



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 9 Number 3

September 2015

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Chantal McPherson, Registrar



A warm welcome to our latest member, Stewart Macpherson. Bob Archibald reported in the July issue of his meeting Stewart at our Clan Tent at two of the highland games this summer. It is very interesting to learn that Stewart comes from a famous line of Clan Macpherson pipers!

A special thank you to Hon. Vice President, Ewen S. L. MacPherson who explained in a message from Scotland, a little more about Stewart's family background:

"Stewart is descended from the famous Malcolm Macpherson (Calum Piobair) whose cairn and former home, the Piper's Cottage, is at Catlodge, Laggan. He was piper to Cluny and his home was where he had his Piping School. The person who sold the house (in Newtonmore, now the Clan Museum, ed.) to the CMA was John Macpherson, grandson of Calum" (and grandfather of new member Stewart ed.).

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I am keeping the message in this edition short as I have provided updates on the Badenoch Gathering, next year's Platinum Dhubh plus the Branch report I presented at the Association AGM elsewhere in the newsletter.

I am exceptionally pleased to inform you that the Heraldic Room in the Clan Museum will officially be named in honour of the outstanding contribution made by our very own Gordon Macpherson for both the museum and Association. Our thanks and congratulations go to Gordon. Similarly I was very honoured to be nominated and appointed to the Museum Board of Trustees, I am sure this is a reflection of the significant contributions made by our Branch over the years.

Thanks to our many contributors and Editor Mark for another fine edition of the GB, enjoy reading.

Warm wishes are sent to you and yours and I look forward to meeting many of you at the Joint Gathering in Itasca or in the near future.

Yours Aye, Bill Macpherson, Mississauga

THE PLATINUM DHUBH 2016

By Bill Macpherson, Chairman Canadian Branch



As mentioned in our last Green Banner, the CMA will celebrate the 70th anniversary of its founding at the Gathering in Badenoch in 2016. This article provides Branch members with an update on the planning for this event and is to encourage early hotel bookings and registration due to the anticipated high demand for attendance.

Based on interest expressed by the Branches, the committee is making plans for bumper attendance figures (expected to be 350). The Duke of Gordon Hotel is already taking bookings and is starting to fill up. The hotel has 65 rooms and logistically they would prefer to fill them with Gathering attendees only. Please, if you want to be there book accommodation a.s.a.p.

Preparations and plans are being finalized but currently we can expect the following program of events. Activities start earlier than normal on Wednesday 3rd August with a guided tour of Edinburgh's Royal Mile by Sandy Macpherson followed by afternoon tea at Sandy & Catherine's home, hosted by Catherine and Shelagh Macpherson Noble.

On Thursday there is a Highland Dress display organized at a bespoke dressmaker in Pitlochry. Most of the items are for the ladies but there will be some items of interest for the men. Alternatively John Barton will be giving a guided tour of the town of Kingussie.

On Friday Jamie of Cluny is hosting a golf tournament (participants will pay green fees and club rental if necessary) plus there will be the usual committee meetings, dance practice and Highland Ball in the evening.

Continued on page 2

TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The Branch is in good shape financially as of the end of July. We have \$7,799 in our current account and \$11,131 in our Life Membership Fund. We are showing a profit of \$431 year to date at the end of July.

I plan to remit our membership fees to Clan Macpherson Association mid August and when I do we will be at a year to date break even position. I am not expecting any large expenses for the rest of this year as the Joint Gathering is being hosted by our American cousins.

I am looking forward to meeting many Canadian members at the Gathering in Itasca, Illinois this October.

ONTARIO

By Edward (Ed) Smith CD., Provincial Councillor



Since July, my activities have been focused on registering Clan Macpherson at the Fergus Games and representing Ontario at the Gathering in Badenoch. I attended the Fergus Games to help out Bob and Marlene Archibald who as usual did a fine job with their vast highland games experience.

I was able to attend all of the events in Badenoch with the exception of Cluny's reception at Newton Castle, which I had to miss because of travel restrictions.

I have been pursuing the CMA Canada 150 Project. Following my appeal for input, the results have been less than expected so far. I am concerned that we might not be able to execute this project, which would be a shame.

THE GREEN BANNER

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

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Officers:

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THE PLATINUM DHUBH 2016

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A standard Gathering day happens on Saturday including the AGM in the morning, the Clan March and highland games in the afternoon plus the evening Ceilidh at the Duke of Gordon. The Museum At Home will be announced later.

Church Service, Picnic at the Cairn lead us to lunchtime on Sunday and are followed by a Whisky Tasting in the afternoon. On Sunday evening attendees will congregate at Ruthven Barracks for another Ceilidh. Any pipers or drummers planning to attend should let organizers know in advance as the plan is to have a CMA virtual pipe band. Music will be sent out in advance to allow practice beforehand. After the Ceilidh, as dusk approaches, a torch lit parade will process from Ruthven Barracks down the hill and back to the Duke of Gordon Hotel. Members that were present at the last milestone Gathering (The Really Big Dhubh) have mentioned this sight was quite spectacular.

John Barton will lead the customary Monday morning walk of interest for the clan and in the afternoon a lecture will be presented at the museum (several sittings may be required to accommodate everyone).

For those with some energy left Tuesday sees a visit to the Highland Folk Museum in Newtonmore plus a visit to the Drumguish and/or Ballandalloch Distilleries.

As you can see a variety of interesting events is scheduled and the organizing committee is doing an excellent job in providing something for everyone. The committee is also very conscious of the expense to members and potential liability of excess expenditure on the Association. All that they ask is that you commit and register early.

Current planning is to have the 2016 Creag Dhubh available for circulation this coming December so that costs and registration details are available to everyone. Key decisions need to be made regarding many things (eg. size of marquis tent to be rented) and in order to not disappoint anyone cut off dates will need to be made for registration.

Please let me know at Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org if you are planning to attend so that I can keep the committee informed of our anticipated Branch participation and remember if you want to stay at the Duke of Gordon Hotel book now.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your Editor wishes to thank the following for their excellent contributions to the September issue: Robert J Archibald, Jean Macpherson-Duffy USA, Bruce Gillis, Ken Gillis, John C House, Bill Macpherson, Ewen S L MacPherson UK, Myles G Macpherson, Robert T Macpherson, Chantal McPherson, Donna McPherson-Rucks, Elaine McPherson, Jacqueline Murdoch, Ed Smith, and Rod Smith.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

By John C. House MOM, Provincial Councillor



Mr. Alan G. and Joyce Macpherson, parents of Branch Webmaster Dr Ewan Macpherson, recently moved from St. John's to London, Ontario to be closer to their children and grandchildren who reside in Ontario and the United States. As many will know, Alan is a longstanding member of the Clan Macpherson Association whose work as the official Clan Historian and author of the Posterity of the Three Brethren has been invaluable to the goals and objectives of the CMA. Alan and Joyce are retired from distinguished academic careers at the Geography Department of Memorial University. Best wishes to them at their new home in London, Ontario.

I am still actively promoting membership to the CMA. A num-

ber of people have indicated their intention to join in the near future. One of them is Linda MacPherson, who grew up in a small community in Southwest Newfoundland called the Highlands. Linda works as a registered nurse in St. John's, and recently volunteered and participated in a humanitarian mission to Haiti. Team Broken Earth was formed in response to the Haiti earthquake in 2010. Responding to the dire situation, the original and subsequent teams have provided much needed relief in the form of medical aid and equipment. Since that original deployment, Team Broken Earth, comprised of health care professionals volunteering their vacation time, has continued to make a difference in Haiti. Linda is proud to point out that "the origin of the wonderful group is right here, in Newfoundland", and that there are now Broken Earth teams across Canada.

NOVA SCOTIA

By Bruce Gillis QC., Provincial Councillor



Our Nova Scotia representative has been overwhelmed with various other demands, including both family work, and volunteer activities. Clan activities have been less than hoped, but there is ongoing interest to recruit more members. Getting younger participants is, as always, the biggest challenge.

I have been working with Sharlene Gillis, an officer in the RCAF who plays in the 14 Wing Pipes and Drums with me, to get a copy of the "inventory" of Macphersons in Canada that her mother has. I expect to make this document available to CMA members who are interested. I have aroused Sharlene's interest in all things Macpherson, which

incidentally is her mother's maiden name. Hopefully we will see her as a member soon

In the meantime, if I haven't already reported it to everyone, I am a cancer survivor and was given a clean bill of health by my oncologist recently, so that's a huge weight lifted and re-energizes me to get back into the fray.



Bruce and Debbie at the Moonlight Concert

We have placed Burnbrae, our large home and property of 25 years on the market in order to downsize. I will be looking soon for a more modest place, hopefully still in the Paradise area.

Debbie and I attended the Paradise Moonlight Concert, an annual outdoor concert with live traditional big band dance music of the 40's and 50's style, held to raise funds for the local community hall. Many of those present were in highland dress.

QUEBEC

By Myles G Macpherson CD., Provincial Councillor



Summer is normally a more exciting period for both highland and clan fun. My activities, although few, have hit some of the highlights around the Montreal area these past few months.

I attended the Glengarry games at Maxville ON, where I was in the Clan March and tasted some of the highland food on offer. At the Macpherson information booth, I spoke to some prospective CMA members.

I attended the Montreal games with a Scottish friend of mine and took in some of the piping and Scottish dancing com-

petitions, I was able to taste some of the beers on offer. I had to pass up the whiskey tasting however, due to driving duties.



There was a large happy crowd at the Montreal games

There was a pub night held at my house, attended by three members of CMA. Food and drink was available and even a few amusing tales told. This was the first ever Clan Macpherson pub night in the Montreal area and it is a beginning. I expect we will organize more such events in the Montreal area in the future. I will be working hard with CMA members in Quebec to increase our numbers.

I will be at the Joint Gathering in Chicago in October – see you there!

JUSTICE EWAN ALEXANDER MACPHERSON KC, LLD

By Mark Macpherson

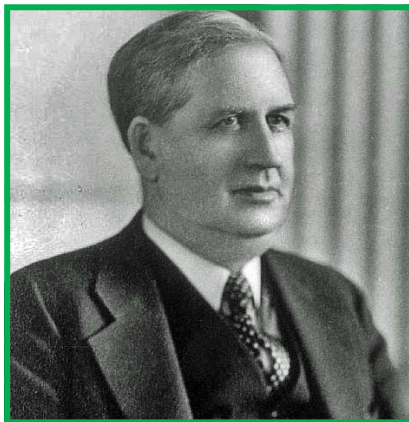


Ewan MacPherson, the first Chairman of the Canadian Branch, serving from 1949 to 1952, was born in the USA in Worth County Missouri in 1879. Shortly after Ewan was born, his father decided to move to Canada and the family settled in Portage la Prairie a small town about 50 km west of the City of Winnipeg. In those days the Canadian prairie

was a wide-open space and the Province of Manitoba which had been established in 1870, was called the “postage stamp province”. It was comprised of just the southern portion and was 1/18 of the size of the current Manitoba. The rest of the prairie was still called the “Northwest” all the way to the Rockies

Ewan grew up in this pioneer setting and articulated in law with a firm in Portage. This meant he learned law in a practical way, starting as a clerk and working his way up until he was called to the Manitoba Bar in 1903. He then practiced law at a firm in Portage, which included Arthur Meighan, who later became Prime Minister of Canada for two brief terms. Ewan’s exposure to this political heavyweight probably influenced his entry into politics.

Ewan was elected alderman in Portage in 1906 and then to the Manitoba Legislature in 1914. In 1926 he became Liberal MP for Portage la Prairie and went to Ottawa to serve under Arthur Meighan who was in his second term as PM for a few months that year. In 1932, Ewan became the Provincial Treasurer of Manitoba. He was well thought of in political circles and touted to be Premier of Manitoba by federal liberals. This never happened as he started to rise in judicial appointments.



Ewan MacPherson circa 1944

Ewan was appointed King’s Counsel (KC) in 1916, recognizing his legal capability. In 1937 he was appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Kings Bench, which was the superior court of Manitoba. He was appointed Chief Justice of Manitoba in 1944, serving in that capacity until 1954.

Ewan was married in 1904 and with his wife Winnifred raised a family of three boys and a girl. He was an active Freemason and Master of the Blue Lodge. He was involved in several charitable organizations such as the Save the Children Fund.

He was an avid duck hunter and had a good sense of humour, He liked to tell stories about hunting, sometimes with the joke on him, such as the following:

“I was standing in a marsh with my pump gun when five blue bills came by. I shot the first one and it dropped into the water. Then I shot the remaining four, one after another. The first one got up and I shot and missed. Then the others got up and flew away”

In 1948, the University of Manitoba recognized his contributions to society by granting him an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Ewan died in 1954 while attending his son’s wedding in Kenora Ontario, located about 200 km east of Winnipeg.

We were indeed fortunate to have had this prestigious man as our first Chairman, promoting the then new CMA Branch, particularly in Western Canada.

References:

http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/macpherson_ea.shtml

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ewan_McPherson

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg>.

The Court of Queen’s Bench of Manitoba, 1870-1950: A Biographical History
By Dale Brawn, Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History

SMITH WEDDING



*“I’ll Dance at your Wedding”
Proud father Rod opening the
dance with beautiful bride Erin*

In June 4th Erin M. Smith, member of CMA, and Dr Goran Rakita were married in an outdoor ceremony. The wedding and reception took place at Chicopee Ski Club in Kitchener Ontario. The club house was built by the grandfather and father of the bride. Over 120 guests were in attendance with many supporters of the bride sporting Highland regalia, providing some additional colour to the festivities.

YOUR BRANCH NEEDS YOU

If you reside in New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, or Saskatchewan, the Branch needs you as a Provincial Councillor.

In order to grow our Branch and make Clan Macpherson Association a truly national organization, we need a presence in each province where we have members.

The Provincial Councillor advises the Chairman on means to increase our membership and presence in the province in which he or she resides.

Please seriously consider joining the Branch Council. Contact Bill Macpherson at Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org

CMA CHAIRMAN REPORT

By Jean Macpherson-Duffy



It was with great pride that I accepted the cromag from John Macpherson on August 1st to become your next chairman. And it is a special honor to be the first woman chairman from North America!!

As the hour of two o'clock approached for the Clan march, the heavens opened and the rain poured as we convened at Old Ralia to form our marching positions. Fortunately several well-prepared clansmen brought extra rain ponchos, so I gratefully accepted one. As we started to follow the three pipe bands down the hill, the rain subsided. Miraculously, as we approached the field, the rain stopped - proving the long held motto that the rain never falls on the Macpherson march into the Newtonmore Highland Games! The photograph shows me proudly leading the clan. Cluny's standard, the Association Flag and the Green Banner were all ahead of me. Your chairman, Bill, was the sword bearer for Canada.

After Cluny accepted the welcome of Angus Macpherson the new chieftain of the games, we all gathered for a welcome dram in the clan tent.

Later in the afternoon, those who had joined the Friends of the Museum arrived ahead of the rest for a special welcome into the Museum. During the At Home that followed, Lady Jean Macpherson presented the museum with many medals and artifacts from her late husband Sir Tommy Macpherson's long and illustrious military career. Another highlight of the At Home was the unveiling of a gorgeous carving of the Association Wildcat by R.T. Macpherson of the US branch. The colors are dramatic and the cat now resides on a wall of the "theatre" area of the Museum so that visitors entering are visually pulled towards our cat! Jamie Macpherson of Cluny conducted this unveiling to the applause of all in attendance.

Saturday evening saw my vice chairman, Bill Macpherson, Glenfarg, as the Fear an tigh of a most successful ceilidh which was preceded by the usual haggis or venison supper. With everyone in a super mood and many with energy to spare, the after-ceilidh-ceilidh commenced. Rumor has it that the last of the

party broke up about 4:30AM.

But as I was reading a lesson in the church service next morning, I was early to bed. The church service was held at the Kingussie Parish church where we all received a warm welcome. Cluny and I both recited our Bible readings without any problems.



Our new CMA Chairman on parade in the Clan March into the Elia

Tea and coffee was served by the church members at the conclusion of the service that had the message – love one another, serve one another.

Angus and Valerie Macpherson hosted the traditional tea at Creag Dhu house. Was it going to rain or not?? Valerie took a chance with outdoor tea and the rain stayed away. We all enjoyed visiting the beautiful grounds surrounding their home while enjoy-

ing their warm hospitality.

Suddenly it was Monday and although the ground was very wet, about 20 folks arrived at the Duke of Gordon to car pool to Invereshie where John Barton led a most challenging walk. However, yours truly and grandson, said that they would drive separately and meet the group, as we were staying relatively close by to the start of the hike. After arriving shortly after 10AM and waiting for 1 ½ hours, I concluded that I had misunderstood or the hike had been changed. Grandson, Colin and I did our own hike around the Green Lochans. Later in talking with John Barton, I found that I had indeed misunderstood his starting point and furthermore, the group was so on time that they had passed by the road before I arrived!!

That little story illustrates what I hope to convey during my term of office – that is to make certain that we UNDERSTAND one another. We all speak English but we don't all hear the same words with mutual understanding. So clear understanding, respect for one another and inclusiveness for all will be my themes.

I look forward to seeing you at the Joint Gathering in Chicago.

Jean Macpherson Duffy was born and raised in Oakland CA. She received the Bachelor Degree in Nursing from Stanford and a Master of Science from San Jose State. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. Jean has been interested in Clan Macpherson for many years rarely missing a Gathering in Badenoch. She served on the Museum Committee for which she is a great proponent. For the past three years she has been Vice Chairman of CMA and succeeded to Chairman in 2015. She is married to Gordon Duffy and they have 5 children and 12 grandchildren

"ARCHIE'S LAMENT"

By Dee McPherson



Musicians are always sharing music. In May of this year, my friend Joyce Newport, a fellow harpist, and member of the US branch of Clan Macpherson, sent me a piece of piano music.

"Archibald MacDonald of Keppoch" is an old Scottish tune for harp. Archibald was a Scottish warrior who died in 1682.

The Melody:

I sat down at the piano and learned it, took it the next week to

Archibald MacDonald of Keppoch

Arrangement © Taigh na Teud.
This tune and others like it can be found in "Taigh na Teud - Traditional tunes arranged for the Clarsach" from www.scotlandsmusic.com

the studio and recorded it. The following week, we added the orchestration to it, and recorded that version!

Listening to the beautiful recording over and over as I drove in my car, ideas for the story formed in my head. Less than a week later, the words to the lyrics just came to me and I had to pull into a parking space, stop my car, and write them down. Fully formed, the words were ready to sing to the tune.

The story and lyrics below are my own. I named it "Archie's Lament".

The Story:

She'd betrayed him.

She gives him a second chance.

He doesn't take it.

The Lyrics:

Archie's Lament

© 2015 Dee McPherson

did you know of my love
when I met you that day?
did you know that my love
would be yours for always?

when you came to my door
and then into my heart
you became one with me
and we never will part

did I know that a love
like yours never could stay?
did I know that the Angels
would lead you away?

if the future was ours
you'd see what I see
if the future was ours,
what a love this would be

just one kiss, then I'll go
just one kiss, then I'll stay
say one word, close the door
and I'll send them away

just one kiss, then I'll go
just one kiss, then I'll stay
for I know that the Angels
will lead you away

to the tune of
Archibald MacDonald of Keppoch for harp



BRANCH WEBPAGE

By Mark Macpherson

In the July issue I reported that we were implementing changes to the Canadian Branch page on the Clan website. Those who threaded their way to the Canadian page by clicking on the image of our map image, found most of the changes on view, with the exception of the new Heraldry tab. This took more work than first anticipated and I must apologize for reporting too early.

I credit Dr Ewan Macpherson, our talented Branch Webmaster, for his hard work and patience getting out the final product now on the website. In addition, I had expert help and advice from

Gordon Macpherson, our Honorary Chairman and Niagara Herald Extraordinary. Gordon had designed most of the arms of our clansmen over the years and was able to provide much original artwork for the Heraldry tab. Without these two gentlemen, it would not have been possible to have this interesting heraldry display available for us.

If anyone has any comments on the current version of the Canadian webpage or suggestions for improvement, please direct them to me at Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org.

CANADIAN BRANCH REPORT TO CMA AGM

Presented on August 1 by Bill Macpherson, Canadian Branch Chairman



Mr Chairman, Cluny and family, and cousins all, I am very pleased to be attending this year's Gathering and to be presenting this annual report. I have been asked to convey greetings from so many of our members (too numerous to individually name) suffice it to say I bring warm wishes to our Chief and Association members from all in Canada.

Our numbers here this weekend are down from last year but what we have lost in quantity we have made up for in quality. I am pleased to be accompanied by Bob & Sylvia MacPherson from Cochrane, Alberta who joined CMA through our Branch last year, Ed Smith our Ontario Provincial Councillor, plus dual Branch member Donna Dee McPherson Rucks and of course the woman that keeps me right at all times Irene.

This weekend in Saskatchewan another Gathering is taking place called 'Scotland on the Prairies' (a website is set up with that name if you would like more information). This event was brought to our attention by Elaine McPherson one of the organizers and is for the descendents and families of Angus McPherson and Flora McCormick who settled in Wapella, Saskatchewan in the early 1900s. Elaine was anticipating about 100 attendees. Unfortunately we had no one available to go along but we did send some back copies of Creag Dhubh, our Green Banner Newsletter and some membership application forms. Elaine has promised to write an article and send some photographs which we will include in our September Newsletter, which is accessible to all electronically on CMA website Canadian Branch pages. Our Editor Mark and webmaster Ewan are currently working on updating and improving the content of our pages on the website. Current updates include a welcome from yours truly, some historical notes on the branch and past gatherings.

Immediately after last year's AGM you may recall 'Jac and Bill ran up the hill' as a fund raising effort for the museum. Thanks to the wonderful support the museum received cheques of 505 pounds from Canada and 315 pounds from members at last year's Gathering.

The week after returning from last year's Badenoch Gathering our Highland Games stalwarts Bob and Marlene Archibald set up a tent at North Americas largest Scottish Festival in Fergus Ontario. They continue to represent the Association and Branch

at various games and just last month I had the pleasure, along with Ed Smith, our registrar Chantal, Secretary Bob Archibald and wife Sondra, of joining them at the Georgetown Games. A surprise visitor to the tent was a Stewart Macpherson who informed Bob that his Grandfather had sold his home in Newtonmore in 1951 to the CMA and that it is now the clan museum. It is indeed a small world we live in.

I mentioned our Green Banner Branch Newsletter which is an excellent publication and we are indeed indebted to our editor Mark for all of his work in collecting and organizing the articles. Several years ago we set up infrastructure across the country with the introduction of Provincial Councillors in each Province. We are starting to see articles from each of the Provinces in our Newsletter. Our Association is fortunate indeed with the work done by Jan & team for Creag Dhubh and all of the other Branch editors and officers that are recording the present for future generations.

I am sure many of our members are planning to attend the Platinum Dhubh/70th Anniversary Gathering next year and am pleased that with some help from the Scottish Branch (Norman in particular) and the guidance of our heraldic artist Gordon the Branch has prepared a design to be used to commemorate this important milestone.



Canadian Chairman Bill Macpherson proudly showing off our Green Banner Newsletter during the Branch Report at the AGM

As Branch Chairman I am very appreciative of the support of our Past Chairmen, Office-bearers and members in keeping the Branch active and committed. Our membership numbers and finances remain steady and our members continue to enjoy participating in Branch functions. We had representation at the tartan day parade in Port Hope (Bob Archibald and Ed Smith) and at the St. Andrews Day Ball in Toronto (Bob & Ed plus Chantal & Vice Chair Jacqueline) and we are looking forward to the highlight of our Branch year, the Annual Gathering. Every 5 years we join forces with our US cousins and this year an excellent program

awaits us in Chicago during the first weekend in October. About 100 have signed up coming from all over North America plus Australia and Scotland.

In conclusion I would like to thank outgoing Chairman John for his guidance and support and to congratulate both him and retiring Secretary Iris for their excellent service to the Association. My sincere thanks also go to Cluny for his wise council and encouragement and reaffirm the affection and allegiance for our Chief from all in Canada.

Mr. Chairman that concludes the Canadian Branch report!

ONTARIO HIGHLAND GAMES

By Robert J Archibald



Here is my report on highland games at which I represented CMA this summer since the July issue, with the exception of the Glengarry games, which is reported elsewhere in this edition.

Highlands of Durham Games

On July 25th Marlene and I attended the Highlands of Durham Games which have been held for the last 20 years in Elgin Park in Uxbridge Ontario. The weather was a bright sunny day with slightly below seasonal temperatures, just a perfect day for games anywhere.

Numbers were down slightly from other years and construction on one of the main roads outside the park didn't help the situation. Traffic at the tent was steady and picked up slightly after the opening ceremonies, but sales were slow and new memberships even slower.

Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games

Our annual trip to Fergus started on August 5th with a stop at the home of Nancy and Gordon Macpherson in Burlington. Gordon had informed me previously he had some material for us, so we had an enjoyable visit with them on our way to Fergus.

On Friday evening Fergus puts on a torch light ceremony just after dark. Ed Smith and I along with a chap named Gavin Gow, who we met in the lineup, participated in that ceremony on the main field.



Clan tent at Fergus with Marlene, me, and Gavin Gow

Saturday morning we set up the tent and prepared for the rest of the day, which was busy. We all had a chuckle when the chap in the next tent showed up and prepared to set up his own tent. I asked if he needed a hand, which he declined and a few minutes later while stretching upwards in the centre of his tent his kilt slipped off his very round figure and fell to the ground.

Sales were brisk at the tent and we soon had enough to cover the fees Fergus charges for our space.

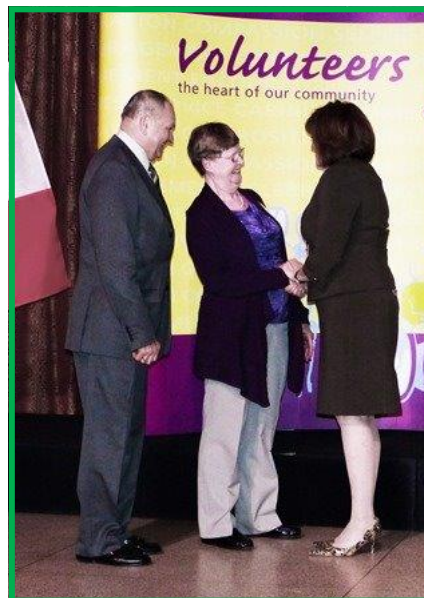
During the opening ceremonies Gavin Gow showed up again and he along with Ed and I carried our banners onto the field.

Later in the day Stewart Macpherson and his son visited the tent. He informed us he had taken out his membership that we had discussed with him at Georgetown and Cobourg. I had asked Chantal to send him a welcome letter, so we are pleased that Stewart joined us as a result of our games activity.

VOLUNTEER AWARD

Ella and Ken Gillis received a Citizenship Award from the province of Ontario for 30 years of volunteer service at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Burlington, Ontario.

Ken became a member of the property committee almost immediately after joining the congregation in 1984 and is still a member of that committee. Ken has served as treasurer twice for 6 years each time. He has been council chairman and vice chairman twice which translates to a further 12 years of service.



Ken and Ella with Eleanor McMahon MPP

Ella became a member of the Altar Guild upon joining the church and has served as scheduling coordinator for service volunteers. She has been part of the "In Mission for Others" committee for the past 10 years. Most recently she has been part of the team which plans and executes vacation bible school yearly in early July.

The awards were presented in Hamilton, Ontario on April 30, 2015 by Eleanor McMahon, Burlington MPP, representing the Government of Ontario.

DEADLINE

We are always looking for interesting material from new contributors. If you are contemplating a contribution to the Green Banner keep in mind the deadline for the November issue is **October 20**.

GLENGARRY GAMES

By Mark F Macpherson



In the weekend of August 1, Bob and Marlene Archibald traveled to Maxville ON in their RV called “the coach” to represent Clan Macpherson at the Glengarry Games, which are reputedly the largest in Canada. They were accompanied by four of their grandchildren who have been at highland games before, including past editions at Maxville. Another granddaughter, Hillary Eves, was with her parents and was competing in the Highland Dancing.



Mark, Myles, Bob, and Peter Fish, the Colour Party for the Clan March

After setting up the Macpherson stand in the Clan Building on Friday, all was ready for visitors who came thick and fast during the two days of the games, some of whom expressed an interest in the CMA and took away application forms to consider becoming members..

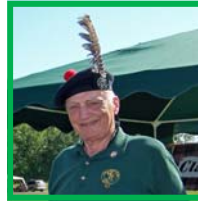
On Saturday Bob, Marlene, and company were joined by Mark, June, and Myles from Montreal for the March of the Clans, along with Peter Fish a clansman from the US Branch who is a frequent participant at Maxville. Last year when Bob and Marlene couldn't make it Peter reported on the Macpherson participation in the March, which he organized on our behalf.

The Macpherson participation in the March of the Clans was not too big and not too small, with five of us stepping off proudly and giving loud “Creag Dhubhs” when Clan Macpherson was announced. The ladies remained in the Clan Building to staff our stand, although June came out to take some photos for the Green Banner. During the afternoon, the Montreal contingent alternated with the Archibalds staffing the stand. We had much interest from visitors with a Macpherson background, some of whom had come over for the day from the US. These were directed to check out the US Branch. We handed out several applications but were not able to close the deal then and there. We found out later that a Clan situated near our stand had signed up 17 clansmen and had even collected the money. We will have to find out their secret!

As is usual for these games, interest in the Clan exhibits winds down by 1600 h as people get ready for the main events such as the massed pipers. For us it was a great day with great weather for the games.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

By Mark F Macpherson



I am pleased to announce that John C House, our Provincial Councillor for Newfoundland and Labrador, has also accepted the position of Associate Editor. John holds Master's Degrees in Investigative Psychology and Viking Studies and is familiar with the software we have been using to publish the Green Banner. John and I will collaborate on developing the Green Banner and getting out each issue. I hope we will see other Associate Editors step up in the future.

The September issue of the Green Banner is a warm-up to our Gathering in October. We normally report in detail on the Gathering each year in November but there are news from the summer which is appropriate for a September issue and shouldn't wait.

In the July issue we had an article by Audrey Collins on our fifth Branch Chairman Major Hume Macpherson. The timing of this article was very convenient as we had been considering a series on our former Chairmen, particularly the early ones and those who had deceased. Also because Hume was Audrey's father, she had family archival data to draw on. Since the publication of the July issue, John House and I, with excellent help from Gordon our Honorary Chairman, who knew the early Chairmen personally, have been researching our other Chairmen with the view of presenting each in turn. An article on our first Chairman, appears in this issue and John has one on Dr Cluny, our second Chairman, ready for the November issue. Research is nearly complete for Col E R Rivers Macpherson the Founder of the Canadian Branch and third Chairman and also for the fourth Chairman, Lloyd C MacPherson. We are making good progress on gathering relevant information on the others. I can say that we have had some very interesting people who led the Branch in the early days.

Following up on our Branch history, insofar as our early Chairmen are concerned, turned out to be challenging as biographical data is hard to come by for those for whom family archives do not exist, or are not mentioned on the internet. This points out, if we are to have a Branch History we must keep good archives. We do have Branch minutes and reports in the Creag Dhubh but biographical information is often lacking or sparse. We trust you will enjoy the articles on former Chairmen as they are published in future issues.

For this issue we received many fine contributions from our members. For example, Donna (Dee) McPherson-Rucks our talented musician, has prepared an article on adding her lyrics to an old Scottish tune for the harp. I expect we will hear this song on an upcoming CD release by Donna. In the meantime those who are musically inclined have the melody and lyrics to work with.

MY FIRST CLAN GATHERING

By Robert Macpherson

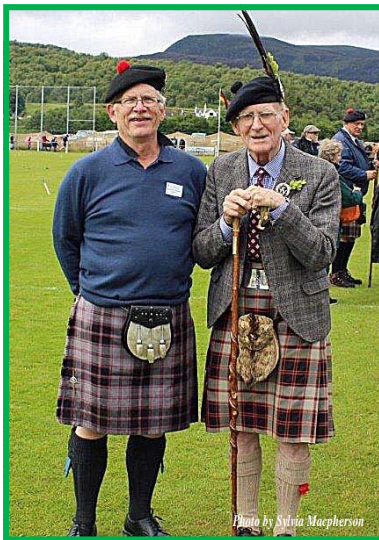


We are just barely home from our month-long holiday in Scotland where the highlight had to be my first Clan Gathering in Newtonmore. We were met here in Alberta by temperatures in the low 30'sC which was a bit of a jolt after our month of slightly less

than 20. Despite the Scottish rain, I think I might prefer a cooler climate! Although my wife, Sylvia, and I had been to Scotland three previous times, the timing was never such that we could attend the Gathering. However, we always made a point of stopping in Newtonmore. This time, I made sure that we would be there at the right time.

Our other goal this trip was to visit the Orkney's which we did and were delighted with the landscapes and, believe it or not, the weather, which was warm and sunny the three days we were there.

Then it was down to Newtonmore and Kingussie to meet the "cousins" and to participate in the Gathering. We were warmly welcomed at the Duke of Gordon and made to feel special as the new members from Canada. We attended the AGM Saturday morning and I found it very interesting to hear about Clan Association business from the various countries as well as Scotland. It was also memorable to be in attendance when Cluny declared that from this day forward, females would be allowed to participate in



Bob with Cluny at the Newtonmore Games

the Clan March as well as long as they were suitably attired.

As the day progressed and the rain began, I started to wonder what I was getting myself into with the Clan March. Would I drown before making it to the muster point beyond the bridge? I was assured that "it never rains on the march"- and it was true!

No sooner were we lined up than the sun came out and marchers started shedding their rain gear. I must say that I was thrilled to be marching with my fellow Macphersons on that day. It was a very special feeling that I know I share with the other marchers.

I was very pleased to be able to meet Cluny whom I found to be a very warm and friendly gentleman. We were also able to attend the luncheon at Newton Castle in Blairgowrie on the following Wednesday where both Sylvia and I continued visiting with our new friends and meeting other members of Cluny's family.

In particular, I would like to thank Bill Macpherson (Chair of Canadian branch), John (past CMA Chairman) and Iris (past CMA Secretary) and Christine and Jim Love for making us feel very much at home and welcome among

fellow clan members and former strangers. Although this was our first gathering, hopefully it will not be the only one!

Robert Thomas (Bob) Macpherson was born in Drumheller and raised in Hanna Alberta. He is a fourth generation Canadian Scot whose great-great-grandfather came to Elgin County Ontario in the mid 1800's from the Tarbert area of Kintyre Scotland. Bob has a keen interest in and a love of his Scottish heritage. He and his wife Sylvia have hosted a Burns night for over thirty years. He spent his career as a teacher in Grande Prairie, before retiring to Cochrane, Alberta, to be close to their three children and two grandchildren living in Calgary.

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

By Ewen S L MacPherson



Gordon Macpherson to be Honoured in the Clan Museum

The trustees of the Clan Macpherson Museum are delighted to announce that the heraldry section in the Clan Museum is to be named the

GORDON MACPHERSON NIAGARA HERALD EXTRAORDINARY ROOM

A sign is currently being prepared and will be mounted in the near future. Gordon has been largely responsible for the items on display in the room including the production of the 76 beautifully hand-painted Armorial Shields. These may be viewed at <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/scripts/viewmemdata.pl?record=panelh03>.



Bill Macpherson, Mississauga Elected Clan Museum Trustee

Congratulations to Bill Macpherson, Canadian Branch Chairman on his election as a trustee of the Clan museum.

Sir Tommy Macpherson's Military Equipment to go on Display

The decorations, medals and uniform of Sir Tommy Macpherson have been given on long-term loan to the Clan Museum by his widow Lady Macpherson. During the 'At Home' on the Saturday afternoon of the Clan Gathering a 'symbolic handing over' ceremony took place when the museum was presented with his full-size medals and Glengarry bonnet mounted with the Cameron Highlanders cap badge. Also included are items that he used behind enemy lines such as silk escape maps and a tin of Capstan cigarettes for bribery purposes. This exhibition will be officially opened at Platinum Dhubh next year in August.

Continued on page 11

SCOTLAND ON THE PRAIRIES

By Elaine McPherson



Over the years, different members of our family have always talked about a family reunion – as most families do. About a year ago, my cousin, Murray broached the subject again and this time the discussion gathered momentum. Fast forward a few days and I was sitting at home on a Sunday afternoon creating a website for the reunion. We had decided on Wapella, SK where our grandparents, Angus & Flora McPherson first met, married and raised their 10 children.

Next came the planning, budgeting, costing and communicating with the rest of the family. By November 2014, using everyone's feedback, we knew it would be worthwhile to host the Reunion.

Day 1 of the 2015 reunion included the mandatory meet & greet, which was fabulous and included a welcome performance by local piper, Regan Miller. There were



Our haggis presentation

afternoon games, affectionately called "Warriors vs Wenches" followed by a Ceilidh that included a whole pig roast, haggis in a shot glass, and great entertainment provided by the Back of the Bus Band. Toasts were made to the Lassies and the Laddies. Mostly, it was heartwarming to see everyone chatting, catching up and more importantly, reminiscing.

Day 2 was held at St. Andrews Catholic Church, Cemetery and Hall where Angus and Flora were married and finally laid to rest. It started with a delicious pancake breakfast followed by Mass, and then an outdoor Memorial service. Our piper, Regan played a wonderful rendition of Amaz-

ing Grace while we laid flowers at the different grave sites. To conclude the weekend events we enjoyed a box lunch of steak & bacon and apple pies. Then, there were Wagon Rides for one and all.

New introductions were made, lost relationships forged anew, connections reacquired and with modern technology, instant updates of newsworthy items that matter only to a family.



Some of the McPhersons off on a Sunday hay ride. St. Andrews Church in the background

Each person attending received some extra-special keepsakes:

Benbecula – McPherson Family History 1781 – 2015, written by Fran Gomersall.

Darlene Vincent created the **McPherson Reunion Book**, which summarized our lineage.

A Family Recipe Book.

A 2015 Commemorative Pin.

Official Clan Macpherson Association information was also provided. Many thanks to Mark Macpherson and Chantal McPherson for their support dur-

ing our planning stages!

And so our inaugural Wapella McPherson Family Reunion is over, but not forgotten. New memories have been created, and it is our hope to hand the reunion torch to the next McPherson generation so that we may continue a great tradition. As with all events, it takes a lot of commitment and participation, and we must extend our thanks to each person in our family who contributed to making it a huge success and also to those who attended the reunion.

Until the next reunion...

Elaine McPherson was born & raised in Winnipeg MB. She lives in Canmore AB with her husband and they have 4 sons. She was instrumental in organizing and executing the McPherson reunion in Saskatchewan this summer. Elaine is the Proprietor of e=mc² The Centre for Business Excellence - a place where entrepreneurs & business leaders are supported with CoWork & Meeting Room space and Accounting services.

Elaine recently joined CMA and is encouraging others in her extended family to do so .

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

Continued from page 10

Donations to the Clan Museum

An Armorial Shield for Norman George McPherson of Aberdeen has been received from Gordon Macpherson of Burlington, Ontario. This brings Gordon's total number of museum donations to 106 – by far the record number of items donated by any clan member.

John House, Provincial Councillor for Newfoundland and Labrador, has donated a small glass bottle inscribed 'RG Macpherson

Chemist New Westminster BC'. The owner of the bottle was Robert George Macpherson, a Canadian pharmacist and politician. He was born in Erin, Wellington County, Ontario on 28 January 1866. His grandfather, Hugh Macpherson, was a native of Islay an island off the west coast of Scotland, who immigrated to Canada in 1858 with Robert's father, Archibald.



REFLECTIONS ON OUR TRIP TO THE BADENOCH GATHERING

by Bill Macpherson



Irene and I were pleased to attend the Association Gathering in Badenoch in August, creating many fond memories, renewing old acquaintances and meeting new cousins from all over the world. We arrived in Edinburgh on Thursday morning, picked up our rental car and drove to our favourite stopping point in Perth (Marks & Spencer's cafe) where we joined my sister and brother for lunch. My sister Marilyn and husband Ken drove north on Friday for the Gathering activities whilst my brother Stephen was heading south to England the next day to attend a work related course. It was great to meet with immediate family so soon after landing from our tiring journey. We ventured on to Kingussie after lunch and as the Duke of Gordon Hotel was fully booked that night, we much enjoyed the hospitality afforded by patron Sylvia at the close by Avondale B & B. We dined at the Scott House Hotel directly across the road followed by an early night in preparation for our marathon weekend of activities. On Friday morning we moved into the Duke of Gordon, setting up camp there until Monday morning.

Along with Ed Smith (standing in for Vice Chair Jacqueline) we represented the Branch at the Association Council meeting and it was pleasing to see the Association affairs are in good order and to hear that the museum financial situation has improved from last year. The vacant museum online shop coordinator position has now been filled and I would encourage you to consider using this service for gifts as the proceeds help with the upkeep of our wonderful museum. One sad item to report is that the oldest overseas Branch, New Zealand, has been put into recess due to financial difficulties. On a positive note Cluny McPherson, representative from New Zealand, reported that a small team of enthusiastic clan members were looking at ways to re-establish and re-format the Branch hopefully returning stronger than before. Our good wishes for success are passed on to Cluny and the other members in New Zealand.

As a visiting overseas chairman it was a pleasure to be invited to join Cluny and family for dinner at the ball and as usual Irene and I were entertained in a most delightful manner. Cluny was telling us that he has had to slow things down a bit. There was no evidence of that when he joined the rest of his family on the floor for an Eightsome Reel during the Ball.

The AGM on Saturday morning heralded the election of the following new officers: Jean Macpherson Duffy, Association Chairman, Bill Glenfarg, Vice Chairman, Donna McPherson Rucks CMA Secretary and Neil Macpherson as Treasurer. Cluny took the opportunity to inform all in attendance that he had decided that in future women would be welcome to take part in the kilted march from Old Ralia to the Newtonmore Games, providing they were suitably dressed with kilts or tartan skirts. He also reminded us all that the Clan Macpherson March was a popular annual spectacle enjoyed each year by visitors to the games and he was sure it would continue to live up to the expectation of a military rather than carnival parade. I took the opportunity on behalf of the Branch to offer our unanimous support and agreement for this change and to thank Cluny for his leadership on the matter. Later that afternoon, I was honoured to be carrying a sword as part of the colour party for Cluny's Banner. During the March eight ladies participated and the March Marshall, RSM Frank McGuire, noted that the decorum was one of the best in recent years. Let us all commit to maintaining the same high standard for marches to come.



Cluny and family get together for an Eightsome Reel at the ball.

At the AGM I got the opportunity to meet two of our Branch members Bob & Sylvia Macpherson from Cochrane, Alberta, who were having a great vacation in Scotland.

We all enjoyed the entertainment provided at the Saturday night Ceilidh including a fine rendition of the Northern Lights of Old Aberdeen by Ed Smith.

On Sunday morning we joined with many cousins for the worship service at St Columba's Kirk in Kingussie where Cluny and Jean Macpherson Duffy recited the scripture lessons and we gave thanks for another marvellous Gathering. The hectic pace was starting to slow down by Sunday evening when we enjoyed an excellent meal in the company of outgoing Chairman John and Secretary Iris for an ideal ending to our weekend.



Ed Smith performing at the Ceilidh

JOINT CANADIAN - US GATHERING 2015

By Jacqueline Murdoch



The 2015 Clan Macpherson Association Joint Canadian - US Gathering will be held in Itasca, Illinois in just a few weeks, on October 2nd to 4th. It promises to be a spectacular event, but we want to remind you to get your registration forms sent in as soon as possible if you have not already done so. So far we have 9 more hotel rooms reserved than registration forms received!

Currently, 40 US members are coming including Jean Duffy, our newly elected CMA Chair, and her husband Gordon. Twenty-two Canadian Branch members and 8 guests have registered so far, consisting of our Chairman Bill and Irene Macpherson, Vice Chair Jacqueline Murdoch and her daughters Rebekkah and Jamie, Don and Linda Pearson (Calgary), Ed Smith, Robert and Sondra Archibald, (Brantford), Ken & Ella Gillis (Burlington), Myles, Linda and Arielle Macpherson (Kirkland), Mark and June Macpherson (Hemmingford), John and Wendy Gillies (Collingwood) Mary Margaret Gillies, and Ron and Dana Fitton (Toronto). If you have paid your registration and don't see your name on this list, I recommend you send an email to Bruce Sterba in the US at kgsterba@yahoo.com to get confirmation. If you haven't already paid for your registration, we urge you to do so as soon as possible, so that plans can be finalized.

We are fortunate to have David & Sally McPherson joining us from Australia again this year. From Scotland we are thrilled to be welcoming Shelagh Macpherson-Noble, Hon Vice President CMA, and Alastair Noble, Ruis Alcorn, Curator of the Clan Museum, and Ceit Alcorn, his wife, as well as Bill Macpherson (Glenfarg), CMA Vice Chairman

The Eaglewood Resort and Spa in Itasca Illinois, is on the outskirts of Chicago, and there are some fantastic events that are covered by your registration fee, and some terrific tours and activities incremental to the Branch events including whisky tasting, wine tours, and day trips to Chicago.

If you plan to come and haven't booked your room, reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 1-877-285-6150. 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 this rate was August 15th, but has been extended to **September 5** subject to availability, so if you haven't reserved a room yet we encourage you call as soon as possible.

If you need the agenda or other information for the weekend, please go to the website at <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/rally.html>.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

PHOTO ALBUM



*Scotland on the Prairies. 2015
A fun photo of Trevor McPherson, Elaine's cousin, and Bonnie Capeling
Don't worry, they are wearing photo props!*



*Clan Museum 2015
Ewen S L MacPherson accepting loan of Sir Tommy's medals and Glengarry from Lady Jean and Duncan Macpherson*



*Montreal Games.2015
Highland dancers competing*



*Badenoch Gathering 2015.
Pipes and Drums leading the Clan March on to the Elia*

A new lodger in a B&B in Kingussie was on his way to the bathroom carrying his shaving gear, when the landlady stopped him and said, 'Have you got a good memory for faces, Mr Macpherson?' 'Aye,' Mac replied. 'That's just as well,' she said, 'because there's no mirror in the bathroom.'

THE 2016 PLATINUM DHUBH

“Tired of Wandering”

Aren't you ready to come home, home to Scotland?

Aren't you tired of wandering?

The official theme song for the 2016 **Platinum Dhubh** is “**Tired of Wandering.**”
Written and recorded by Ruis Alcorn, Curator at Newtonmore, in 1994.

Ruis and Dee McPherson will perform this song together,
first at the 2015 joint US/Canadian Gathering,
then, again at the **Platinum Dhubh** in 2016.

The piano, guitar, flute, and vocal harmonies will draw you in.

The story of how these two musicians came together over this song starts in the summer of 2014, when Dee spent a month volunteering at the Museum. She took a harp lesson from Morag, and sat down at the clarsach to get the feel of it. After a few days of practice, she was picking out a few tunes, one of them being Ruis' song, “Tired of Wandering.”

Ruis walked into the Drumochter Room, heard her playing it, and just stood in amazement. He hadn't played or thought about that song in ages. What were the chances of her picking it out, playing it on the harp, in Scotland?

Dee took the song home to the US, wrote the piano version, recorded it, and sent it to Jean Duffy the new Chairman of CMA, who then requested the two of them to sing it together as the theme song for the **Platinum Dhubh**.

Platinum Dhubh info at <http://ptdhubh.clan-macpherson.org>

*Photo ; “Cluny's Gate”
Newton Castle, Blairgowrie
©2014 Dee McPherson*