



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 9 Number 2

July 2015

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Chantal McPherson, Registrar



A warm welcome to our newest member Tiffany McPherson. Tiffany is a granddaughter of Stuart McPherson a former Branch Chairman

I am happy to announce that John House, our Councilor in St-John's NL, has transferred from an annual to a Life membership.

We also welcome back Dr. Jean Hill as an annual member, and extend a friendly reminder to those that have not yet renewed.

I would also like to extend our warm thanks to Life member Ruth McPherson for her generous gift which will help offset the cost of mailings.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Greetings from Mississauga, spring has sprung at last and hopefully you have been able to spend some outdoor time at the cottage, the garden, or just relaxing and enjoying the fresh air.

On Saturday 13th June I had the pleasure of attending the Georgetown Highland Games where Bob and Marlene Archibald had set up our Clan Tent. It was good to catch up with them and also to be joined by Ed Smith, Bob and Sandra Archibald, and Chantal McPherson. The Branch was well represented at the tent, and during the parade of the Clans was greeted by former Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion (Honorary Chieftain of the Games). Lois Musselman was also there competing

with her Scottish Country Dance Group. Many of you will remember Lois from leading the dances at several of our Branch Gatherings. A fine day was had by all and the weather was very cooperative.

Irene and I are making the trip to Scotland in July to attend the Association Gathering and I am once again pleased and proud to report that there will be a strong Canadian Branch contingent present: Edward Smith, plus new members Bob and Sylvia MacPherson from Alberta, and Donna McPherson Rucks from Chicago.

I mention Donna as she is a member of both the US and Canadian Branches. This is fitting as Donna, assisted by Jacqueline Murdoch, is the convenor for our joint Gathering with the US Branch in Chicago in September. I urge you, if you have not signed up yet and can afford to make the trip you will have a memorable weekend. An excellent program of events has been organized and the venue and attention to detail look very impressive. Details and registration form are available on the Canadian Branch webpage at www.clan-macpherson.org in the "Annual Branch Gathering" tab

You will recall from the last edition of the Green Banner we mentioned that Ewan Macpherson Chairman of the Museum Advisory Committee was planning to hold an Exhibition marking Canada's sesqui-centenary in 2017, highlighting the contributions made by Macpherson's (and associated families) in the history of our nation. Ed Smith sent out a note looking for suitable articles on persons of interest. I would like to issue a challenge to each of our members. Using the spelling of your surname (be it Macp, MacP, McP or Gillies, Gillis, Murdoch, Murdock, Archibald, Pearson, Lees, Smith, and others per the Clan website in the "Associated Families" tab), research just one famous person with your specific last name and send the information to Ed. Many hands make light work.

Enjoy the summer and if you plan to be at any of the highland games let us know. Irene joins me in sending best wishes to you and yours.

Yours Aye, Bill Macpherson, Mississauga

TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The Canadian Branch is in good shape financially as of the end of May. We have about \$7,862 in our current account and a little less than \$11,131 in our Life Membership Fund.

The \$7,862 in our current account is an elevated number because I still have to forward membership fees to the clan association. Even once I remit the membership fees we will still have ample money to operate in 2015, but it now looks probable that I will be bringing a motion forward at our 2015 AGM to increase membership fees for 2016. The large hike in postal fees is most of the reason that I am being forced to look at a membership fee increase.

Now that games season has started, we may meet at some of the events. I also look forward to seeing you in Itasca, Illinois this October at our annual gathering.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

WANTED!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR
CREATIVE PERSONS

IT'S FUN!

CONTACT MARK AT

Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org

THE GREEN BANNER

Published three to four times each year to bring news to the members of the Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association.

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THE PLATINUM DHUBH 2016

By Bill Macpherson of Mississauga



The Clan Macpherson Association celebrates the 70th anniversary of its formation in 1946 and plans are underway to hold an extra special Gathering next year to celebrate this milestone.

At our Branch Gathering in Ottawa last year in anticipation of this big event, we agreed that our contribution to the event would be the design of a suitable logo and to set aside funds to make suitable commemorative pins. I am very pleased to roll out to our members the results of that effort and share the logo which has been agreed with the anniversary sub-committee.

The final design was a collaborative effort under the guidance of our renowned heraldic artist Gordon Macpherson with a special mention to Norman McPherson, Scotland Branch Chairman. Norman suggested to the committee that the Gathering be called The Platinum Dhubb and proposed a platinum cat with a paw resting on the number 70. Gordon was the artist for the Association arms and you will recognize the cat in the logo is the one he designed for those arms. Gordon provided a sketch with the addition of the banner

and surrounding text and I had a graphic artist friend produce the final design. I think you will all agree a striking logo, one our Branch and Association can be proud to display. I hope to have an update on the manufacture of pins at our AGM in September.



LEGION OF THE LOST

The following members need to be located:

Mr. Roderick Ian MacPherson	Kanata, ON
Col. Glen W. McPherson	W. Vancouver, BC
Mr. John D. and Glenna McPherson	Vancouver, BC
Bruce MacPherson	Hamilton, ON
Dr. Ian MacPherson	Victoria BC
Mr. Larry Lee	London, ON

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: Canada.Registrar@clan-macpherson.org

MAJOR HUME MACPHERSON

By Audrey Macpherson – Collins



Hume Macpherson was Chairman of the Canadian Branch from 1964 to 1966 when it was still called the North American Branch. He was born in Dublin Ireland in 1894 and raised in Glasgow Scotland with his two younger brothers: John, and Robert who was killed in the First World War.

At a very young age he was taught to draw and paint by his grandfather, also Hume, who was a talented artist. Hume the younger continued to develop this talent as an avocation. He was also a keen football player and was Captain of the Glasgow team. His artistic talents are apparent in his four grandchildren today, of whom, my son Ron, and my daughter Heather are life members of CMA. How wonderful to have such a special Grandfather!



Trooper Hume Macpherson on Peggy

When World War I broke out he enlisted as a Trooper in the Queens Own Royal Glasgow Yeomanry, 52nd division, fighting on his favourite horse Peggy! During the war he fought in campaigns at Gallipoli, Egypt, Palestine and Syria. Hume recorded many of the military scenes by sketching on the back of Sweet Caporal cigarette boxes because good paper was at a premium on active service.¹

When the war ended, Hume married his cousin Mary Simms who had been a nursing sister during the war. Hume and Mary with their first born Robert, emigrated to Toronto Canada in 1922, where he studied to become an accountant. They had four children in all; Robert, Douglas, Audrey (me), and Donald.



Captain Hume Macpherson in 1943

After a couple of years in banking, Hume joined the Dental Company of Canada. His sound business sense and friendly Scottish wit propelled him to Treasurer, and later Director of this organization

In 1939 at the outbreak of World War II, Hume once again donned uniform and served in the Royal Canadian Dental Corps as a non-dentist officer. He was posted to Newfoundland, and then to the UK.



He finished the war in the rank of Major

In May 1958 Hume was honoured with a grant of arms by Lord Lyon. The shield from his arms can be found on the heraldry wall at the Clan Museum in Newtonmore Scotland,

Hume and Mary moved to a farm he called Creag Dhu, near Stouffville Ontario, where the family hosted three Clan Macpherson Association (CMA) gatherings in the 1960's with the help of Gordon Macpherson and Lloyd Macpherson, who are former Chairmen of the Branch. Members and their families enjoyed a day of highland dancers, pipers, tossing the caber, a tug of war for the little ones, and of course food and fun for all.

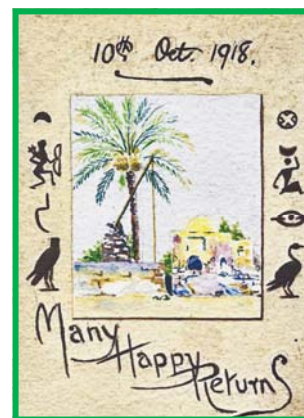


Hume with my daughter Heather and my son Ron and I at the Stouffville Gathering in 1960

Hume had a great sense of humour. In later years our bedtime stories consisted of engaging tales he told about a character in the cavalry he invented, called Daft Jock. He also taught us great respect for veterans. So much so that my eldest brother Bob would have the neighbours' boys on our street line up and salute at 11 am on November 11th!

When Mary passed away, Hume moved to Victoria B.C. where he remained until his death in 1975.

When Mary passed away, Hume moved to Victoria B.C. where he remained until his death in 1975.



A birthday card Hume drew and sent to his mother while he was serving in the Middle East in 1918

1. Cavalry was used on the Mideast theater during WW I as the situation there was still mobile, unlike the Western front in Europe where the armies were bogged down in trenches, essentially in stalemate. There were no massed cavalry actions however, but they were employed for reconnaissance, gathering intelligence, and sometimes as mounted infantry. (ed)

CLUNY'S PIANO

By Dee McPherson



My travels took me to Scotland in 2012 for the Clan Macpherson Association Gathering. Jill Fields, my cousin and CMA member from Independence, Missouri, accompanied me. Since our journey took us north through Blairgowrie, we rang up Cluny before departing the US, and he invited us to tea. Two American girls, tea at Newton Castle, imagine that!

After tea, we went on a tour of the castle. Of particular interest to me was the drawing room and the surprise it held inside. After a tour of the main floor, we climbed (literally) up the 14 circular stone steps to the second floor of the castle. There, secure in a corner of the room, was the piano. I was drawn to it, the oldness of it, and to the richness of the wood. When Cluny started telling me the history, I was hooked! That is when he told me this piano had been back and forth to India several times on ships, back in the nineteenth century. He invited me to play it, and I did two songs.



I asked Cluny a few questions, and in his own words:

"This Bechstein upright was built in the 1850s, and bought by my grandparents, William and Ella. He was in the Indian Civil Service for 30 years, roughly 1880-1910. People working in India spent spells of 5 years' duty, followed by 6 months' furlough.

They must have taken the piano to Calcutta, because I found a piano tuner's bill in the casing! Someone told me that the construction shows that it was built to cope with the tropics— metal in some parts where wood might have been expected. My father was born in Calcutta in 1887, so I expect my grandmother soothed him with Scottish songs there!"

The piano has been at Newton Castle certainly all my life, and my mother loved it. She was a fine musician; a cellist, pianist, and singer."

I smiled when I saw "Annie's Song Book" on the music stand, a collection from her childhood.

Cluny said, "Annie did play them, sometimes, but not recently! Only Annie did music lessons. The boys were groaners. Her song book was written and colored for her by our cousin Dorothea Baird about 50 years ago! She was of my father's generation, and a lovely musical lady!"

I was intrigued by the candle stands on each side of the keyboard, with candles still there, dripping down wax. I was also intrigued by the brass plate "C Bechstein Berlin" located just above middle C. So I did a little research: Carl Bechstein started building pianos in Berlin in 1853. He set out to build an instrument that could withstand the demands of the virtuosi of the times, such as Franz Liszt. By 1870, with endorsements from Liszt and Hans Von Bülow, the Bechstein piano had become a staple in many concert halls and private mansions. In 1881, he began supplying pianos to Queen Victoria, and to many of the royals in Europe. Several British embassies across the world acquired Bechstein pianos. In 1910, the company made as many as 4,600 pianos in one year.

Claude Debussy said, "Piano music should be written only for the Bechstein." Bob Dylan played a Bechstein piano at the ABC Theatre in Edinburgh. Elton John has been seen playing a white Bechstein grand. And Cluny owns this one, passed from generation to generation. If you are lucky enough to have a tour of Newton Castle on your next trip to Scotland, be sure to look for the piano!

It is a treasure, this old piano
It's just a beautiful thing
A bit out of tune, no worse for the wear
But I could still make it sing!

Reference: Wikipedia; C Bechstein, Pianofortefabrik

The author wishes to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Sir William Alan Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie in the preparation of this article.

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Please submit your notes and captioned photos before **August 15, 2015.**

Your editor appreciates that all contributors have submitted their drafts on or well before the deadline for the last few issues and I hope this will be the norm.

I hope as well that more new contributors come the fore for the September issue. You can all participate—Don't be shy!

EILEAN DONON CASTLE

By Ken Gillis



Ella and I visited Eilean Donan one of the most recognised castles in Scotland in July of 2014, while we were touring Scotland. I was very impressed with it and wanted to know more about it. Eilean Donan castle probably appears on more shortbread tins and calendars than any other. It is, without doubt, a Scottish icon and certainly one of the most popular visitor attractions in the Highlands.

Strategically located on its own little island, overlooking the Isle of Skye, at the point where three great sea-lochs meet, and surrounded by the majestic splendour of the forested mountains of Kintail, Eilean Donan's setting is truly breath-taking.

Eilean Donan, which means simply "island of Donnán", is named after Donnán of Eigg, a Celtic saint martyred in 617. Donnán is said to have established a church on the island.

The first fortified castle was built in the mid 13th century and stood guard over the lands of Kintail. Since then, at least four different versions of the castle have been built and re-built as the feudal history of Scotland unfolded through the centuries.

During the Jacobite uprising the Duke of Ormonde led an invasion fleet from Spain, while an advance party of 300 Spanish soldiers under George Keith, 10th Earl Marischal, arrived in Loch Duich April 1719, and occupied Eilean Donan Castle. The expected uprising of Highlanders did not occur, and the main Spanish invasion force never arrived.

At the beginning of May 1719, the Royal Navy sent ships to the area. Early in the morning on Sunday 10 May, HMS Worcester, HMS Flamborough, and HMS Enterprise anchored off Eilean Donan and sent a boat ashore under a flag of truce to negotiate. When the Spanish soldiers in the castle fired at the boat, it was recalled and all three ships opened fire on the castle for an hour or more. The next day the bombardment continued while a landing party was prepared. In the evening under the cover of an intense cannonade, a detachment went ashore in the ships' boats and captured the castle against little resistance. According to the HMS Worcester log, now in the castle, were "an Irishman, a captain, a Spanish lieutenant, a serjeant, one Scotch rebel and 39 Spanish soldiers, 343 barrels of powder and 52 barrels of musquet shot." The naval force spent the next two days and 27 barrels of gunpowder demolishing the castle. HMS Flamborough then took the Spanish prisoners to Edinburgh.

Eilean Donan lay in ruins for the best part of the next 200 years until Lieutenant Colonel John MacRae-Gilstrap bought the is-

land in 1911 and proceeded to restore the castle to its former glory.

Lieutenant Colonel John MacRae had grown up fuelled with his father's tales of his illustrious MacRae clan ancestors and their home of Eilean Donan. He had married an English heiress from the Lincolnshire town of Newark. Her name was Isabella Mary Gilstrap known to all as Ella. A condition of her inheritance required Lieutenant Colonel John MacRae to adopt her surname and so they became the MacRae Gilstrap family.

The MacRae Gilstrap family bought the ruin of Eilean Donan and there, they raised the clan MacRae banner for the first time in centuries. Now by serendipitous good fortune Lieutenant Colonel John MacRae Gilstrap and Ella met a local stonemason and wood carver called Farquhar MacRae who was hired to consolidate the remains of the castle.

The decision was taken to restore the castle and the MacRae Gilstrap family hired an Edinburgh firm of architects to draw up construction plans. Farquhar MacRae was made Clerk of Works. Farquhar laboured over the next 20 years, eventually earning the Gaelic nickname Fearachar a' Chastiall or Farquhar of the Castle. Sadly, he died in 1932 a mere six months before the castle was completed and never saw the completed article. A bronze plaque in the courtyard with the MacRae badge of Fir Club Moss and the legend Fearachar a' Chastiall 1912 –1932 commemorates his life. However the castle was returned to its former glory and is a fitting tribute to his dedication and skill.

The MacRae Gilstrap family held a grand opening including a March of the Clan to the castle in 1932. It became their regular summer home. Lieutenant Colonel John MacRae Gilstrap died in 1936 and Ella survived him until 1949. Eilean Donan Castle then passed to their son Duncan, who became the new constable of the castle. In the 1950s Eilean Donan was perhaps only known to a few intrepid adventurers to the West Highland coast. However a spate of Hollywood movies in the 1950s featuring the castle such as "Bonnie Prince Charlie", "Prince Valiant", and most importantly "The Master of Ballentrae" made Eilean Donan a familiar image.

In 1983 ownership of the castle was transferred to the Conchra Charitable Trust, established by the MacRae family to maintain and restore the castle



References from World-Wide Web:

1. Wikipedia "Eilean Donan Castle".
2. Eilean Donan Official site.
3. VisitScotland "Eilean Donan Castle"
4. Undiscoveredscotland "Eilean Donan Castle"



Eilean Donan on its Island

Photo by Ken Gillis

CMA CHAIRMAN REPORT

By John Macpherson of Montrose



This will be my last report as your Association Chairman. I stand down in August to make way for the new Chairman Jean Macpherson Duffy from USA. Perhaps in the future, I may find time to send an article or two that will be of interest to readers of your excellent newsletter.

I have enjoyed the last three years and along with Iris, I have seen many wonderful places in Canada. I hope that my pictures in Creag Dhubh with very short descriptions were apt. Posing for photographs is not my usual forte` but when visiting so many lovely places one must look on it as a` hazard` of the job.

Some of the photo opportunities were just wonderful and virtually endless and for a very keen amateur photographer it was just marvelous. For years at home, my usual subjects have been local streets and buildings, many of which have been demolished due to large and perhaps unnecessary redevelopment with which many locals certainly did not agree. Montrose was established in 1140 and is deemed `fairly old`, so I have done my best to record many different aspects of the town in my life time which can be forgotten surprisingly quickly once new developments are in place.

Iris and I attended the England and Wales Branch (E &W) event in London. The Ball, held in the Caledonia Club was a great success and very well-attended. Plans are being made to run the Ball on a yearly basis once more. Angus Macpherson stepped down after many years of sterling service as E & W chairman and we thank him for his efforts in this. We also congratulate Bruce Macpherson in taking on the role of E & W Chairman and wish him every success.

The popularity of the Badenoch Gatherings never ceases to amaze us. With planning already under way for the 70th anniversary, Iris and I expected this year's Gathering numbers to be well down. How wrong could we be, as the gathering this year is fully subscribed. One really pleasing aspect is that we have a large number of guests attending for the first time including five from Canada. I recall when Iris and I first attended in the 1980's the crowd was around eighty, less than half of what we have today. I'm not sure why this huge increase has taken place over the years, but, I'd like to think that the Clan must be doing something right. It could also be that many more people are interested in family history nowadays and want to know their roots.

Iris and I attended the Scottish Branch barbecue at Newton Castle on Saturday June 13th. After a few really hot days, it became overcast and chilly, but pleasant enough for the traditional egg and spoon race to take place. Once more Cluny took part in his age group beating some of his rivals. We also had a competition involving and matching them up was great fun. Forty members of CMA attended coming from as far away as the Scottish islands in the north to the south of England. The event was deemed very successful indeed.



Iris leading the Egg and Spoon race at Newton Castle

ful indeed.

Unfortunately Iris and I regret we will not be able to attend the Joint Gathering in Chicago this year but, we do hope to return to North American Gatherings in the future.

We look forward to welcoming the Canadian contingent at our Gathering in Scotland this year. We always hope the weather will preserve our saying, `The sun always shines on the Macpherson march`, and it was never cancelled in 67 years because of bad weather - Touch Wood!

WEBPAGE CHANGES

By Mark F Macpherson



The Branch webpage at www.clan-macpherson.org has been revised extensively. There is a new welcome from our Chairman, Bill Macpherson, and a rewrite of the History Tab incorporating an exhaustive list of our

Gatherings from the first to the present giving the location at which they occurred. A new tab has been introduced titled `Branch Heraldry` providing a display of armorial achievements of all current and former Branch armigers. It is hoped

that information on this tab will develop as time goes on.

All members are invited to visit our webpage to view the results of hard work by our Webmaster Ewen Macpherson PhD and your Editor. You should be aware that the Branch webpage is updated at the time each Green Banner issue is circulated to the members of the Branch. All past issues are posted to the webpage for reference so if you have lost one of your newsletters or need to revisit an article you can find it at the webpage.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

By John C. House, MOM, Provincial Councillor



This past October, Memorial University officially opened Macpherson College, a new 500 bed student residence on its St. John's campus, in honour of Dr. Cluny Macpherson, a former Chairman of the Branch

It is not a coincidence that this announcement came as we recognized the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. Dr. Macpherson had enlisted shortly after the declaration of war, and was commissioned at the rank of Captain and appointed principal medical officer to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. He served in France, Belgium, Egypt, Salonica and in Gallipoli, where he acted as an advisor on poisonous gas and invented the first gas mask, as the Allies feared Germany was about to use this. He was demobilized in 1919 at the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.



Dr. Cluny Macpherson, as a Captain in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment

It is noteworthy that the present site of Memorial University's

St. John's campus was once the location of the Macpherson family farm.

I have been actively promoting membership to the CMA, and have had a good response. A number of applications can be expected in the near future.

Penny and I visited Scotland again this past fall. We again had the opportunity to stop briefly at the Clan Macpherson Museum on our way south from the Orkney Islands, where I had just graduated with a MLitt degree at the University of the Highlands and Islands. My study focused on Norse settlement of the Highlands and Islands during and after the Viking Age, and my dissertation explored the extent of settlement based on the distribution of Norse place names that can still be found across the landscape of western and northern Scotland. On our trip we toured the Highlands and Islands, including the Isle of Skye, and Harris and Lewis. There is much to experience in Scotland and we plan on returning again soon.

QUEBEC

By Myles G Macpherson CD., Provincial Councillor



Activity in the Province of Quebec Region and the Montreal area has been quiet over the past few months.

We are looking forward to the two major highland games in our area, Maxville and Montreal, which are both on the same weekend, 1-2 August. I am planning

to conduct a pub night on the evening of Saturday 1 August for all clansmen who plan to be in town that night. On the weekend of 12-13 September there will be a Celtic Festival held at Quebec City.

I am looking for help in the Quebec Region to grow our numbers. If any members in Quebec

can assist with this endeavor, please contact me and we will work together to see more of our clansmen enjoying the camaraderie of our association.



June, Myles, Arielle, Mark, and Linda at the Graduation Ceremony

A little piece of news, Arielle Macpherson a Junior Member, graduated from St Thomas High School in Kirkland Quebec with honours in June. She also received the Humanitarian Award from the school in recognition of her work caring for older people This first milestone in her academic career was witnessed by father Myles, mother Linda, grandfather Mark, and grandmother June, all life members.

NOVA SCOTIA

By Bruce Gillis QC., Provincial Councillor



I am aware that many members of Clan Macpherson in Nova Scotia are active individually and collectively this spring with public events and highland performances related to Scots. This suggests that we could have many more members added to the CMA in Nova Scotia.

Many clansmen perform in the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo in Halifax in late June, and in the 83rd annual Annapolis

Valley Apple Blossom Parade at the end of May. The Greenwood Air Force Pipes and Drums, including me and several other clansmen won the trophy for best band during this period.

One clanswoman, Charlene Gillis, whose maternal side are MacPhersons, has located a document purportedly identifying all of the MacPhersons in Canada at some past point in time which was in her family's possession, and is going to make it accessible in the near future for examination and to help genealogists. I am trying to get her to join CMA as she would be an excellent addition to our ranks..

ONTARIO

By Ed Smith CD Provincial Councillor



Spring is drawing to a close and summer with its Highland games and Clan gatherings are at the door. The first of many games opened in Georgetown June 13

It has been a very busy time for me. On March 26th The Scottish Studies U of Guelph unveiled their new addition of the Scottish chapbook collection they had acquired. Chapbooks are pamphlets of eight to twenty-four pages that were created and sold in the 18th and 19th centuries. The collection was digitized by the university library. and is available to the public by way of the Internet. There are Chapbook collections that can be found at a number of colleges and universities in North America, however this is the first collection where a person can actually read the entire book. Students at the Guelph History Department and Library completed the work. I manage to win a scaled down copy of one of the chapbooks during a quiz. To obtain more information on chapbooks, go to scottishchapbooks.org on the Internet

April started with a visit to Port Perry ON to take part in the Tartan Day Celebration on April 6. Bob, Marlene and I, took part in the parade and festivities that followed. Singing, dance demos, music, a steak pie and haggis dinner, concluding with Scottish country-dancing.



Ed Smith and Bob Archibald marching in the tartan Day parade at Port Perry ON

April 18th saw the Scottish Studies Spring colloquium held at Kings College, U of Toronto and presented by the Scottish Studies Dept. U of Guelph. The first portion was dedicated to the 200th Birthday of Sir John A Macdonald one of the fathers of Confederation and Prime minister of Canada. The second portion covered a few chapters of a book being prepared which covered Ontario during early 1800 including the war of 1812.

Continued on page 11

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

By Mark F Macpherson



I was pleased to receive many fine articles for this issue, starting right after the March issue was circulated. Once again it's our members that keep our newsletter interesting and fresh.

Sometimes I receive articles that although interesting, are a bit too long for a publication as the Green Banner is a newsletter not a journal. The policy followed up to now is to keep articles to a maximum of one page with at least one photo. This means the written part is in the order of 700 words. Slightly larger input or additional photos can be accommodated while remaining within the one page maximum. When a longer article is received I work with the author to shorten it while maintaining the basic idea. In the past seven years, only one prospective author was not able to work with this constraint.

In brief, articles for the Green Banner can range from a captioned photograph to a maximum of 700 words including photos. Longer pieces will be accepted and worked interactively until the final presentation is acceptable to the author under his or her byline. Note also the article appears with a thumbnail photo of the author as well.

I start accumulating material for the next Green Banner as each issue goes to circulation. I accept commitments from members who intend to submit articles along with their estimate of its length and the number photos that are expected. We also have certain fixed departments such as the "News of Our Members" and the "Message from the Chairman". All of the committed material is placed on a list which is used to forecast the length of the coming issue and control when the issue is complete. In recent times due to the support of members who submitted many excellent articles, the Green Banner has been circulated at 10 to 12 pages or 5 to 6 sheets. Six sheets is the break point for postage using 20 pound paper for photocopying.

As each article is received, it is edited, and placed in a MS Publisher template of our newsletter. The composed article is sent to the author by email as a PDF for approval. Once all of the material from the list are completed the issue is composed in its final form, proofread at least twice, and sent to our Chairman for final approval. When the issue is accepted, our Registrar circulates it to all members either by email in colour, or by post in black and white to those who do not have email. Unfortunately colour photocopying is still very expensive.

We are still looking for one or more Associate Editors to ensure that the Green Banner continues to be published well into the future. These individuals would work with the Editor to publish each issue. Now that you have seen how easy it is to publish the Green Banner maybe you can help. If you are interested please contact me as soon as possible.

LADIES AND THEIR SASHES

By Mark Macpherson



The ladies wearing of the sash harks back to the seventeenth century as an adaptation of the plaid worn by men. The practice faded during the proscription of highland dress after Culloden. With Queen Victoria's keen interest in things highland, highland dress was revived under Royal support in the nineteenth century.

Nowadays, in Canada, the sash is worn by our ladies on more than just formal occasions and it is found with daywear at informal Scottish functions and at games. Nothing looks nicer than to see your lady dressed in highland wear with her sash pinned to her right shoulder. Did I say right?

The sash has always been worn on right shoulder since its inception by all, except the wives of chiefs of clans and commanding officers of highland regiments. "When you're right you're right!" goes the phrase that reminds us. We have one Chief in Scotland, and no commanding officers of highland regiments in

our Branch, so it can be safely said no one should be wearing their sash on the left shoulder.

There are different ways of wearing the sash and all of them involve the right shoulder. This excludes wearing it around the waist as a "ceinture" in the French manner, or as a scarf around the neck. Below are some illustrations of some of the ways the sash might be worn and satisfy the requirement for wearing it correctly. If it is worn with a short length in front with the rest hanging down the back, it may also be pinned at the waist in the rear. Worn as a bandolier, tied with a bow on the left waist, usually connotes ladies who have married out of their clan who wish to wear their father's tartan.

I want to thank Gordon Macpherson for suggesting this article. Similar versions appeared in Creag Dhubh in 1974 and 2006.

References:

1. *The Clans, Septs, and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands* 8th edition by Frank Adams;
2. *Genealogical Publishing Company; Maryland 1970; p 370, 384, Plate XIV.*
3. *Tartans and Highland Dress* by Charles Roy Mackinnon: Collins London 1970; p106, p108



Crossover
Note the



Bandolier
Can be pinned
with a brooch



**Right Shoulder
Only**
Can be very short



The Bruce Gillis family of Nova Scotia have a newborn grandson, Brody Alexander Logan, son of Kendra (Gillis) Logan (left), and husband Josh (right). He arrived on March 27, at 9 lbs. 2 oz. - robust and healthy

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank all of our contributors to this issue for their fine articles and reports: Robert J Archibald, Audrey Collins, Bruce Gillis, Ken Gillis, John C House, Bill Macpherson, John Macpherson (UK), Myles Macpherson, Chantal McPherson, Donna McPherson-Rucks (USA), Jacqueline Murdoch, and Ed Smith. (ed.)

ERRATA

In the March 2015 issue under "Nova Scotia Report" the location mentioned in the photo caption should be Paradise NS not Middleton. Our apologies to Bruce Gillis who has apparently thawed out since the winter storms!

Dee McPherson advises she lives in Itasca IL not Indianapolis IN as reported in the March 2013 issue on page 4

GATHERINGS THROUGH THE YEARS

By Mark F Macpherson



If you are interested in the development of the Branch, one may start with a look at how our Gatherings were carried out, starting with the organizing meeting in 1948 in Ottawa at the residence of Col Rivers-Macpherson. The first three meetings following the organizing meeting were strictly business annual general meetings of the Branch held in Ottawa at the residence of Col. Rivers-Macpherson, who had been elected Secretary. It is interesting to note that no AGM was held in 1951 a fact which is not explained in the Branch minutes.

In 1953, and for the next two years, the Gathering was moved to Montreal and held at the United Services Club located in the historic Forget House, where the Annual General Meeting was accompanied by a dinner and social. Then in 1956 through 1959, it was off to Toronto at the Riverdale Presbyterian Church where Rev Dr A Gordon Macpherson, Gordon's late father, was the minister and also convener of the Gathering. Here we see the first "rally" where a Sunday church service is added to the AGM and ceilidh held on Saturday.

In 1961 the Gathering was held in Baddeck NS at the local high school.

The following two years it was back to Ontario for an AGM and family picnic at Stouffville where Hume Macpherson, the then Chairman, hosted the Branch at his "Creag Dhu" Farm. For the next 14 years the Gathering was held at various locations in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) with the format varying from an AGM with dinner, to an AGM with "social". The difference being a social was accompanied by a sandwich snack rather than a full dinner. It was not reported if a Church service was always included on the Sunday.

The Gathering of 1972 was notable in that Cluny and Lady Sheila visited the Canadian Branch for the first time, on the occasion of our Chief being a guest of honour at the opening that year of the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. From that time Cluny made a point of coming to our Gatherings when his time permitted until recently, as he is now not able to travel.

In 1978, the Gathering was organized at Antigonish NS at Francis Xavier University. For the next four years, back to GTA including the first joint Canada-US Branch Gathering at Niagara-on-Lake at the Pillar and Post Inn, organized in 1980 by Gordon Macpherson our Chairman at the time. Joint Gatherings were

held every five years from that time, alternating from Canadian to US locations.

After 1980, there were several Gatherings held in Ontario, although spreading further afield outside of the GTA, to Kingston, Trenton, Kitchener, London, Wa-

terloo, Georgetown and Collingwood, to name a few. There were Gatherings in Halifax in 1983, 1987, and 1991. We went to Quebec City in 2009 and paired up with the 78th Fraser Highlanders for a visit to the Citadel with a parade by the Frasers commemorating the Battle of the Plains of Abraham.

The present format for the Canadian Gathering, which is similar to that held by in Badenoch each year, was firmly established in Canada by 1999 and has remained so ever since. The term "Gathering" was adopted by the CMA Executive in Scotland in 2010 to describe both the affair in Badenoch and our annual event which has included the Branch Annual General meeting in a three-day rally.

For interest, the locations at which our Canadian Branch Gatherings have taken place since 1948, are summarized in the table below:

Ontario	52
Nova Scotia	6
Quebec	4
USA	4

It appears that Ontario gets the nod much more often. Maybe because most of our membership reside there. We hope, that in the future we have our annual Gathering in other provinces, as would be befitting to a national organization such as ours. We do have members in each of the provinces so we have a challenge!

I wish to acknowledge the assistance of the following in preparing this article: Robert J Archibald, Robert W Archibald PhD, and R Gordon Macpherson CM.

References:
 Canadian Branch Minutes 1949 - 1990
 Creag Dhuibh 1949 - 2006
 Branch Newsletter 1987-89, 2006
 Blatach Ualine 1991-97
 The Green Banner 2008- 2015

JOINT GATHERINGS

1980	Niagara-on-the-Lake ON
1985	Dearborn MI
1990	Niagara-on-the-Lake ON
1995	Plymouth MA
2000	Ottawa ON
2005	Albany NY
2010	Baddeck NS
2015	Chicago IL



Pillar and Post Inn at Niagara-on-the-Lake, the venue for the first Joint Gathering in 1980



HIGHLAND GAMES

By Robert J Archibald



The Georgetown Highland Games kicked off the summer games season on June 13th this year, and Clan Macpherson was well-represented. Canadian Branch Chairman Bill Macpherson was the first on the scene along with Bob and Marlene Archibald, followed by our new Ontario Councillor Ed Smith, Hon. Secretary Robert Archibald with his wife Sondra, and later by Chantal McPherson, our Registrar.



Robert J Archibald, Marlene Archibald, Sondra Archibald, Chantal McPherson, Ed Smith, and Robert W Archibald at the Georgetown Games

During the opening ceremonies Chairman Bill, Secretary Bob, and Councillor Ed, took to the field with the other clans, we with our banners waving proudly. Former member Lois Musselman joined us for a while for a chat and update

During the course of the day, there were several individuals who stopped to chat at the tent and expressed an interest in Clan Macpherson. Near the end of the day we received a pleasant surprise with a visit by a gentleman named Stuart Macpherson and his young son. Stuart informed us that his grandfather had sold his home in Newtonmore to the CMA back in 1951 and afterward it became the Clan museum.

The Cobourg Highland Games were held on Saturday the 20th of June in Victoria Park at the beach in Cobourg. Marlene, Ed Smith and I staffed the Macpherson tent. During the opening ceremonies Ed and I carried our banners on to the field.

The day itself was rather slow at the tent, but the bright sunny weather more than made up for lack of traffic. Later on, Stuart Macpherson, whom we met at Georgetown, brought his whole family to the tent. Stuart's dad advised me he was seven years old when his father's house in Newtonmore was sold to Clan Macpherson. As Stuart's son was competing in the piping competition, the family went to watch him play. Hopefully we will have some new members there!

JOINT GATHERING 2015

By Jacqueline Murdoch Co-Convenor



As at June, we had 99 registrants for the Joint Canadian and US Gathering this year so if you haven't registered yet, we urge you to stop waiting so that you won't be disappointed. This Gathering promises to be one of the largest outside of Scotland.

Thirty Canadians are confirmed coming from Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia. In addition to Canadian and US members, we will have a strong overseas contingent from Scotland and Australia. You will meet many clansmen and clanswomen and make new friends

There are fantastic events all covered by your Gathering registration fee of \$130 US, and plus some terrific optional tours and activities as described in page 12 in this issue.

The Eaglewood Resort and Spa in Itasca Illinois, is on the outskirts of Chicago. If you want to make an extended stay to see more of the area, or play some golf, the amazing room rates will be available from Wednesday through to Sunday. Booking your room can be done by calling the hotel directly at 1-877-285-6150 or 1-630-694-5920. Our special room rate is \$105 US + tax. If you call by phone, ask for the CMA rate. If you book online, make sure you quote the group discount code of MACP1001. The deadline for booking with the resort is August 15, and we strongly recommend reserving early, as there are several other events happening there the weekend of October 2 to 4.

If you need more information, the detailed program, or a registration form, visit the website at

www.clan-macpherson.org/us

ONTARIO

Continued from Page 9


A round table presentation was held on April 29 at the U of Guelph Scottish Studies Dept. The topic covered the Hill Forts Heritage and High places of Scotland. Dr. Tessa Poller of the U of Glasgow was the presenter. Dr. Poller showed pictures of areas where she and her team have done archeological digs in the lowland regions.

In the month of May, I attended a series of Scottish Country dance workshops and balls. The most notable of which was the RSCDS Hamilton 60th Anniversary John Middleton Ball.

I was at the 40th Georgetown Highland Games on June 13th and Cobourg on the 20th, where I supported Bob Archibald at the Clan tent and participated in the opening march along with others from the Branch. A listing of Highland Games in Ontario during the summer can be found at the following website:

http://web.ripnet.com/~nimmos/highland_games.html

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AT THE JOINT GATHERING

 ur Organizing Committee has come up with some ideas on how you might spend your spare time when not attending the scheduled events at the Gathering. Members are expected to make their own arrangements but if more information is required, contact Jacqueline at jacquelinemurdoch@rogers.com or Donna at donnarucks@att.net

Self-Guided Chicago Tour 1 - By hotel shuttle and train



Willis Tower Chicago

Hotel shuttle to Metra, Metra to downtown Chicago Union Station. Short Walk to Willis Tower, the tallest building in the USA, and go up to the Observation Deck, with its famous ledge, on the 103rd floor for a 360° view of the City. Take a double-decker bus tour of the downtown area and see the sights! Catch the train then call for the hotel shuttle from Metra

Self-Guided Chicago Museum Tour 2

By hotel shuttle and train



Field Museum of Natural History

Hotel shuttle to Metra, Metra to downtown Chicago Union Station. Take a cab to see one or more of; the Art Institute to see the paintings, to the Field Museum to see the Dinosaur Bones, to the Adler

Planetarium, the Shedd Aquarium, to the Museum of Science and Industry, to Millennium Park to see the Bean, or shop along Michigan Avenue.

Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Tour

By personal automobile



Frank Lloyd Wright home and studio at Oak Park IL

Driving in your own car to Oak Park, tour this famous architect's home, office, and walk the neighborhood for a glimpse at many of the homes he designed. His influence is everywhere you look. The Eaglewood Resort was also inspired by his genius.

Lynfred Winery and Tasting- By hotel shuttle



Lynfred Winery Roseelle IL

Just down the road to Lynfred Winery where Classic Elegance is the rule. Go for a tasting, a tour, and shopping. Fred Koehler (1928-2011),

founder is considered to be the

father of the wine industry in Illinois. In 1975, he and his wife Lynn made their first bottle of wine in the basement of their home. Housed now for 35 years in the 1912 Craftsman-style "Fenz Home. What began as a hobby grew to the first winery in Illinois in 1979. Winning many awards in the wine industry including Best in Show, it has grown to over 80 varietals and produces nearly 100,000 gallons a year. Open daily 10 AM-7 PM, for tours, or just for dropping by and tasting, you'll enjoy this wine gem hidden away in Illinois.

Scottish Rite Cathedral, Valley of Chicago -

By hotel shuttle



Interest in Freemasonry grew in the mid-1850s in Chicago, suffered during the Civil War, was tested during the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, yet the spirit of Freemasonry persevered. After more than a century at Medinah's Mosque in the heart of Chicago, the Rite built a state-of-the-art headquarters near the Eaglewood Resort, in Bloomingdale, Illinois.

Golfing at the Eaglewood Resort 18-hole, par 72 championship course

Relaxation at the Eaglewood Spa - a full-service health Spa