



# THE GREEN BANNER

## NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 9 Number 1

March 2015

### NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Chantal McPherson, Registrar



It has been a lonely cold winter for this Registrar and I look forward to sending out your 2015 Edition of very soon. Annual members who haven't already done so should renew their membership as it is now past January. To those who have renewed for 2015, your copy of Creag Dhubbh will reach you soon.

I will be attending the CMA Spring Ball in London UK, March 20<sup>th</sup> with our newest Life member, my Daughter Elle McPherson-Yoon. We will take many photos and look forward to sharing our experience on our Facebook page and the next Green Banner.

Our Snow Bird Members have been having fun in Florida! as Jean Whitten kindly reports:

*Bob Archibald and Marlene picked me up in Sarasota Saturday, January 30 and off we went to the Highland games. We visited with Bill Macpherson of the US Branch and others in the clan tent. Bob and McDuff, (their wonderful black Scottie) marched with the clans in the opening ceremonies. The weather was great unlike some years so they had a good crowd.*

*The Archibalds and I had dinner after which they went to a concert by the "Chili Pipers." They stayed the night in their wonderful R.V. before heading for Naples. They pull their car behind which is a great way to travel. We had a great Macpherson day!.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Irene joins me in sending best wishes to all Canadian Branch members and Green Banner readers for good health, happiness and prosperity in 2015.

Since the last edition of the newsletter we have had the opportunity of spending time with our close family. November we spent a week in Los Cabos, Mexico attending the wedding of our nephew. December hosted the usual festive family get together(s) and January Irene celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

While in Mexico, disappointed we couldn't attend, we were pleased that several of our Ontario members held an informal celebration of St Andrews Day, hopefully members in the other provinces will get a similar opportunity. Please let either myself or your Provincial Councillor know if there is an event that might be of interest to fellow clansmen & women and we will try to provide support.

Spring will usher the start of the Highland Games season and we hope to meet up with many of our members and recruit a few new ones. Let us know if you plan to attend any games and we can network to see if any other members are going.

Donna Rucks has organized a wonderful setting for the joint USA/Canada Gathering in October and she and joint convener Jacqueline Murdoch are making plans for a wonderful weekend. Chicago is a reasonable drive from central Canada and direct flight from all major airports so if able we would be delighted to see as many members as possible make the trip. A warm welcome and an interesting program of activities await everyone (details are available on the Branch website or contact any of the Branch officers for information).

The song below was a Hogmanay party favourite when I was growing up in Scotland, sung after the bells (and Auld Lang Syne) to usher in the new year.

#### A GUID NEW YEAR TAE ANE AN AW'

A guid New Year tae ane an' aw',  
An' mony may ye see!  
An' durin' aw' the years tae come,  
O happy may ye be!  
An' may ye ne'er hae cause tae  
mourn,  
Tae sigh or shed a tear!  
Tae ane an' aw', baith great an'  
sma',  
A hearty, Guid New Year!

Chorus:  
**A guid New Year to ane an' aw'**  
**An' mony may ye see,**  
**An' durin' aw' the years tae**  
**come,**  
**O happy may ye be.**

O time flies past, it winna wait,  
My friend for you or me,  
It works its wonders day by day,  
And onward still doth flee.  
O wha can tell when ilka ane,  
I see sae happy here,  
Will meet again and merry be  
Anither guid New Year.

Chorus:

We twa ha'e baith been happy lang.  
We ran about the braes.  
In yon wee cot beneath the tree,  
We spent oor early days.  
We ran aboot the burnie's side,  
The spot will aye be dear,  
An' those that used to meet us there,  
We'll think on mony a year.

Chorus:

Noo let us hope oor years may be  
As guid as they ha'e been,  
And trust we ne'er again may see,  
The sorrows we ha'e seen.  
And let us wish that ane an' a'  
Our friends baith far an' near,  
May aye enjoy in times tae come  
A hearty guid New Year!

**A guid New Year to ane an' aw'**  
**An' mony may ye see,**  
**An' durin' aw' the years tae**  
**come,**  
**O happy may ye be.**

**Yours Aye, Bill Macpherson, Mississauga**

## TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The Branch is in good shape financially as of the end of 2014. We have about \$7,370 in our current account and a little over \$11,000 in our Life Membership Fund.

The 2014 annual Gathering lost about \$1,500 which is most of the reason we are showing a loss of \$1,200 for 2014. The \$7,300 in our current account still leaves us with ample money to operate in 2015, but it is entirely possible that I will be bring a motion forward at our 2015 AGM to increase membership fees for 2016. I have yet to complete my analysis of our fee structure but we are being impacted by higher mailing cost and a weaker Canadian dollar.

I am confident that 2015 will be successful year for the Canadian branch. I am looking forward to our gathering as we join our American cousins in Itasca, Illinois this October and I hoping to see all of you there.

## COME HOME TO BADENOCH 2015

All members of Clan Macpherson are invited to the Annual Gathering taking place in Newtonmore and Kingussie the first weekend of August 2015.

To obtain the best rates for flights to Scotland and for local accommodations, one should reserve now.

This is a great family event and shouldn't be missed!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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## 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.

**Honorary Chairman:** RGM Macpherson CM, KStJ,

**Officers:**

William Macpherson PEng, Chairman  
Jacqueline Murdoch, Vice Chairman  
Ken Gillis, Honorary Treasurer  
Robert W Archibald PhD, Honorary Secretary  
Chantal McPherson, Registrar

**Immediate Past Chairman:**

John C Gillies

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Bruce Gillis QC, Nova Scotia  
Major Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec  
Ed Smith CD, Ontario  
Donald Pearson, Alberta  
Helen Macpherson-Potts 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

## WE REMEMBER

We regret the sad news of the passing of the following members:

Suzanne McPherson of Milton, ON

Joanne Macpherson of Regina, SK.

Our sympathies go out to their families and friends



**Stuart H Macpherson**, life member of the Canadian Branch and the US Branch, passed away in November 2014 at the age of 59 after a long illness. Stuart was noted for his ready smile and his great support to the CMA where he served as Membership Chair for the US and Commissioner for the New England Region.

Stuart was born in Massachusetts and graduated with the Masters degree in Electrical Engineering (MSEE) from Northeastern University. He then embarked on a 32 year career with BAE systems. Stuart is survived by four grown children and one grandchild.



Stuart was very proud of his wood carved Clansman's Badge

Stuart joined the US Branch of CMA in 2000 and transferred to life member status in 2006. After attending some Canadian Branch events, he joined the Canadian Branch in 2009 and became a life member in 2013. Stuart made many visits to Scotland attending the annual Gathering in Badenoch where with his sunny personality he made many friends. The last few years he was constant in attending the Canadian Gathering. We will certainly miss Stuart who was an inspiration with his avid interest in things Scottish, Clan Macpherson, and CMA.



## WE REMEMBER

Colonel, Sir Thomas “Tommy” Macpherson, died aged 94 in November 2014.



Most members of CMA will remember Tommy as the Chieftain of the Newtonmore Games held each year at the time of the annual Gathering in Badenoch. Tommy was proud of the role he played where he greeted Cluny before the assembled clansmen, who had marched from the Ralia across the bridge over the River Spey on the

Elian, the grounds of the games. Many of the younger members (aged 80 on down) were not aware of the formidable achievements of this distinguished gentleman whom they saw each year.

Tommy was a first-class athlete, avid sportsman, successful businessman, and decorated soldier, who had many adventures during his service in World War II. He published an autobiography in 2010, Behind Enemy Lines which covered his life and military exploits from his point of view. This is the stuff of Hollywood movies!

In spite of a childhood disability, he drove himself to excel in sports, rising to the Olympic level in the one mile run. He was tapped for the 1948 Olympics, but had to decline due to a developing career in business. As with many war veterans, he had to make up for time lost during military service. His successful business career in the timber trade, included Managing Director (CEO) of his firm where he was responsible for increasingly high profitability. He was elected to several boards who wanted to harness his outstanding business acumen. Tommy never lost sight of his responsibilities toward his fellow man, supporting many charities during his career. He was knighted Sir Thomas Macpherson of Balivil in 1992 for his service to his country.

His military career started in the school cadets prior to World War II. He was commissioned in the Cameron Highlanders at the beginning of the war and transferred to the Scottish Commando, which was dispatched to North Africa to disrupt the Vichy French. He distinguished himself in this action. Later on during an operation against the Italians in Libya, he was captured and became a POW. Several escape attempts followed, from ever increasingly difficult confinements with ever increasing annoyance from his captors to the point he was almost

shot as an example to discourage other prisoners who might be planning to escape. Finally, while interned in Poland, he was successful and made his way to neutral Sweden. Much of his success in getting away was due to his mastery of several languages plus indomitable persistence and some luck. For his activities to this point, he was awarded the Military Cross (MC) on his return to the UK.

Because of his experience and proven leadership capabilities, he was recruited into the Special Operations Executive (SOE) which was organizing special units to support the resistance in France in advance of the Normandy Landings. After parachuting into France, he organized a French Maquis group which proceeded to wreak havoc amongst the Germans, disrupting their logistics. He carried out many of his raids in his highland kit to inspire his French comrades and became known by the Germans as “that crazy major”, who put a high price on his head for his capture. For these actions in France which culminated in organizing the surrender of a panzer division, he was awarded his second MC. Later on, the French recognized his efforts by awarding him three Croix de guerre and making him a Chevalier in the Légion d’ honneur.



Ronald Thomas Stewart  
MACPHERSON

At this point in the war, Tommy was moved to the Italian theatre to organize the resistance in Northern Italy and carried out a raid on a railway yard in Yugoslavia for which he received his third MC. As the war ended, he was instrumental in preventing Trieste from falling to the Communist Yugoslavs, which earned him the personal ire of Marshall Tito, who put a price on his head. In the 1950’s during a visit to Yugoslavia, Tito asked to see him as he wanted to meet the man who had outsmarted him. The Italians recognized his contributions by awarding him the Medaglio d’Argento and the Italian Resistance Medal.

Following the war, Tommy continued in the Territorial Army as a part-time soldier, and rose to the rank of Colonel. For his exemplary military service he was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE).

He was one of three British officers to win three MC’s and the only one to do this and also be awarded three Croix de guerre. Sir Tommy lived a long and full life with many outstanding achievements, far too many to cover adequately in this short resume. Needless to say he will be missed by his clansmen. Tommy joined the CMA early in its formation as his father Sir Stewart, was a founding member.

### References:

- “Obituary – Sir Thomas Macpherson”; from The Telegraph website; 7 November 2014
- Behind Enemy Lines; by Sir Thomas Macpherson; Mainstream Publishing; 2010.
- “Macphersons Making Their Mark”; interview by Richard Bath; Creag Dhubh 2010 p51
- “Book Review-Behind Enemy Lines”; Green Banner November 2011
- “Tommy Macpherson – Captain of the Newtonmore Games”; Green Banner July 2009

*The Editor wishes to thank Ewen Macpherson of Scotland and Gordon Macpherson for their assistance in preparing this article*

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CELTIC HARP

By Dee McPherson



Dee playing her new harp

Playing the folk harp carries on an ancient tradition which has continued for thousands of years. The earliest depiction of a frame harp in the British Isles is on an 8th century stone cross in Scotland. Here, harpers were well-respected and very important. They were often poets as well as musicians, and were credited with magical powers.

Harpers were required to evoke three different emotions in their audience with their music: laughter, tears, sleep. In the 10th century, harpers from all over

Britain traveled to the Highlands of Scotland to study in the harping schools there.

The harp was originally the national instrument of Scotland. Each clan had its own designated Harper who held a position of high esteem. Over the centuries of internal feuding, the harp was gradually replaced by the more war-like bagpipes. By the 17th century, the harp was in full decline.

Yet, in present-day Clan Macpherson, on both sides of the Atlantic, there are several clanswomen and clansmen who continue the tradition and proudly play the harp.

Sandra Macpherson (Glentruim) is an accomplished harpist who started playing as a child. Morag Barr (Newtonmore) often entertains at our Ceilidhs as a member of the Badenoch Fiddlers. Morag graciously gave lessons on the clarsach last summer at the Clan Macpherson Museum. She encouraged me as a beginner, and hosted an evening of music at her home, featuring three harps and a piano.

While at the Museum last summer, I learned some traditional tunes on the clarsach. Accompanied by Ruiseart Alcorn our curator, on the small pipes, we enjoyed a few duets.

Back home in the US, I bought a harp and started lessons.

When you visit Scotland and Badenoch enjoy the sounds of the clarsach at the Clan Museum, and at the Clan Gathering during the Ceilidh.



The clarsach at the Clan Museum

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

By Mark F Macpherson



In the November Issue we introduced this department to acquaint readers with the duties of the Editor and the production of the Green Banner four times per year. The vast majority of the articles for this issue were written by members from all parts of our worldwide CMA

community. I was pleased to receive material from the USA, UK and Australia which is most appreciated as it gives our newsletter interesting international flavour for our reading enjoyment. We also enjoy a number of Canadian contributors who provide interesting news and significant material for us.

All of this, along with the concomitant photographs, is edited and placed in the MS Publisher program used to produce our newsletter. The final product results from manipulations of this software which is easy to learn and use. The editing phase begins with a review of the articles submitted for each issue. Many contributors start submitting articles soon after the current issue is distributed to our members by our very able Registrar, Chantal, and I assure you I start work on them as soon as they are received. The challenge of editing written material is to not interfere with the contributor's ideas and writing style while ensuring that the grammatical presentation is of a high standard. Most of the time, this is quite easy to accomplish.

I will accept outlines or rough presentations covering ideas for articles that are submitted by prospective authors. These are worked interactively between us until a finished article is quickly produced. In this way someone who feels they are not an experienced writer can produce a good submission for the newsletter. All edited material is returned to each contributor for final approval before final placing in the publication. Email is a great help in executing this process and I don't think we could work without it. It is certainly my hope that more and more members will step forward and share their news and experiences with us in the Green Banner for future issues. I look forward to receiving your input.

In the next issue I expect to share with you how the final publication is prepared for circulation.

## DEADLINE FOR JULY ISSUE

Please submit your notes and captioned photos before **June 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 July issue. You can all participate—Don't be shy!

## ROBBIE BURNS DINNER

By Helen Macpherson Potts



My friends, Michael & Sylvia Eaton from Prince George BC, host a Robbie Burns dinner in their home every year. Sylvia started the dinner a few years ago and when she married Michael, he wholeheartedly embraced the tradition. In fact Michael recites the “Address to the Haggis” from memory with passion and flair!

Sylvia’s connection to Scotland is through the Murrays of Atholl and she puts her whole heart and soul into the dinner. Sylvia has made, imported, and now buys the haggis through a local butcher. She has two requests when you attend her dinner: one, you wear something tartan, and two, you come prepared with a song, a poem, joke or fact about Scotland. Many of the guests wore tartan scarves but being a traditionally lumber town much of the tartan were plaid shirts. Needless to say there was a mad flurry of googling everything Scottish prior to the dinner!

This year there was a little ensemble consisting of a fiddle, guitar, and two vocalists who sang a lively rendition of “You Cannae Throw your Granny from The Bus”, and a lovely rendition of “The Bonnie Banks O’ Loch Lomond”. My Husband, Brian, and I contributed the toasts to the Lads and the Lassies as well as a list of “20 Signs you may be Scottish”.



My friend Michael Eaton presenting the Address to the Haggis



McFrosty greeted the guests

One guest discovered that 15% of Canadians claim Scottish ancestry and that every province in Canada has a tartan so gave us a quiz on which tartan belonged to which province. Another guest brought a quiz on Scottish phrases and two others brought Scottish jokes. If the space hadn’t been limited I’m sure there would’ve been dancing too!

The evening closed with the joining of hands and the singing of “Auld Lang Syne”.

## CMA SOCIAL ACTIVITIES TORONTO AREA

By Jacqueline Murdoch



Here is a short report on two events we held in Toronto since the November issue of the Green Banner:

On Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, several members of the Clan Macpherson Association met up in Toronto to celebrate St. Andrew’s Day. We love getting together for the annual Gathering event, but we wanted to try and have some informal get-together’s in between to natter, catch up, and enjoy each other’s company. We didn’t provide much notice, but Bob and Sondra Archibald, Ed Smith, Chantal McPherson, Bernice Day and Bill McNaught joined me at the Irish Embassy Pub. We had a few laughs and a wee dram. The arrival of Jamie Rogers offered us the opportunity to extend the dinner. Our next get together will be Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>. So members in the Toronto area, mark the date in your calendars.



Scottish Tattoo at the Sony Centre Toronto

Smartphone photo by Jacqueline

On Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts The Clan Macpherson Association had a table at The Scottish Tattoo: The Music of Scotland. The concert brought the charm of Scotland to Toronto through musicians, bagpipes, singers and dancers. Led by Music Director and Pipe Major Steven Dewar, the Port Hope Pipe Band, were joined by Aceltica, a seven piece show band from Glasgow. Thanks to Bob Archibald from Port Hope, we were invited to have a table in the lobby and I had the chance to talk to a number of Macphersons in attendance about the Association and the Canadian Branch. There was a lot of interest in membership, and both the Gathering in Scotland and our joint US and Canadian Gathering to be held in Chicago this coming October. Overall, a fantastic evening. If you get the chance to see this event in future years, I highly recommend it.

# PLATINUM DHUBH 2016

By Bruce Macpherson, Publicity 2016 Gathering



**Save the Date!** – that’s the battle-cry Jean Macpherson-Duffy, CMA Vice-Chair, is broadcasting across the globe to all Clan and Association members as she and a dedicated committee pull together plans to mark the Clan Macpherson Association 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering in August 2016.

To be known as the Platinum Dhubh, this milestone in the Association’s history will be celebrated with a unique programme of events taking place in Scotland around the weekend of **5-7 August 2016**, and for some days on either side.



Clan March 2013 Gathering

The Platinum Dhubh will get off to a roaring start with a tour of Edinburgh’s historic Royal Mile led by Sandy Macpherson followed by an afternoon tea-party hosted by his wife Catherine and Shelagh Macpherson Noble at Sandy and Catherine’s Edinburgh home. To the north in Badenoch, special events will include a golf tournament captained by Jamie of Cluny and tours of clan country. In addition to the Ball, March, Games and Church Service, the events that characterise a ‘normal’ Gathering, we’re planning a special Ceilidh at Ruthven Barracks and torch-light parade to Kingussie led by the Association’s Virtual Pipe Band.

The Platinum Dhubh will be launched following the publication of the 2016 edition of Creag Dhubh. Keep an eye on the website and Facebook for full details and registration forms. One thing we can tell you now is that Kingussie’s Duke of Gordon has offered us the chance of exclusive access to the hotel at only £40 per person. Book now to avoid disappointment!

**Save the Date! – 5-7 August 2016** – and come to Scotland to celebrate the Clan Macpherson Association’s 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering in unique style.



# CANADIANS AT THE SARASOTA GAMES

By Robert J Archibald



On Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup> 2015, Highland Games were held at the Fair Grounds in Sarasota Florida. Several Canadian Branch members of the Clan Macpherson Association gathered there with members of the US Branch. It was a beautiful sunny day with temperatures in the low 70 F’s and not a drop of rain to be seen. A very warm and pleasant day was had by all those who attended.



Back row L to R is the S.E. US Branch Commissioner Commander Bill McPherson, Bill’s daughter Laurie McPherson, and former Canadian Branch Chairman Robert J Archibald. Front row L to R is Bill McNaught, Marlene Archibald, McDuff the Scottie, Jean Whitten, and Don Larson, US Branch. Missing Canadians are Bernice Day and Heather Hasenclever Bob McNaught’s wife and sister respectively

The Canadian Branch will be represented at the Georgetown Highland Games on Saturday June 13, 2015 at the Georgetown Fairrounds in Georgetown Ontario. We will also be present at the Cobourg Highland Games on Saturday June 20, 2015 in Victoria Park in Cobourg Ontario. Let me know if you will be attending either of these.

I am planning for other games during the summer and early fall and will provide information on this for the July issue of the Green Banner. (Contact [rarchiba@sympatico.ca](mailto:rarchiba@sympatico.ca))

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Without our many contributors it would not be possible to produce the Green Banner four times each year. I particularly appreciate those from outside Canada, or “from away” as they say in Newfoundland, for your input certainly adds positively to our newsletter. In this issue, four of our Provincial Councilors rose to the occasion with excellent reports. I hope this will continue in all future issues as it is important to all of us to read what is going on out there. The following members are thanked for their promptly submitted, interesting, articles for this issue: Robert J Archibald, Eric Boysen, Bruce Gillis, Ken Gillis, Bill Macpherson, Bruce Macpherson (UK), Ewen MacPherson (UK), Helen Macpherson-Potts, John Macpherson (UK), Myles Macpherson, Shelagh Macpherson-Noble (UK), Chantal McPherson, David McPherson (Australia), Donna McPherson-Rucks (USA), Jacqueline Murdoch, and Ed Smith. (ed.)

## A TRIP TO SCOTLAND

By Eric Boysen



Barbara and I visited Scotland in June 2014 in a tour group of 10 individuals from Peterborough, Ontario. True to form, the highland weather was anything but warm, with snow lingering in the hills well into June.

As part of the tour we had a stop at Newtonmore and we visited the Clan Macpherson Museum. Barbara, who is a Macpherson, was much impressed and both of us were taken by the wild cat statue dressed in Macpherson hunting tartan in the garden at the front of the building. Some of the other tour group members were Clan Chattan descendants so the motto "Touch not the Cat bot a glove" finally made sense to us.



Barbara in front of the Clan Museum in Newtonmore

We also had an opportunity to visit the Dalwhinnie Distillery nearby and enjoy samples of 5 different whiskeys produced there plus the "to die for" whiskey chocolates.

Barb and I decided to join the Clan Macpherson Association as life members as a result of our trip, helped by a generous gift from her Dad a couple of years ago. Barb recently retired as a forester with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) where she focused on preserving threatened tree species such as elm, chestnut, and butternut in southern Ontario.. I am a Director in MNR at Peterborough ON with responsibilities for fish, wildlife and water resources in the province.

We named our rural property in Lanark county "Dalwhinnie". We discovered that the original name was Dail Chuinnidh in Gaelic which means "meeting place". The village in Scotland was apparently where the highland drovers used to muster up sheep and cattle. The concept of a meeting place is kinda like our family.

## PROVINCE OF QUEBEC REPORT

By Myles G Macpherson CD., Provincial Councillor Québec



Hello fellow clansmen and clanswomen. This is my first report in the Green Banner and I expect more to come. I would like to provide you with an update on the status of the Quebec Region and give you some thoughts on planning a visit to the Montreal area. The Quebec Region has been quiet over the past years from a CMA perspective but there are many things that could be done to liven things up. Currently we have 12 members in Quebec, while I know there are many other people who are eligible in the province based on their Clan name.

I aim to expand membership in this Province. If you know of any kinsmen who are not yet members, let me know and I will contact them personally. My contact information is, Email: [Canada.QC.Exec@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:Canada.QC.Exec@clan-macpherson.org) or Telephone: 514-693-9920

I am planning to get our members, friends, and other eligible clans' people together for a pub night similar to what was done in the Toronto area. I hope to hold this event at the same time as the Montreal Highland games which is scheduled for Sunday 2 August 2015. I will be contacting members in the Quebec Region regarding the best format for this activity. If any CMA member will be in Montreal at this time, let me know and I will add you to the list of happy well-wishers. If you are planning a trip to the Montreal area in the near future, you can contact me and I can recommend some points of interest.

Here are some upcoming noteworthy events scheduled in the Montreal area this year:

- Celtic Convention at Concordia University– 2-3 May
- Glengarry Games, Maxville Ontario - 31 Jul & 1 Aug, an hour drive from Montreal.
- Montreal Highland Games – 2 August
- Our Pub Night - 2 August.

I look forward to seeing many of you soon, either in Montreal, or at the Joint Clan Macpherson Gathering in Chicago in October.



## DAYLIGHT ROBBERY IN SCOTLAND

By Shelagh Macpherson Noble, Vice-President CMA



In the late 1690s, the English king was short of money so he introduced the much-despised Window Tax. This was a tax levied on the windows of a property. The upper classes, having the largest houses, paid the most. Some wealthy individuals used their ability to pay as a mark of status and demonstrated their wealth by building homes with many windows.



Floors Castle with its many windows

The Window Tax was not introduced in Scotland until 1748 and in that year the Duke of Roxburghe paid £14 & 4 shillings tax for the 294 windows at his Borders home, Floors Castle. A house had to have at least 7 windows or a rent of at least £5 to be taxed. Poorer people could not afford the tax and as a result would brick up some of their windows to avoid paying, thus reducing the amount of light and air in their homes. The Victorians called it the “tax on light and air” or “Daylight Robbery”. The Window tax was abolished in 1851.

The first Census, taken in Scotland June 1841, recorded basic information including: place (address), uninhabited or inhabited

houses, name, gender, occupation, where born if Scottish, or where, if foreign, English, or Irish.

In 1861 two columns were introduced on the form, one for the number of children aged between 5 & 15 who attended school, and a last column for the number of rooms that had one or more windows!

It seems strange the Census forms did not include the question on windows until after the tax was repealed. The reason for this is not known.

Subsequent Census' in 1871, 1881, 1891 1901 and 1911 requested additional information to increase accuracy or to focus on issues important at the time such as; mental disabilities, education, or language spoken. For example in 1891 a column headed

“Gaelic or Gaelic & English” was added to the form. Most highlanders spoke Gaelic as their first language with English being introduced when a child went to school. By 1911 the census form was two pages long including details concerning employment.

Because of the private information that can be gained from the records, the Census office does not release records until 100 years has elapsed; therefore we will have to wait until 2021 before we can learn more. However one can glean a lot about our ancestors over the 70 years between 1841 and 1911. so for those members who are interested in tracing their family roots can benefit from a search through the Scottish census records.



An example of “Daylight Robbery”

## PROVINCE OF ONTARIO REPORT

By Edward (Ed) Smith CD., Provincial Councillor Ontario



This is my first report as the newly appointed CMA Representative from the province of Ontario. It is my hope that I may adequately follow the example set by my predecessor, Rod Smith. When I asked what my duties might entail, I was told they included, encourage participation in Clan Macpherson activities, and further the CMA presence at Scottish related functions.

I will be increasing my attendance at highland games held in the province throughout the summer, helping Bob and Marlene Archibald show the Clan Association's presence. They continue to do a terrific job at the various games.

I have recently received my membership card from the Scottish Studies Foundation, which supports research in Scottish cul-

ture. The Foundation publishes historical studies and documents relating to Scottish culture and migration.

I have taken an interest in the Scottish Studies Program given by the University of Guelph. Each year they sponsor a fall Scottish Studies Colloquium. There is a spring event to be held at Knox College, University of Toronto. There are a series of round tables presented throughout the Scottish studies terms by students who are preparing thesis on their study area. I recently attended a round table presentation by a young man attending university in Inverness that I found quite interesting.

These have been my first steps in fulfilling my role as the CMA Councilor for the Province of Ontario.

I hope to meet many of you at the various CMA functions, during which one can make new friends with cousins you have never met, or perhaps introduce a friend of yours, whose family name falls within the associated families of the Clan Macpherson, to our Clan Association.



## CMA CHAIRMAN REPORT

By John Macpherson of Montrose



I wish to begin by saying what a wonderful job Mark does in editing the Green Banner, I think also the quality of the articles is very interesting and, the many pictures enhance the overall appearance of the publication. A Branch magazine like this is an almost indispensable tool for the members and I hope Green Banner continues for all time.

To use the well hackneyed phrase how time flies. It is now well into February and, in our part of the world, we are seeing signs of spring with many of the bulbs beginning to peep through. Northeast Scotland at this time of year can have quite miserable weather, very cold, cloudy, dull, and of course very short daylight hours. This year it has been really good with a few frosty mornings followed by nice sunny days. Throughout my working years I always looked forward to 7<sup>th</sup> Feb, being the first day during the winter that I could get to work and return at night in daylight. Nowadays of course we just lie in bed a bit longer, now that work of that kind is finished.

We hope everyone had an enjoyable time over Xmas and New Year. It is always a nice time to renew old friendships and make new. Iris & I had a much quieter Hogmanay because of a Flu bug which decimated our usual crowd. We still had a lovely evening but returned home with no first foos to open the door for us. We had an enjoyable quiet while at home reminiscing over the last 50 years of marriage and had a nice dram or three.

Our first event for 2015 was the Scottish Branch Burns Supper held in the Green hotel Kinross. It was very enjoyable and we were pleased to see Cluny & Lady Hillary attend and looking so good. A number of clan members stayed the night and we all had a good chat over breakfast before packing up and going our different ways on a really beautiful sunny day.

Iris has been gearing up for the start of the Clan Gathering

bookings for 2015. It is quite surprising how many enquiries we have had already and the special accommodation offer by the Duke of Gordon Hotel has been well utilized already. This will be my last Gathering as Chairman and if all goes according to plan; we may have a few of my family who have not attended for a few years. Preparations for the 2015 Gathering is fairly well under way and one of the pleasing aspects is that the prices are more or less the same.

Next year will be the 70<sup>th</sup> (Platinum) anniversary of the Association and our Chairman-elect, Jean Duffy, has been busy making plans involving the various branches of the CMA worldwide. An extra large attendance is expected for this gathering and extensive details for this event in 2016 will be forthcoming later on this year.

The Dionadair fund has seen four new Guardians join this year, two from Canada and two from USA. This is very encouraging as this fund can be utilized quickly to assist in repairs & emergencies that may crop up at the Museum. One of my small extra duties is to organise the manufacture and supply of the plaques with the names of the Guardians from the suppliers who are situated only 15 miles from Montrose. All of the plaques will be in place by the opening of the Museum in April. There are now well over one hundred Guardians and we thank them all for their generosity in helping the Museum in such a positive way.

After a gap of nearly 5 years, the England & Wales Branch is holding a ball in London, to which Iris & I have plans to attend. The venue is the Caledonian Club, in the heart of Belgravia and is a truly lovely place with a strong Scottish atmosphere. It is a fantastic venue where the design of the ballroom actually allows the floor to move when you are tripping the light fantastic.

Iris & I are very aware of the joint Gathering of USA & Canada this October in Chicago. We hope very much to attend and will be making our decision later on in the spring.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA REPORT

By Helen Macpherson-Potts, Provincial Councillor BC



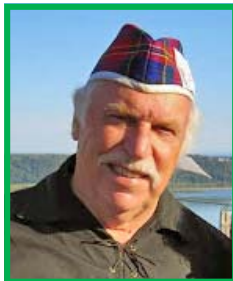
This is my first of, hopefully, many reports as the Councillor for BC. As I am new at this there is not whole lot happening at present, however, I thought I'd just introduce myself to start! I recently married Brian Potts, who became a clan member in 2014, and have 4 step children ranging in ages from 15-23 and currently live in Prince George, BC – home of the 2015 Winter Games! I have been a CMA member for 2 years now and had the pleasure of attending the Clan Gathering in Newtonmore in 2013.

If you look at a map of British Columbia, Prince George is almost the geographical center of BC but we have referred to ourselves as BC's "Northern Capital" for many years. In fulfilling my role to recruit clansmen as members I decided to start small. Therefore, I recently sent a mail-out to the clansmen in my city and to those within a 400km radius of my home town including such cities as Smithers, Quesnel, 150 Mile House, Terrace and Fort Nelson, which is actually more like 900km north from here!

This is a challenge but we shall see what happens!

# A WEEKEND IN BENDIGO

By David McPherson, Australia



Hello to all our Macpherson cousins in Canada from David and Sally McPherson in Melbourne Australia. We just arrived back home from a weekend in

Bendigo in the regional state of Victoria where this city hosted the annual Scot's Day Out weekend.

Bendigo is rich in Scottish heritage and culture as evidenced by the Municipal Council sponsoring the "Scot's Day Out weekend", a free event catering for all ages, including small children. It consists of two days of Scottish music, dancing, grand street parades, college of arms exhibitions and Clan tents, Clan parades. Sally and I represented Clan Macpherson, hosting a Clan Tent and marching with the Clans in the parade. We stayed at one of the typical heritage landmarks, the famous Shamrock Hotel, which is more than 150 years old with the original facade and decor retained to-day.



The Shamrock Hotel with its Victorian facade

The Bendigo Highland Pipe Band is notable because it wears proudly the Macpherson red tartan. I carried the Clan Macpherson Banner and marched immediately behind this band during the street parade. Peter Vernon from Huntley in Victoria Australia, a Macpherson from his grandmother's side, helped the Band obtain the Macpherson tartan.

There are still a number of Macphersons



Bendigo Pipe Band in their Macpherson tartan. I am in the center with our parade banner

living in Bendigo descended from the early days of the gold rush there. The Macpherson name figures prominently in major businesses such as the Public listed McPherson Media Group, and a leading law firm, Arnold Dallas McPherson Lawyers, whose principle officer John McPherson is a relative of the founder.

Bendigo was founded in the mid 1800s during the so called "Gold Rush" years of Australian history. I guess this may have been similar to the Yukon gold rush of the late 1800's in Canada, where towns were established virtually overnight from rumours there were gold nuggets lying around just to be picked up and make you rich. Immigrants from all around the world came to Australia seeking their fortunes. Bendigo was one of three major areas in Victoria rich in alluvial and gold reefs. A large percentage of these immigrants were attracted from Scotland, or were Scots working on sheep stations who left to look for gold. Bendigo took its name from the Bendigo Creek and its residents, since the earliest days of the gold rush have been called "Bendigonians".

Although the town flourished in the beginning as a result of the discovery of gold, it experienced a reversal of fortune in the early 20th century. However, its growth accelerated in the post-World War II years and has continued to increase steadily since. Bendigo is now the largest finance centre in Victoria outside of Melbourne and is home to Australia's only provincially headquartered retail bank, the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank,

and the Bendigo Stock Exchange (BSX). Many of the old heritage buildings that were formerly banks, insurance companies, and gold dealing offices, are still preserved to-day, but now house restaurants, clubs and recreational facilities. This is similar to the preservation in Scotland of the old town feel of cities such as central Glasgow.

Of interest to our cousins from Canada and a sign of how small this world is, a visitor to the Clan MacPherson tent, was Denise Clark (Sept of Macpherson) who was born in Halifax. After marrying Alan Clark several years ago, she now resides in Bendigo. As luck would have it for me, having spent a few days in Halifax late last year, we had wonderful discussion on its attractions.



The Clarks visiting our Clan tent at Bendigo

I hope that my story concerning the establishment Bendigo and the involvement of the Macphersons rings a bell with similar regional developments in Canada. Although our history is not as old as Canada's it is worthy of our thanks and celebration of the work of our ancestors in these far-away lands.

I hope, God willing, Sally and I will meet many of you again this year at the Joint Gathering in Chicago.



Sally with Pipe Major Warren Matheson

## NEW CANADIAN GUARDIANS

By Ewen S. L. MacPherson, Clan Museum



Two new *Dionadairean* plaques will now adorn the panel in the Drumochter Room of the Clan Museum when it reopens on 1 April 2015: Bill & Irene Macpherson of Mississauga, Ontario and Hugh Macpherson of Burlington, Ontario. & his late wife Barbara

This is wonderful news and shows that the Canadian Branch is leading the way in our efforts to revitalise *Na Dionadairean Clann Mhuirich*.

*Na Dionadairean Clann Mhuirich* is the Gaelic for the Guardians of Clan Macpherson. The scheme was devised in 1991 by a small committee of the US Branch of the Clan Association led by Vice President Rod Clarke. The purpose of *Na Dionadairean Clann Mhuirich* was to redeem the substantial outstanding mortgage in place to carry out essential repairs to the structure of the museum extension and to lay a strong financial foundation for the future well-being of the museum.

Today, the income received from the investment continues to go some way to help pay for the maintenance and day-to-day running of the museum but unfortunately not sufficient to defray

the continuing rising costs and it is hoped that more members will join the ranks of *Dionadairean*. It is appreciated that the donation of at least \$US1000 or the equivalent is high and may restrict some from joining. However, it is possible for this total amount to be made by up to ten instalments, which is usually not too difficult

New *Dionadairean* are presented with a certificate and badge, both designed by Gordon Macpherson, Niagara Herald Extraordinary, of Burlington, Ontario. The certificate is signed by Cluny and the Chairman of the Clan Association. The names of the *Dionadairean* are also included on the magnificent bronze plaque in the Clan Museum.



We invite you to become a *Dionadairean*. Please contact the CMA Treasurer, Mrs Valerie Macpherson, c/o Clan Macpherson Museum, Main Street, Newtonmore, PH20 1DE, UK. Or email: [CMA.Treasurer@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:CMA.Treasurer@clan-macpherson.org).

## NOVA SCOTIA REPORT

By Bruce Gillis QC., Provincial Councillor Nova Scotia



The heavy snow in Nova Scotia kept me busy the last while as the photo below testifies. At the time this photo was taken, we were expecting even more snow.

I attended a Burns night and some St Andrews events this winter. I have been in touch with some prospective members in Nova Scotia who have shown some preliminary interest in joining CMA, which I will follow up. I hope this will be beginning of an increase in membership in the Province.



Winter of 2015 in Middleton NS

## 2015 JOINT USA AND CANADIAN GATHERING

**CHICAGO, CHICAGO,**  
"THAT TODDLING TOWN!"

We are heading there for the weekend of  
October 2 to 4, 2015

A great program is in store for us at the Joint Gathering which takes place every five years, so no member should miss it!

More information, including the registration form with prices, will be posted along with your copy of *Creag Dhubh* which is due to be mailed shortly.

Everyone is advised to book their room, without delay, so you won't be disappointed, under

**"Clan Macpherson"**

(Code MACP100)

at the

Eaglewood Resort and Spa

1-877-285-6150

[www.eaglewoodresort.com](http://www.eaglewoodresort.com)



# 2015 CLAN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION JOINT US & CANADIAN GATHERING

October 2-4, 2015

Itasca, Illinois

By Jacqueline Murdoch Co-Convener



The details for the 2015 Clan Macpherson Association Gathering have been released and we wanted to let everyone know the details so that you could mark the dates in your calendars and reserve your rooms. Look for the registration forms with the Craig Dhuh later this month.

Held at the Eaglewood Resort and Spa in Itasca Illinois, this joint US and Canadian Gathering will be an event that you should not miss! Held on the outskirts of Chicago, there are some fantastic events that are covered by your registration fee, and some terrific tours and activities incremental to the Branch events.



Eaglewood Lobby

If you want to make an extended stay, the amazing room rates will be available from Wednesday through to Sunday. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 1-877-285-6150 or 1-630-694-5920. Room rate is \$105 + tax and if you call ask for the CMA rate, and if you book online make sure you quote the group discount code of MACP1001. The deadline for registration is August 15, but we recommend reserving early as we have been told that there are several events happening this same weekend.



Eaglewood Room

Festivities begin Friday night at 6:30pm with a Pig Roast in the Linden Ball Room followed by Ceilidh celebrations. At 9:30pm the festivities move to the Prairie River bar for the Pipe-Off and Whisky Tasting. For the younger set or if you are a night owl, there will be additional ceilidh held after hours until 1am.

Saturday morning there will be the Canadian in the Hollyhock Room at 10:30am until 12 noon. At 2pm you can brush up on your dance steps at the dance practice, listen to a pipes and flue demo in the lobby, get a virtual tour of the Clan Macpherson Association so that you can navigate on your own, and get a genealogy discussion.

If that doesn't appeal and you want to head into Chicago, Donna Rucks has arranged for two self-guided tours. One will take you to the Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower) and to the observation deck for a fantastic view of the city. The have you cruising on a double decker bus for a tour of the city. The other will offer a choice of the Art Institute, the field Museum, Adler Planetarium, the Aquarium or the Museum of Science and Industry. There are local tours as well, including the Frank Lloyd Wright Home Tour, the Lynfred Winery and Tasting, and the Scottish Rite Cathedral. The hotel also has a wonderful spa for those who feel a little quiet time and relaxation will be more in order.

At 6:00pm there will be a group photo in the lobby. Cocktails will be at the Linden Ballroom as well. At 7:00pm the Banquet and Highland Ball will be hosted, also in the Linden Ballroom. For those who wish to make a longer night of it, the Prairie River Bar and Firepit Patio will be open to extend the revelry.

Sunday morning services will be held in the hotel at the Linden A Ballroom at 10:00 am.

The Registration cost is \$130 US. This cost includes the Pig Roast and the Formal Banquet and Dance on Saturday night.

Look for the agenda and registration form in the mail. And we hope to see you all there!



Some of the CMA members before the Sunday church service at Baddeck NS, during the last Joint Gathering held five years ago in 2010