



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 7 Number 3

September 2013

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Chantal McPherson, Registrar



We are pleased to welcome Nicholas Lord, grandson of Stuart G. McPherson former Chairman, who has joined as an annual member.

With the welcome help of Thom Gillis and her daughter Marion Stairs, we were able to find Mrs. Wallace Macpherson, wife of a former Chairman in a residence in Halifax. Well-done Thom! Marion has agreed to receive each issue of the Green Banner to read to her mother. Welcome to Mississauga David Smith! Happy to hear from you to update our records and post your 2013 Creag Dhubh.. We are indeed making progress on the "Legion of the Lost".

I am happy to report that we made some progress on renewals for 2013 since the July issue and that two members decided to remain with CMA. We are investigating the remaining six to see if we can do better at retaining members in the future

By the way, it is time to start thinking about renewing for 2014. Annual dues are due in January. Let's see if we can have 100% of our annual members renewing for next year by the end of January. I welcome suggestions and help from our Provincial Councillors in this regard. On a final note, I would like to recruit help from all members. I am asking you not to be shy and encourage your children, brothers, sisters and cousins to join the CMA!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



About Day is past and Thanksgiving in sight. The older I get, the closer together these two days seem. Must be something to do with Einstein's Theory of Relativity.

The juxtaposition of these two days triggers some thoughts. It is the labours of many dedicated volunteers that give us as members of the Clan Macpherson Association so much to be thankful for. In my three years as Chairman, I have been blessed with the support of many talented individuals, most doing things not readily visible to the membership.

Vice Chairman Bill Macpherson of Mississauga has been the convenor of two great annual gatherings and has a super one prepared for September 27 to 29 in Waterloo. He has done so with the great assistance of Jacqueline Murdoch and Rod Smith. Bill has also represented our branch at CMA meetings in Scotland on several occasions and has provided much wise counsel and support to me.

A major feature of the gathering is the raffle which has been conducted by Rebecca and Jamie Murdoch and Emily Eves. These young ladies raise significant money on the raffle each year to help offset the cost of the meeting.

Registrar Chantal Macpherson has a significant workload as she collects the dues from annual members, maintains an up to date membership list and distributes the Creag Dhubh to all members each year. It is a generally unseen job but with significant importance to us.

June Macpherson extended her term as Hon. Secretary for one year to help me in my first term of office and then turned over the minutes, books and archives in good shape to Bob Archibald of Brampton who has carried on in exemplary fashion.

Hon. Treasurer Ken Gillis has managed our funds well and provided timely and informative reports.

Councillors at large, Jacqueline Murdoch, Lois Urquhart Mussleman and Jean Whitten's contributions have been appreciated.

Our Regional Councillors, John House, Newfoundland and Labrador, Bruce Gillis Nova Scotia, Myles Macpherson, Quebec, Rod Smith, Ontario. Don Pearson, Alberta and Ian Gillies, BC have each contributed to our membership campaigns and Council deliberations.

Clan Pipers Hugh Macpherson and Ewan Macpherson, who is also webmaster and Facebook Co-ordinator Jacqueline Murdoch have played key roles.

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WE REMEMBER

It is with sadness we recently learned of the passing of two of our life members in 2012. Joan Lohead who passed away on July 24 last year was a nurse by profession and served as a nursing sister in the navy during World War Two where she met Arthur who was also a naval officer. Arthur Lohead died on October 14 2012 in Forest ON where the couple had lived and raised their family. Arthur operated the local hardware store, the fourth generation of Loheads to do so. Both were very active in their community with Arthur assuming leadership positions in the Local Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and in Scouts Canada.

Our belated condolences to their family

LEGION OF THE LOST

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

Mr. Roderick Ian MacPherson	Kanata, ON
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:

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

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Provincial Councillors:

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Continued from page 1

Former Chairman Bob Archibald and his wife Marlene have represented CMA at many Highland Games and Gatherings, generated much interest in the clan and our association and recruited a number of new members. They do wonders making members and others welcome at our clan tent.

Editor Mark Macpherson has done an outstanding job making the Green Banner an interesting, informative and timely publication which showcases the Canadian Branch to our members and to CMA members around the world. This is a publication to be proud of.

Honorary Chairman, Gordon Macpherson has never missed a chance to forward a kind word and offer of support which has been most gratifying.

My sisters Mary Margaret Gillies and Danna Fitton and her husband Ron have provided great support with their behind the scenes activities, hospitality to members and visitors and constant support.

My wife Wendy has provided constant care and attention and has made our home a place of welcome for overseas visitors and clan members generally.

The role of Chairman is probably the easiest office of all. In that office, one finds good people, makes sure that the required tasks are known, gets out of the way and lets capable people do good things, and then takes credit for all success. I have enjoyed this role and have been honoured to serve.

Yours aye, John C. Gillies

DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL AWARDED



Dorena receiving the medal and certificate of citation from Thomas Beveridge Regional Director General (centre) and Pierre Legault Associate Deputy Minister

In February 27 this year, Dorena Gillis was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal at the hands of officials from the Department of Justice Canada for her 25 years of dedicated volunteer service to the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign and many other charitable endeavours to

the benefit of the local community.

Dorena is a paralegal supervisor with the Atlantic Regional Office of the Department of Justice and a life member of CMA. Our congratulations to Dorena on receiving this honour.

Material submitted by Thom Gillis

MAXVILLE 2013

By Robert J Archibald and Mark Macpherson



The weather was great for the Glengarry Games this year. It was warm but not humid, with a brief shower on Saturday afternoon,

which helped bring traffic to the nice and dry Clan exhibition building.

The March of the Clans with the 14-strong Macpherson contingent stepped off at high noon proudly carrying the Green Banner, the Association Banner and two tartan flags. This year we had Bob and Marlene Archibald's four grandchildren leading the Macphersons onto the field carrying the recognition banner. Three of these children are seven year old triplets accompanied by their nine year old sister. All four acquitted themselves very well and will make great members of CMA in the future. We carried ourselves with pride, rendering cries of "Creag Dhubh" several times in our progress around the track. Back at the Clan Building during the march, Marlene and June Macpherson staffed our exhibit.



Macpherson contingent on the march.

In the parade we had Cameron Smith carrying the red tartan banner, Graham MacPherson with the Green Banner, Susan MacPherson-Sobie, Darcy Macpherson, Mark Macpherson, Leslie MacPherson-Thompson as a saltire girl, Peter Fish from the USA carrying the hunting tartan banner, Bob Archibald, carried the Association banner, the grand children Isobel, Ewan, Maggie, and Shona Archibald leading, and Annie Laurie MacPherson-Camuti as the other saltire girl

The usual highland games took place in front of the grandstand with weight and caber tosses, track events, highland dancing and piping competitions. There were 57 pipe bands competing in the North American Pipe Band Championships, eight of which were American bands. Later during the closing ceremonies it was announced that one of the pipers from London Ontario had passed away shortly after his band's

competitive performance. There was a minute of silence for him just before the massed bands comprising a total of 1472 musicians marched onto the field which brought a huge thunderous response from the crowd that couldn't drown out the sound of the pipes.

The Clan exhibit was staffed by Bob & Marlene assisted by their grandchildren, spelled off by Mark and June. Our provincial councillor for Quebec Myles and his wife Linda, arrived from Montreal around 2pm and were able to help out. Mark and June tried the "Beavertails" on sale at an outdoor food concession beside the Clan building. One of these is more than a lunch for two and tasted OK – but calorific!

We had a fair number of inquiries from passers-by who discovered they had a Clan connection but we were unable to close a deal with any of them at this time. Bob's triplet grandchildren were fascinated by Mark's deafness and spoke right into his hearing aids asking many questions about this affliction and how it came to be. At the end of the day Mark, and June, Myles, and Linda headed back toward Montreal for dinner after an interesting and delightful day. Bob, Marlene, and family stayed overnight to watch the massed bands, visit with friends and enjoy the fireworks display.

THE HIGHLANDS OF DURHAM GAMES 2013

By Robert J Archibald

In Saturday July 27 Marlene and I went to Uxbridge ON and set up the tent in Elgin Park for the Highlands of Durham Games. It was cloudy and cool with threatening rain but the rain held off until late in the day just about the time we usually pack up.

These games were not what they used to be with new management and reduced numbers at the gate. Ten or so clan tents were set up around a children's play area which was entertaining to watch but not really good for traffic to any of the displays.

The Scottish breed dog show was still in full swing but the Scottish breed cattle show and Clydesdale horse show were reduced to three highland bull calves. There was also no stone fence building exhibits or sheep shearing demonstrations to be seen. In short a disappointment, but we were there so we made the best of a bad situation

I was busy during the opening ceremonies alone on the field with the other Clan representatives. There was a flurry of activity at the clan tents shortly after the ceremonies but soon the traffic dwindled to a trickle. There was some interest in our display and what we had to offer, but not a dime changed hands by the time the rain started falling. At this point we packed up and headed home.

MACPHERSONS IN WORLD WAR I REVISITED

By Ewen S L MacPherson



As a follow-up to the article in the March edition of *The Green Banner* on “Macphersons in World War I”, I am pleased to report that Canada will be well represented in the largest ever special exhibition in the Clan Museum next season. The exhibition will have artefacts galore, stories of bravery and extreme sadness, and many pictures to illustrate the action that members of the Clan Macpherson played – many making the supreme sacrifice.

A special Book of Remembrance has been produced, sponsored by the Australian Branch of the Clan Association and with the title page designed and produced by Gordon Macpherson, *Niagara Herald Extraordinary*. Casualties are included from Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America and the West Indies. A total of 499 of the name Macpherson fell in the Great War, with 79 of them serving under the Canadian flag

Pictures and information of family members have been received and these together with others who have been identified, will feature in the exhibition including:

Captain John Ross Macpherson, DSO and three of his brothers from Orangeville, Ontario enlisted as Privates and were subsequently commissioned. John Ross was killed in action on 26th August 1918 at the capture of Monchy-le Preux in Arras and a brother, Angus Willson, composed the music for *In Flanders Field* in his memory.

Private Joseph Christie Clunie, the maternal grandfather of Bob Archibald, former Chairman of the Canadian Branch, was wounded in action at the Battle of Amiens in August 1918. A Christmas card sent by Joseph in 1916 to his family from the Front will be on display.

There are others such as Dr. Cluny Macpherson of St. John's, Newfoundland, the inventor of the first working gas mask. It is hoped to have a replica of his gas mask.

Col. Ernest Ronald Rivers-Macpherson, who was born in Jamaica, served in the UK army and moved to Ottawa in 1947. He was given the charter to establish a Canadian Branch of the newly formed Clan Macpherson Association and in this he is described as indefatigable.

We were highly successful in researching Lance Corporal Somerville Macpherson, MM, who was killed in action whilst serving with the 47th Battalion, Canadian Infantry, and whose medals are on display in the Clan Museum, which revealed that he was born in Edinburgh and was the brother of Major James Ewan (JE) Macpherson, former clan historian, editor of *Creag Dhubh* and Vice President of the Clan Association.

Out of the 499 Macphersons who lost their lives, only two of them were women. One was Nursing Sister Agnes McPherson from the Lakeland area of Alberta. She will feature prominently in an article in next year's *Creag Dhubh*.

The exhibition is now at the planning stage and although it will be available for visitors to view from the beginning of next season, consideration is being given to having an official opening on Monday 4th August 2014, exactly 100 years to the day when Great Britain declared war. This is also the Monday of the 2014 Clan Gathering when it is hoped that many clan members will be present.

COME FLY WITH US - EAST TO WEST THE MOCKFORD WEDDING



Edie Mockford, a very recent member of CMA was married to Dennis on July 6 in an unique ceremony at Blatchford Field Hanger located in Fort Edmonton Park. The theme was aviation-oriented, featuring many aspects such as the wedding program resembling an airline safety card, the ushers dressed as ramp agents, the ring bearer in a pilot costume, and their adult children as the flight crew. Guests came from far and wide including several provinces plus the US and UK.

A 1940's big band was in attendance playing numbers such as “Come Fly With Me” which accompanied a paper airplane toss during the recessional. The wedding cake featured a professional sculptured Norseman (CF-LZO) airplane cake topper. The Noordyn Norseman was a successful Canadian bush aircraft originally introduced in 1935 and built up to 1959. Dennis owns and flies aircraft CF-LZO which he purchased to participate in the 100th year of flight.

Macpherson tartan was in evidence in the sash on Edie's wedding dress representing her Clan connection through her mother Beth MacPherson, with the Cape Breton tartan on the table coverings alluding to Edie's maritime birthplace in Sydney NS.

The reason for the aviation theme was that both Edie and Dennis have Canadian Forces backgrounds which were followed by employment with Westjet as a baggage agent and Air Canada as a pilot respectively. Both are now retired.

This was a memorable wedding for both bride and groom who received many best wishes, including from CMA. Edie tells us “It was a hoot!”

Material submitted by Edie Mockford

GATHERING IN BADENOCH 2013

By Bill Macpherson, Branch Vice Chairman



Irene and I set off for Scotland on the 23 July planning to spend a week with family in Hamilton (the original one) before heading to Badenoch for the Gathering. The warm & sunny weather provided the ideal opportunity to visit many of the local attractions including Strathclyde Country Park (venue for the rowing and triathlon events when Glasgow hosts the 2014 Commonwealth Games) and the Lochs at Lanark & Stewartfield plus Sumerlee Museum of Industrial Life in Coatbridge. We also enjoyed a nostalgic visit taking in a show at the Pavilion Variety Theatre in Glasgow frequently visited as a child for the annual Christmas pantomimes.

Having spent some special time with my family in Lanarkshire we headed north to Kingussie on Thursday 1st August looking forward to an enjoyable weekend with our extended Macpherson family at the Gathering.

A quiet evening was just the job, after our busy first week, enjoying after dinner drinks with John & Mary Margaret Gillies and Ed Smith in the bar at the Duke of Gordon Hotel. The next day we were introduced to the sixth member of the Canadian contingent Helen Macpherson from B.C. Our group spent many an enjoyable time together over the weekend plucking up the courage to perform a song at the Saturday night Ceilidh.



Canadian Branch in action at the ceilidh. Left to right Bill, our Vice Chair, Ed Smith from Ontario, Helen Macpherson from BC, Our Chairman John Gillies, Irene Macpherson (seated), Bill's better half, and Mary Margaret Gillies, John's sister

On Friday John Gillies and I represented the Branch at the Association Council meeting. During the meeting John Montrose, the Association Chairman showed off the Association Chairman's Gavel and Presentation Box, complete with a new Brass Plaque which had been added to reflect it was gifted by the Canadian Branch.

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DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE

Please submit your notes and captioned photos before November 15.

FERGUS HIGHLAND GAMES 2013

By Robert J Archibald



On Thursday August 8th Marlene and I left home for the Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games and spent 4 days in the campground there. The weather could not have been better with cool summer nights that allowed for good sleeping and highs in the mid 70's F during the day.

Pipe band parades in downtown Fergus got started around 5pm Friday evening with much merriment and entertainment in the local pubs. Late Friday evening there is a ceremony that the Clans participate in with lighted candles and shortly thereafter is fireworks. Saturday morning 37 Clans filled their tents early and Saturday business was brisk for everyone pretty much all day long. The opening ceremonies found me alone on the field again. Then the games were in full swing with piping dancing and heavy events going on at their designated locations.

Sunday morning there are church parades with a Kirking of the Tartan and those clan representatives that choose to stay and set up again, do so after church - .we did! And a lady with a life membership who had not received a Creag Dhubh since she left her father's home presented herself at the tent to enquire why. At this writing our Registrar is investigating.



Clan exhibit area at Fergus 2013

All summer long sales at the games were disappointing to say the least but Fergus put an end to the drought. Several Clansmen's crest badges were sold along with Clan histories, the last of our Creag Dhubh DVD and a membership renewal brought in a total of \$245 for the weekend

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our Editor wishes to thank the following members for their excellent contributions to the September issue; John Gillies, Thom Gillis, Bill Macpherson (Mississauga), Ewen Macpherson (Scotland), Gordon Macpherson, John Macpherson (Montrose Scotland), Shelagh Macpherson-Noble (Inverness Scotland) Chantal McPherson, Edie Mockridge and Jacqueline Murdoch.

We appreciate very much the time spent by these contributors as some have day jobs and all have other interesting things to occupy them.

GATHERING IN BADENOCH 2013

Continued from page 5

All six Canucks were present at Saturday mornings AGM where John presented the Canadian Branch Report. The highlights of the AGM are included in the CMA Chairman Report from John' Montrose' on page 7 in this issue.

The Chief's Reception and Highland Ball on Friday evening was well attended with cousins visiting from Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Holland, New Zealand, Scotland, Thailand and the USA. We marvelled at the enthusiasm and energy of both the dancers & our beloved Chief, a wonderful evening was had by all.



The March on the Elian. Left to right; Bill Macpherson John Gillies, and Ed Smith.

Our Branch was well represented and honoured during the Clan March from Old Ralia to the Newtonmore Highland Games. John Gillies carried The Green Banner, Ed Smith the Canadian Branch Cromag and I was one of the Sword bearers for Cluny and his Standard. As is typical the morning drizzle cleared up completely for the marchers and 88 of us received a warm welcome by Sir Tommy Macpherson, Chieftain of the Games.

Speaking of Sir Tommy, Irene and I were thrilled to be invited by Lady Jean to join with them for lunch on Sunday after church. We had a delightful afternoon and our hosts made us and their other 8 guests (including Ed Smith) most welcome.

Worship on Sunday morning at St Columba Church, Kingussie provided the ideal opportunity to reflect on what a wonderful Association we belong to. The minister had done much research into Clan Macpherson and intertwined her findings so perfectly throughout the service. An appropriate amount of humour (including 2 puppets with perfect Glaswegian accents), solemnity and reverence provide us all with a spiritual boost and experience not to be forgotten.

On Monday morning whilst the more energetic of the attendees joined in the annual 'walk of interest', Irene and I took a car trip up the single lane old Glen Road from Newtonmore to Laggan, stopping along the way to enjoy the spectacular Macpherson territory scenery including Creag Dhuhb and the River Calder.

A very special thrill for me was our visit to the Clan Museum to see one of the recent additions to the Heraldry Section, the shield from my personal arms, beautifully painted, by our very own Gordon Macpherson, Niagara Herald Extraordinary.

We ventured back to Hamilton that afternoon with fond memories of our wonderful trip to Badenoch.

WATERLOO GATHERING UPDATE

By Bill Macpherson, Branch Vice Chairman



Arrangements are being finalized for what looks like a great weekend at The Waterloo Inn & Conference Hotel. Our Friday night Meet & Greet Buffet Supper, will give everyone a chance to catch up on what has been happening. After the welcome and food, Ed Smith will be our host for the Ceilidh which will include a display by the Blair Scottish Country Dance group and an opportunity to join them on the floor. Beginners need not worry as the talented dancers will mix with others to



Dee at the piano

guide them through. We will have singing including groups and a solo performance by Dee McPherson Rucks a very talented artist and cousin from the USA Branch. Our Association Piper Ewan will be on hand to play a few tunes and yours truly will be reciting his favourite Robert Burns poem.

As it is a Ceilidh anyone wishing to provide some entertainment or just let us know a little bit about yourself is welcome to come forward. Either contact Ed Smith in advance or let him know on the night.

On Saturday we will be toasting and tasting the haggis, followed by our formal toast list and a fine meal will be served. Carrot & Asiago Soup, choice of Filet of Salmon or Waterloo County Roast Pork Loin and then Morello Cherry Chocolate Cake. Dinner will be served with all of the trimmings and followed by tea or coffee. I will be sending out a note to get your main course selection but if you read this article first let me know. On Saturday we will be entertained by a very talented Highland Dancer, enjoy more piping and singing, Jacqueline Murdoch will give a computer presentation on accessing The Clan Museum on-line and the lovely Rebecca and Jamie Rogers girls will once again be organizing our raffle.

We mustn't forget the Saturday morning Council meeting for officers followed by the AGM where all are welcome but only members can actively participate. On Saturday afternoon some of our attendees will be heading to St. Jacobs Schoolhouse Theatre to enjoy a musical show and some to catch the homecoming football game. Others will take the opportunity to enjoy the local sights.

Our worship service on Sunday Morning will be at the Chapel in Wilfred Laurier University a time to slow down on reflect on what should have been an exciting weekend for all.

If you haven't registered and would like to come please contact me a.s.a.p. Our block of hotel rooms is now used up but if you need accommodation call the hotel direct (1-800-361-4708) and they may be able to help

CMA CHAIRMAN REPORT

By John Macpherson of Montrose



Our Clan social calendar started in June when the Scottish Branch barbeque took place. We were once again honoured to be able to hold it at Newton Castle, it was nice day and was a very successful event with around 40 members attending. A fortnight later

Iris & enjoyed a lovely weekend at the England & Wales event on 13th July. It was a trip down the Thames with a visit to the Queen's House, National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. We were able to view a wonderful selection of Maritime paintings collected by the late Arthur Macpherson, this extensive collection of eleven thousand items was purchased by the Museum in 1928. Mr Arthur Macpherson died in 1942

The Clan gathering in Badenoch in August had around 170 members and guests from eleven different countries and I'm pleased to say, six from Canada. The Ball was a tremendous success and for those keen to dance there was plenty of them on a very crowded floor until the wee sma' hours.

Our AGM in Newtonmore this year started differently with Cluny being invited to unveil a beautiful wooden Lectern which was a hand made gift from the Scottish Branch for the benefit of the Association. The meeting heard that the Council had approved of the Clan joining the newly formed Association of Highland Clans & Societies and the Council had agreed to participate at the Bannockburn 2014 event. Participation of the Clans at Bannockburn will help make it a memorable event.

Our Legal expert, John Barton, confirmed that the Museum Trust Deed made in 1992 allowed for the appointment of up to eight trustees to be nominated by the Clan Association. The AGM had a first time involvement in the final approval of a new Trustee for the Museum. Chris Gillies having previously been recommended by the council was approved unanimously. Chris who already serves as the MAC secretary was welcomed as the new Trustee by the Chairman.

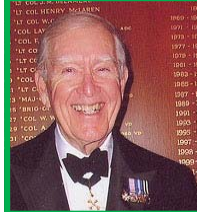
The Clan was saddened to hear that Balavil House the original home of James (Ossian) Macpherson, was being put up for sale and would no longer be our Sunday afternoon tea venue. Allan & Marjorie have carried out this event for 16 years and showed many Clan members their beautiful historical residence and grounds. Cluny expressed his thanks by announcing the gift of a garden seat to be installed at their new home in due course.

The Monday walk was attended by over 60 members, we visited the Wooden Sculptures in the grounds of the historical Invereshie House and the owner, Mr Allan Marshall, gave a very interesting talk on the history and future plans for the House. John Barton who was walk leader/organiser, gave an informed talk on the many artefacts in the beautiful nearby Inch Church.

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A PAGE FROM THE PAST

By Gordon Macpherson



A historic and memorable highlight of the 65 year history of the Branch was the first visit of Cluny and Lady Cluny to the Canadian Branch to attend the Scottish World Festival at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto as Guests of Honour. The Festival, held on Saturday the 19th August, 1972, was an unqualified success and the Chief and Lady Cluny captivated the hearts of all the Canadian clansfolk and Canadians who were present in general.

Cluny and Lady Cluny arrived at the stadium in an open, horse-drawn carriage with an impressive escort of Toronto mounted policemen. They were met by our son Sandy Macpherson, age 15 at the time, who carrying the Chief's personal banner, escorted the couple to the Royal Box, where they were joined by J. Donald our Chairman, and his wife Betty. Who will ever forget the colourful tattoo which followed with Cluny acknowledging the "Salute to the Chief" performed by the massed pipe bands before a capacity crowd of over 35,000.



Iconic Prince's Gate to CNE

The following day we held a small, informal gathering for tea at the home of Mrs. Alex Macpherson and then, on Monday evening, our 23rd AGM & Rally was held at the Lord Simcoe Hotel in Toronto with over 190 clans-

men present to honour the Chief, the largest number ever to attend a Macpherson gathering in North America. At the conclusion of the brief business meeting, Lloyd MacPherson, a former Chairman, who had organized this event, presented the Chief with his personal banner bearing his Coat of Arms. The banner was made especially for the occasion of Cluny's visit to the Scottish World Festival and presented to him on behalf of the members of the North American Branch. After an entertaining programme, the evening concluded by the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

As we all said "au revoir" to the Chief and Lady Cluny, the pipes played "Will ye no come back again", expressing the sentiments of all the North American clansfolk.

The Rally was followed the next day by a visit to Niagara Falls by the Chief and Lady Cluny and then back to Lloyd MacPherson's home near Aurora, Ontario where a number of clansmen gathered for an informal evening. Then on to Ottawa, where the Hon. Mr. Justice Alex Cattanach gave our distinguished guests a personally conducted tour of the Canadian Courts before they travelled to Montreal to return home to Scotland.

CNE Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

REMINISCING FROM SCOTLAND

By Shelagh Macpherson-Noble, Vice President, Clan Macpherson Association



On 23rd August 1947 the Clan Macpherson Association was officially formed, one of the founding members being my father, Allan Grant Macpherson from Inverness. There were four branches in Scotland (north, south, east & west), and three branches in New Zealand (Invercargill, Christchurch & Auckland).

Two years later, the Canadian branch was formed; however people from the US also joined, so it was re-designated the North American branch until 1974, when it was divided and the US branch was born.

The north of Scotland branch was run by my parents, based in Inverness and I thought I would share some of my memories with you. In the 1950s, fund raising was totally different from today. There was no such thing as e-bay, internet or sponsorship in those days. Britain was still hurting from World War II and money was scarce; however one fun way of raising money was to hold an annual jumble sale, the equivalent of a yard sale today.

Once the clothes and other items were sorted and priced, the doors would open and the queue of people would rush to the tables in a race to purchase the best of the goods. As children, my sisters and I would help, and although hard work for the adults, we thought it was great fun.

The proceeds from the jumble sales helped fund outings to places of interest to the Clan Macpherson. Buses would be hired, the size of which would be determined by the numbers attending. We would all pile in, carrying our own picnics. Games would be played, we would paddle in a nearby loch and, if there was a piper present, reels would be danced in the heather. Occasionally there would be a Sunday outing with a church service held before the picnic. Whole families would



Grand March from a CMA Gathering ball in the 1950's. My mother is on the left in the white gown and my father on the right wearing "the family sporran". The Grand March was a feature of the balls of this period and ended with an eightsome reel

participate in these events.

The adults also attended highland balls, and I remember watching my parents, my father resplendent in his 'dress' kilt & sporran, the silver buttons shining on his evening jacket and my mother's ball gown sparkling, her 'dress' sash over her shoulder. My sisters and I were allowed to 'look, but not touch' before they left for the evening. Incidentally my father inherited his sporran from his father and this year my son Euan wore it to the ball. The sporran is now 100 years old and still in excellent condition!



My father, Allan Grant Macpherson, showing HRH Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh around the Clan Museum in 1961

In 1963 my father became Chairman of the Association and my sisters and I were enrolled as life members. As youngsters, we attended the annual rally (now called the gathering) and it was held in the Duke of Gordon Hotel, Kingussie as it still is today. There was a

much more relaxed approach to events in the sixties. There were no health & safety issues, fire regulations, number restrictions, etc.

The Macpherson clan gathered and took over the hotel for the weekend, where everyone stayed, most knowing the owner personally. It was not a problem if the party continued into the wee sma' hours, and it was unsurprising to find the late Hugh Macpherson from Edinburgh piping in my parents' room at 3am!

How things have changed since the early days!

Today there are branches in 7 countries, each one holding their own events and Gatherings including an AGM. Membership has reached over 2600, proving we are indeed a global organisation. Jumble sales don't exist anymore and branch events reflect modern day living and the culture of the member country, for example: Scottish branch outings include visiting whisky distilleries, theatres, museums and playing curling matches, in addition to the annual barbeque and Burns Supper.

There is one constant though. When I became Association chairman in 2009, I followed in my father's footsteps and the ethos that applied to my father, also applied to me. Those involved with the Association are as keen and enthusiastic as ever and the camaraderie and hospitality extends worldwide. Whether it is being a member for over 50 years or being a new 'recruit' the feeling of belonging to a huge family remains the same; to me it is still as much fun as it was all those years ago.

CMA CHAIRMAN REPORT

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The 2013 gathering in Badenoch came to an end with an entertaining talk at the Museum called "Keep right on to the end of the road" with Sandy Macpherson's own personal rendition of this song being the final highlight.

Iris & I are looking forward to our trip to the Canadian and USA, Branch Gatherings and meeting up with old friends again.