a professional printing establishment. The editorial policy followed by Douglas was to have articles submitted by Branch members on their exploits and other information of interest to the Branch. The material would not be drawn on articles already published in *Creag Dhubh* or the US Branch magazine, called *The Urlar*. In general this policy was followed for the five years of publication with a few exceptions.

A sampling of articles that appeared in the 90's, shows that much of what we publish in the Green Banner today maintains a thread with our interests in the past. There were reports of members receiving honours, articles on history involving Macpherson's, reports on annual rallies in Canada, the USA, and overseas describing the participation of Branch members, reports of annual meetings, events such as a Clan picnic in Ontario, and heraldic issues of significance to CMA such as the matriculation of the arms of the Association in Scotland in 1995 which appeared in the Winter 1996-97 issue.

Today we have the advantage of publishing programs on personal computers and the ability to send out the current Green Banner in full colour to members having email facilities which reduces the time and expense of producing our newsletter significantly. As was in the case of *The Bratach Uaine*, the main problem for the Editor remains to gather information of interest to the members of the Branch to be published in each issue. There is a creative element apparent in *The Bratach Uaine* that is the same today - the Editor has to find and select the best material to serve the needs of our members and present it in an interesting way. This means that one editor cannot expect to have a perfect issue every time, so we hope others will come forward and actively participate in the publication of our newsletter in the future so we can continue to have fresh approaches and new ideas.

The author acknowledges the assistance of Margaret Hambleton, Stuart MacPherson, Douglas MacPherson, and R Gordon Macpherson in the preparation of this article.

## THE GOD PARTICLE

Rob Smith sent in the following clipping from a recent issue of Zoomer magazine, reporting on the involvement of a Canadian Macpherson in the search for the Higgs Boson at CERN. The elusive Higgs Boson has been nicknamed the "God Particle" because it is supposed to be related to the origin of all matter in the universe.

"Rob McPherson, Principal Investigator. Canadians helped build ATLAS, a large particle detector located at the CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC) near Geneva, Switzerland. When it proved to be one of the pivotal experiments that led to the possible discovery of the Higgs boson, it was McPherson at the helm as principal investigator of a 150-member team. The discovery itself was a momentous group success, a "tremendous validation" of the decades of work that led to it."

We hope that someday we will count Rob among the members of CMA.

## CMA CHAIRMAN REPORT

By John Macpherson of Montrose



This part of the year, March to May, is usually quiet Clan wise, but we do have the Museum and Executive meetings over the first weekend of April in Newtonmore, when all the plans and ideas for the year will be discussed.

Iris and I always go country dancing on Hogmanay after which we return home and celebrate with some friends it seems a great start to the new year. The Scottish Branch Burns supper is the first Clan event of the year and has been running for 12 years now. We usually have more than 40 attendees enjoying the evening with all the usual addresses and speeches and of course we were very honoured to have Cluny and Hilary there. Our members from Aberdeen set a quiz with wonderful close up photography of everyday objects and there was a prize for the winner. We also had excellent pipe playing from Cluny's grandson, Torquil, making it a great night at the Greens Hotel in Kinross.

As I mentioned in the November *Green Banner*, Iris and I attended a family wedding in Banff, Alberta at the end of January. The bridegroom was my cousin and he and the bride are from Edinburgh, but now live in Edmonton where he is a policeman and she a nurse. How quickly a week can go by, We arrived on Sat and, between Family meals, get togethers, Hen Night and Stag Nights, then the wedding on Wednesday was upon us.

We were very impressed with the Banff Springs Hotel, where the quality and service was superb, and the surrounding countryside was really beautiful. We did a bit of walking as people of our age perhaps should do, and a trip to Sulphur Mountain and a Gondola ride was our only real free time event. We returned home to Aberdeen with the usual problems that jet lag brings, but happily recovered quickly.

Iris is the new CMA Secretary having been elected in August. Emails and enquiries for this year's Gathering are starting to arrive. Please remember that preferential rates for the Duke of Gordon hotel only apply until the end of March and make sure to book the Gathering functions first. We anticipate a larger gathering this year with at this stage, at least twelve applicants who are first time attendees. We hope to see some of you in August at Newtonmore.

## TREASURERS CORNER

By Ken Gillis



The Branch is in good shape financially as of the end of February. We have about \$9,100 in our current account and a little over \$9,900 in our Life Membership Fund.

We have received just short of \$560 from the estate of Carol Macpherson with a very small amount to come once the taxes are settled.

The money from Carol's estate is earmarked for our Life Membership Fund.

I am looking forward to another good year for the association as membership renewal seems to be progressing well and I see no large unexpected expenditures at this time.

## OLD LOVES, NEW LOVES

By June Macpherson



Dee McPherson has just issued a romantic CD, Listen to Your Girlfriend Sing. Hearing her lovely voice singing the lyrics to the music she composed evinces memories of lost loves and new loves. If you remember your first kiss the first song, *This Kiss*, will take you back in time. If you would like to purchase a copy contact Dee at [DonnaRucks@att.net](mailto:DonnaRucks@att.net).

Donna Rucks-McPherson is a member of the US Branch and is the Facebook Coordinator for North America. She lives in Indianapolis, where her day job is Financial Consultant

## CANADIAN GATHERING 2013



Our Vice Chair, Bill Macpherson, reports that plans for the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering in September are proceeding apace. It will be held at the Waterloo Inn and Convention Centre <http://www.waterlooinn.com/> starting Friday 27 September and finishing up Sunday 30 September.

Make sure you mark your calendar. We are looking for a big turnout this year.

Bill will be sending out an email shortly with more details.



The Courtyard at the Waterloo Inn

## BURNS' NIGHT IN NOVA SCOTIA

By Debbie Gillis

Macpherson Clansmen were present at the CFB Greenwood RCAF Mess for the celebration of Burns Night - a very successful new event for the Base this year.

Bruce Gillis played in the black light drum salute as well as the several pipe band performances throughout the evening. The Gillis family members were very well received.



Provincial Councilor for Nova Scotia Bruce Gillis, in uniform as the 14 Wing Greenwood Pipe Band Drum Sergeant and wife Debbie flanked by, son Rob, and Rob's girlfriend Lisa in Gillis Green Dress tartan

## ARCHIBALD 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

By Robert J Archibald



The weekend of February 23, 2013 was a busy one for the Archibald family at Port Hope Ontario, with two family birthdays (1 grandson and 1 son-in-law) and a 50th wedding anniversary for former Chairman Robert J. & Marlene Archibald.

With much cause to celebrate, seventeen immediate family members gathered at The Mill Restau-

rant & Pub in nearby Cobourg for a family dinner. After dinner the family retired to our home in Port Hope for coffee, cake, conversation and cocktails. Gifts were exchanged (both birthday and anniversary) and everyone had a joyous and memorable evening that won't soon be forgotten

When asked if she had ever been to the Mill before, Marlene replied "Just once.....when she was six years old in the back of her grandfather's horse drawn wagon to pick up or deliver some grain for the family farm".

Our congratulations to Bob and Marlene on this signal event.

## MACPHERSONS IN WORLD WAR I

By Ewen S L Macpherson

You may be aware that the Clan Museum in Newtonmore has a small display on World War I on Panels 57, 58 & 59 which may be viewed on the Electronic Museum at <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/mem/>. A number of medals from that period are also on display.

The centenary of the start of WW I will be commemorated in 2014 with a special exhibition in the Drumochter Room. A total of 493 service personnel of the name Macpherson or variant lost their lives as a result of WW I and all of the names, together with age, rank, regiment, etc. will be presented in a *Book of Remembrance*.

A search of the museum store and database has revealed a limited number of WW I artifacts including the following that are in the process of being researched:

- An Imperial German Flag seized by Major Thomas Macpherson at Rabaul, German New Guinea in September 1914 at the first engagement by the Australian military in WW I. Major Thomas lost his life the following year at Gallipoli.
- A German *Seitengewehr 98/05* Bayonet taken at the German Front at the Battle of the Somme in 1917.
- A German and British helmet both badly damaged; the metal remains of three rifles and a flask found in the trenches at Beaumont Hamel on a visit by the late Hugh Macpherson whose father had been a sergeant in the Seaforth Highlanders at Beaumont Hamel in the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

Cluny is kindly giving on loan the miniature medals belonging to his father, Brigadier Alan David Macpherson of Cluny, DSO, MC, together with his WW I record.

We hope as many Macphersons as possible from around the world will be recognized but the exhibition can only be as good as the material available. With this in mind, we would appreciate receiving stories about family members together with images for the exhibition. Any artifacts would also be very welcome, donated or loaned to the museum for the centenary exhibit. We realize this may be more difficult from overseas but please consider us.

Please contact Ewen S L Macpherson, the exhibition organizer, at [ewenie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ewenie@yahoo.co.uk) with any information, details and advice.

## DEADLINE

The next issue of the Green Banner is scheduled for July. I am looking forward to receiving your articles and captioned photos by June 28.— Ed.

## LEGION OF THE LOST

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

Mr. Davis Smith	Toronto 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 New Brunswick, Manitoba, 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)

## 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 March issue; John Gillies, Bill Macpherson (Mississauga), John Macpherson (Montrose Scotland), June Macpherson, Rod Smith, Chantal McPherson, Robert W Archibald, Robert J Archibald, Debbie Gillis and Ewen S L Macpherson of Scotland.

**THIS SPACE RESERVED  
FOR MORE ARTICLES  
FROM OUR MEMBERS**