



# THE GREEN BANNER

## NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 11 Number 2

SUMMER ISSUE

July 2017

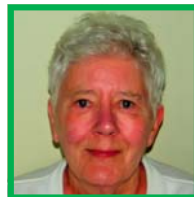
### NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Mark Macpherson, Acting Registrar

We wish to welcome four new members who joined CMA since the March issue. We also have a new potential member born in February.



**Denise Lagundzin**, of Whitby Ontario worked at the local Autotrader® for 17 years and is now pursuing her hobbies of trying at least one new recipe a week, and photography. She volunteers at The Lynde House Museum & Visitor Centre operated by the Whitby Historical Society. Her connection to Clan Macpherson is through her maternal great-great-grandmother Margaret Macpherson, born in Inverness. Denise is looking forward to her first trip to Scotland in the fall.



**Lynn Mason** (née Macpherson) of Chilliwack BC, a maternity nurse for 20 years before retiring, joined CMA because of her interest in her Macpherson roots. Lynn enjoys gardening, the occasional round of golf, and getting outdoors for a good walk.



**Hugh McPherson** of Red Deer Alberta joined the CMA this year at the suggestion of his brother Jim, a long-time life member. Hugh graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in education and moved with his wife Lois to Australia. After 18 months they returned to Alberta where Hugh began a thirty-seven year teaching career finishing as the Principal of a middle school. Hugh and Lois have a daughter and son, plus two beautiful granddaughters. Hugh eased into retirement by

serving as the Program Manager of the International Program with his school division.

Hugh is a long-time volunteer serving on organizing committees for numerous Alberta Games, Special Olympic Games, the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay and many municipal and provincial committees. He is currently Vice Chair of the Canada Winter Games Host Society for the 2019 Canada Winter Games being held in Red Deer.



**Frank McPherson** of Brantford Ontario joined CMA at the suggestion of Ed Smith. He is a retired outside plant manager from Bell Canada. He worked in all departments during his thirty-eight year career with the last ten years spent as a facilities Manager in the Engineering Department. Frank has

been in retirement now for 24 years. He and his wife, June, who love to travel but had to curtail this due to health issues. Fond memories of their many trips include Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, and most of Europe. Once an avid tennis player, golfer and swimmer, his interests now revolve around his family and seven grandchildren. Frank is planning to attend the Branch Gathering this fall along with some members of his family that he hopes will also join CMA.



Gwen Hazel, newborn  
February 20, 2017

Jim McPherson of Creemore Ontario, our advanced ultralite aviator, reports a new granddaughter. **Gwen Hazel McPherson** was born in February in Calgary. Gwen, now 4 months old, is doing well at home in Olds Alberta. Another welcome grandchild to the Creemore McPhersons.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Sesquicentennial! That's a pretty big word for a country that was formed peacefully from a British colony One hundred and fifty years ago.

Before that it was the squabbling ground among five giant fur trading companies, Struggling colonists, and the indigenous peoples of the northern half of North America.

### Happy Birthday Canada!!

The year 2017 started off with three major projects in the Canadian Branch:

The first was the task of updating or if you prefer upgrading the CMA Canadian Branch Constitution. Thanks to Mark Macpherson's skills and the acceptance of Council, some of the wording has been clarified to be better understood. There was an amendment that will affect the quorum requirements.

*Continued on Page 2*

## TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The Canadian Branch is in good shape financially as at the end of May. We have just over \$7,212 in our current account and a little over \$11,130 in our Life Membership Fund.

I remitted to Clan Macpherson Association all of the membership fees, both life and annual, which have been collected to date. As part of that remittance, I sent the balance owing from last year. The membership fees could not be cleared in 2016 as mailing expenses for the Creag Dhubh were greater than the amount owed to CMA for memberships

This year a new procedure was established in which the Clan Association in Scotland prints and directly mails Creag Dhubh to the members, thus removing accounting for that expense from the Branches for 2017.

The deposit for our gathering in Brantford, Ontario has been paid and the event is typically self supporting. So once again I am not expecting any financial problems.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you in Brantford this September.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank to following for their excellent contributions and support to the July issue: Bruce Gillis, Ken Gillis, John House, Jean Macpherson-Duffy (USA), Helen Macpherson-Potts, Myles G Macpherson, Donna McPherson-Rucks (USA), Christy McCreary (USA), Karen Mitchell (USA), and Ed Smith.

## 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.

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

**Officers:**

Ed Smith CD, Chairman  
Ken Gillis, Honorary Treasurer  
Chantal McPherson, Honorary Secretary  
Mark F Macpherson CD, Acting Registrar

**Immediate Past Chairman:**

William Macpherson PEng

**Provincial Councillors:**

Bruce Gillis QC, Nova Scotia  
Major Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec and Eastern ON  
Donald Pearson, Alberta  
Helen Macpherson-Potts British Columbia

**Webmaster:** Ewan Macpherson PhD

**Editor:** Mark F Macpherson CD

**Associate Editor:** John C House MOM, FSA (Scot).

Inquiries and articles may be sent by email to [Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org) or by post to PO Box 1005, Hemmingford QC, J0L 1H0

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Continued from Page 1

This will be on the agenda at the Annual General Meeting held at the Gathering in Brantford Sept 15 thru 17

The second major undertaking was the monumental task of taking a survey of the Branch membership with the objective of finding new members and keeping those we have.

After Mark and the Membership Recruiting and Retention Committee formed at the last AGM, designed the survey questionnaire, a cadre of volunteers including me, took to the telephones to contact the membership. It was at times a bit frustrating to find that it sometimes took several calls to contact some members. I cannot thank enough the volunteers as well as the members who responded to the survey for their contributions of time and diligence to this project.

The third project was the Annual Gathering which I will leave to another article in this issue. As the convener this year, I hope as many members as possible will support and join me on this occasion as we have a great weekend planned.

Yours Aye, Ed Smith CD,

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee is currently searching for members who wish to be involved in the governance of the Association. It is important to have a strong Governing Council to ensure that all members meet their expectations for the Clan Macpherson Association. Each year all positions on the Council are due for election at the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Branch. This year it will be held during the Gathering at Brantford Ontario.

The roles and responsibilities for all elected and appointed positions may be viewed by visiting the website where they are posted at:

<https://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/membersdocs/membersonly2017.html>.

We encourage all members to visit this site and view this document in order that they become familiar with the organization of the Branch and to also determine their interest in serving on Council.

For members willing to serve in a position on Council for the year 2018, please contact the Registrar indicating the position desired at:

[Canada.registrar@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:Canada.registrar@clan-macpherson.org) ,

## DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the September issue are due on the Editors desk on August 15. We look forward to input to the Green Banner from all members. Send your drafts or outlines as soon as possible to

[Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org) .

# NEIL FREEMAN MCPHERSON

By Karen Mitchell

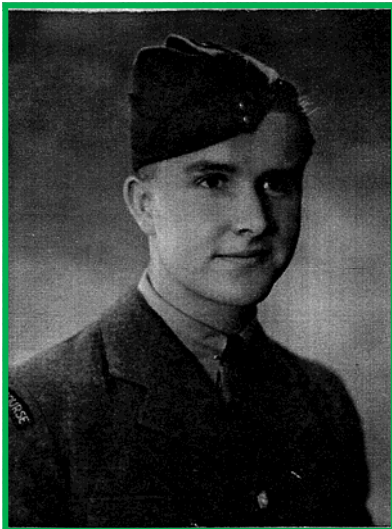


Neil Freeman McPherson, 10th Chairman of the Canadian Branch served from 1987 to 1991. He was born on February 3, 1924, the fourth of six children, in a two-story log house on a farm in Logan Township, Ontario.

Neil loved to tell people that he had been born in a log cabin, and that he had walked to school barefoot, as it made him sound as much a pioneer as his ancestors.

After completing his elementary education in Logan Township, Neil had to travel to Walkerton and board there to continue his education, as there was no high school near his home. He was a good student and a good athlete. He enjoyed all sports, particularly football and softball. He also became an excellent rifle marksman, and won the Dominion Marksmanship Cup while at university.

Neil entered the University of Toronto in 1942. However, his time there was cut short, when he became critically ill with appendicitis, eventually requiring surgery that almost cost him his life.



*As a young recruit in 1943*

Neil surprised everyone in his family and enlisted for World War II at the age of 19, the only one of his brothers to do so. He began basic training in 1943 with the Number 2 Army Course while at university, and went overseas to England in the fall of 1944, where he joined the 2 Canadian Artillery Reinforcement Unit. From there he was sent to The Netherlands with a posting to the 7<sup>th</sup> Medium

Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery in the rank of Bombardier. Neil was involved in the liberation of Holland and in all of the major battles in which The First Canadian Army was engaged, finally crossing the Ems River into northwest Germany and seeing the end of war in May 1945.

However, Neil's time in the army was not yet over. He was assigned to the Peacekeeping Forces after the war ended where he accompanied German police during arrests, as they were not allowed to carry weapons. He was assigned to protect German

citizens from Displaced Persons, who hated the Germans after being forced to work in their factories and labour camps during the war. One time he was required to stay overnight in an isolated farmhouse where two German women were living. During the night, Neil could hear dozens of voices of Displaced Persons who had camped out in the forest behind the house. Luckily, there was no incident, and Neil survived another night as a peacekeeping soldier.

After he returned to Canada in 1946, Neil re-entered the University of Toronto with a \$90 per month stipend from Canadian Veterans Affairs. He received his Bachelor of Electrical Engineering in 1949, and later completed his Masters in Mechanical Engineering in 1973.

Neil met his wife, Myrna Todd, on a blind date and they were married on October 13, 1951 in Innisfil, Ontario. Neil and Myrna had two children, Kirk (who is a life member of CMA) and Karen, plus four grandchildren.



*Neil at AECL in 1985*

Neil spent most of his professional life at Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL), working there from 1956 until 1985. Neil rose to become Manager of Development at AECL Sheridan Park in Oakville, Ontario, a job that he enjoyed immensely. He loved to be involved in R & D, and patented an advancement in welding used in nuclear reactors.

Neil joined the CMA around 1956 and attended several Gatherings in Badenoch. He became Branch Chairman in 1987 and was known for his quiet efficiency.

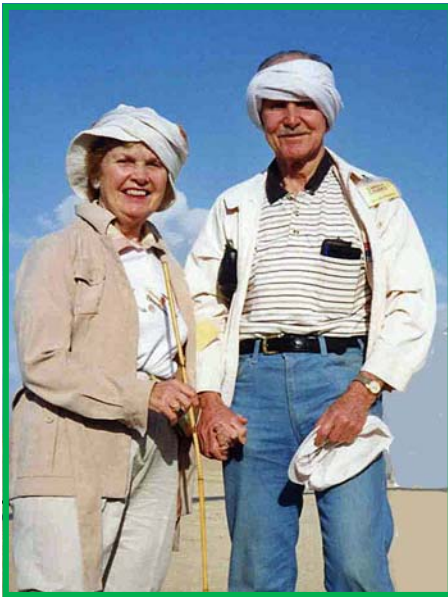
Neil and Myrna were avid travelers. After Neil retired in 1985, they went on at least two major trips each year to destinations all over the world. They also enjoyed renting a cottage in Muskoka every summer, where they spent a lot of outdoor time with their grandchildren.

Neil continued to enjoy sports throughout his life. He was

*Continued on Page 4*

## NEIL FREEMAN MCPHERSON

Continued from page 3



With Myrna in Egypt 1990

very active in the Oakville Curling Club and took up both golf and skiing. He coached boys baseball and girls softball in Oakville. He never lost his love for football. At the age of 79, Neil went to see the doctor and told him that his hip was hurting. The doctor asked Neil if he had done anything in particular to set it off. “Well”, Neil replied, “I was playing football with my grandson”. The doctor replied, “You are 79 years old and still playing football. You are as healthy as they come. Get out of my office!” It was not until 2009, at the age of 85, that Parkinson’s Disease finally began to slow Neil down and he had to move to a residence. He passed away at the age of 91 on January 31, 2016.

*Karen Mitchell, Neil McPherson’s daughter, graduated with a degree in Dental Surgery and became a Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry. After obtaining a M.Sc. degree, she continued in private dental practice. She later obtained an MBA and then worked in the pharmaceutical industry. Karen married Brad Mitchell in 1986 and has two sons. The family presently lives in Atlanta, Georgia. Her brother, Kirk McPherson is a life member of the Canadian Branch.*

## CMA CHAIR REPORT

By Jean Macpherson-Duffy



The time is short until our Gathering in Badenoch. Tickets for the ball are sold out but we still have openings for the rest of the weekend. We have a waiting list for the ball but many times tickets become available closer to the actual date. The Duke of Gordon has rooms available. We

will have a smaller marquee on the grounds of the Duke of Gordon Hotel than we had for the Platinum Dhubh last year. Having said that, we anticipate an enthusiastic group of 150 members and family.

We have added two events this year that will help us connect with the community.

The first is the Sir Tommy Macpherson Cup shinty match on Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in Kingussie. For those that don’t know this quintessentially highland game, you should attend as the location (The Dell) is just up the road from the Duke of Gordon Hotel. The origins of shinty, according to Wikipedia, date back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century when the techniques used for play

(a keen eye and deft throw) were used to train ancient warriors in preparation for battle. Shinty is a fast, physical game where payers have to score using a ball and stick. There are twelve players n each team – including one goalkeeper. A well stuck shinty ball can travel over 100 mph. I’m sure most of you know shinty by another name as it arrived in Nova Scotia and became known as “Ice Hockey.”

The other event for this gathering is the ‘Pipe-Off’ held on Sunday afternoon, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. We have invited pipers from the local area to a friendly competition with our own Macpherson pipers. We will have an introduction to piping by Dee McPherson and prizes for the winners. We expect over 100 attendees eager to watch and clap during this new addition to the gathering weekend. We are working with the Speyside radio station to get the word out. We hope to have both young and older pipers – and of course the bar will be open in the Duke!

As usual, we have both a walk and talk on the Monday the 6<sup>th</sup>. John Barton will lead us up Dun da Lamb, a Pictish hill fort located near Laggan. The name means “fort of the two hands.” The top of the fort allows for beautiful views westwards. I’ve done this hike many times and it never fails to impress.

Our Monday talk by Maureen Hammond will be on Scottish Textiles and Tartans of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The start time is 2 pm in the museum.

The Grand Finale will be our appearance at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo on Tuesday evening the 8<sup>th</sup>. This was described in my last letter.

As we look forward, we need our younger members (those under 70!!) to get more involved in the running of the Clan Association. Most of us in the leadership roles have been doing so for many years and we need new, energetic, enthusiastic folks. It takes many hands – from all our branches, to put on the Gathering each year. Please let me know if you are interested in taking on a greater role in our wonderful family – the Clan Macpherson Association.

## YOUR OPINION COUNTS

The members at the Annual General Meeting last fall adopted a motion to form a committee to study recruiting of members for the Branch and how to retain the members we presently have on our roll. It is difficult to identify people who wish to follow their roots and heritage as Scottish Canadians. Once they do join it is important that they remain part of the Association. A quick review of membership statistics for the past few years revealed that the number of new members coming in almost balances with those leaving for various reasons such as deaths and not remitting annual dues. We would rather our Branch was growing, so the Committee was tasked with coming up with an action plan to do that by the AGM of 2017.

Continued on Page 9

## SCHEMING IN ENGLAND AND WALES

By Bruce J S Macpherson



It started in the India Club Restaurant on London's Strand, a legendary eatery long-favoured by the then England & Wales Committee. Angus, our veteran Chairman, had intimated to me his decision to step down from high office and wanted a chat about "the future". He brought with him its embodiment: his son Wills, who is in his twenties.

Under Angus' leadership the Branch had enjoyed a series of spectacular Branch Gatherings during which the sordid business of 'business' was kept minimal. Society, variety, and matters of Macpherson interest were kept to the fore. In 2008 our Branch staged a Gathering in the great Stuart edifice of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. We visited the Tower one year to inspect a monument to those who had been executed there, amongst them two of our forebears named Macpherson. To Clifton we ventured where we hosted a meeting with the Scottish Branch on the site of the famous Jacobite 'skirmish'. Galleries we took in, crypts, rivers and cathedrals - any place in the capital associated in some way with the illustrious name Macpherson.

What might be left to do in the future, Angus and I pondered over steaming bowls of biryani and dhal. But not for long did we mull when Angus' son Wills volunteered that the 'younger generation' quite fancied reviving the London Ball.

The London Ball had been a veritable institution, a feature on the Macpherson landscape spanning many decades but with rising costs, waning interest from members and a lacklustre enthusiasm of the organising committee, it had been decided to put the beast to sleep. The prospect of resurrecting it looked less appetising than the meal before us, but Wills' enthusiasm proved infectious and he was masterful at planting the seed in my noddle.

We met again and agreed that if he really thought it was a runner, we should test the proposition first and gauge the members' reaction to the notion. A survey was drawn up, distributed to members, their responses collated and - lo and behold - Wills' hunch proved correct. His sense that there was an appetite to assemble, reel and make merry was correct. And a committee was formed.

Committees can be death of many an organisation and the prospect of having to join one can deter many a would-be, fresh-faced member from offering new thinking and vitality to a flagging cart-horse. But this time it was different. Its membership comprised what us oldies would refer to 'the young people', some of whom weren't even members of the elected commit-

tee; their remit was to flesh out a proposition and, once successfully done, roll out a new ball, the Macpherson Spring Ball. Minimal harassment from the oldies and all kept within the parameters of budget, decorum and the name of the Clan.



*The England & Wales Branch Ball underway on March 17 2017*

This they did with aplomb and three years ago Wills, with Hamish Macpherson and Tom Macpherson two other young members, delivered the Macpherson Spring Ball, a spectacular in Belgravia's Caledonian Club at which 120 members and guests made merry one generous Friday evening. That the evening started with a champagne reception and ended, unofficially at least, in the Playboy Club, meant style and frisson rubbed shoulders that evening. No less exciting was the second year's Ball, nor this year's, the third.

And with the passing of the third Macpherson Spring Ball, on St Patrick's Day this year, we see the establishment of a new Macpherson tradition. Built on the foundations of a venerable institution, injected with energy by a vigorous and goal-minded young committee, our Branch calendar is once again replete. Members and friends, wherever they reside, are invited most cordially to join us in 2018, or indeed to attend our next Branch AGM. (In 2016 Chantal McPherson, then Registrar of the Canadian Branch, and her daughter Elle attended and reported they had a wonderful time. ed.)

Last autumn we ventured to the All England Tennis Club at Wimbledon where celebrated Andy Murray's remarkable year but also the memory of the father of Russian tennis, Arthur Davidovich Macpherson, who is commemorated in the Club Museum. Next year we may venture to Twickenham, maintaining a Macpherson sporting theme as we honour the 'Flying Scotsman', the legendary GPS Macpherson at the World Rugby Hall of Fame.

*Bruce J S Macpherson is currently Chairman England & Wales Branch and a former Chairman of the Clan Museum Trustees. He is presently commuting to Africa in his work. This article was dispatched from "steamy" Ghana.*

# AN AMERICAN GIRL SETS OUT TO CONQUER SCOTLAND

By Donna "Dee McPherson" Rucks



Destination, Scotland, and the 2017 Spring Council Meeting! I invited Christy Ogilvie McCreary, a published author and professional singer to join me for a week of touring the countryside. We hired a driver, planned our route, packed our bags, and the adventure began! Our goal was to escape the maelstrom at home and steep ourselves in the strong tea of Scots history and landscape! We covered a lot of ground in just one week, and I wrote this little travelogue to record those memories.



The Witchery dining room as seen by Donna's eye

We deplaned in Edinburgh, and took a taxi straightaway to the Witchery by the Castle hotel for our first two nights. Next day in the pouring rain, we caught a city bus to the intriguing Roslyn Chapel, and returned to shop along the Royal Mile.

Alex, our driver, collected us early Monday morning. Under threatening skies and occasional outbursts of rain, sleet, and snow, we headed off to see the Kelpies and the

Falkirk Wheel, followed by a brisk walk through Stirling Castle.

Then we attacked the Wallace Monument. Braving the blinding sleet which was now blowing sideways through the arrow slits, we trudged up 246 steep spiral stone steps and then DOWN AGAIN. This adversity would cause many to turn back before the 10th step! But not these two American girls. We persisted! We wanted to see the three exhibition Galleries and capture the Crown on top. Success was ours, and we lived to talk about it.

"Oh, look, there's Gleneagles! Let's go there!" "Quick, turn right, there's a Pictish stone!" Now that's the kind of driver I want in Scotland, always ready for the adventure of exploring something not on the list! A



Gleneagles Golf Course gate

hidden-away pleasure, one-more-thing-to-see!

The birthplace of J. M. Barrie, author of Peter Pan, was on our list as our next destination. We spent the night in a city hotel in the small village of Kirriemuir. We were right where we wanted to be, in the middle of Ogilvie country.

For a photo shoot reminiscent of "The French Lieutenant's Woman," Alex drove us to Dunnotar Castle. Dunnotar is a ruined medieval fortress, with the existing building being constructed in the 17th century, although there is mention of a earlier structure at the site being besieged in the 7th century. After Charles II was crowned at Scone in 1651, the "Honours of Scotland" (the crown jewels and other coronation regalia)



Peter Pan statue at Kirriemuir

were hidden from Cromwell's troops at Dunnotar. Sir George Ogilvie of Barra was responsible for the defence of the castle at the time and held off the government forces during an eight-day siege, while the Honours were spirited away.<sup>1</sup>

St. Andrews was our next destination. We dropped our bags into our hotel room, and went straight to the ruins of the Cathedral of St. Andrew. Built in 1158, it was once the largest church in Scotland. The remains of the cathedral and the cemetery around it are only a hint at the grandeur.

Hidden beneath an innocent Scottish farmhouse lies the Scotland Secret Bunker, built to safeguard Scotland during the Cold War.



Ruins at St Andrews

## AN AMERICAN GIRL SETS OUT ...

Continued From page \_\_\_\_\_

We took an eye-opening journey down the 450 feet of tunnels, experienced a chilling movie of “what if” a nuclear event occurred, and saw how Scotland would have been governed from the depths of Fife.

Emerging from the Bunker and needing something beautiful to focus on, Alex drove us straight to Kellie Castle. We calmed



Kellie Castle

down as we strolled through the gardens. The promise of spring was in the air, with beautiful flowers and fragrant fresh air surrounding us.

Our next destination was to Anstruther for the view and for an ice cream. Our final must-see was a stop at St. Monans in the east Neuk of Fife.

US Branch member Patty Tillotson, my friend whom you met in my earlier article, was married 21 years ago at St. Monans Kirk. She suggested we go there. Built in 1362, burned down in 1544, rebuilt, fallen to disrepair, restored in the 1950s, it is now a beautiful parish church and worthy of our attention. In a dramatic setting on a hillside at the edge of the sea, this small Kirk and Cemetery gave us that ageless feeling, those who came before us that might still be here.



St Monans Church yard

We finished our week long adventure with a visit to the local chip shop in Pittenweem for lunch. Alex drove straight to the airport to drop off Christy for her flight home to the States. We said our goodbyes to our faithful new friend, Alex, with a promise to see him again on our next journey.

Reference 1. Wikipedia

## SHE WHISPERED “I AM THE STORM”

By Christy Ogilvie McCreary



Christy at Dunnotar bundled up for the storm

One late afternoon, after Donna Rucks and I had weathered sleet, rain and gusting snow at each destination we had passed in Scotland, we took a long detour to Dunnotar Castle. The ruin is the site of an Ogilvie being “verra

brave” during a long siege. The sky was filled with dramatic clouds alternating with startling blue. The wind whipped us as we approached the craggy ruin on a bluff. The cold bit through our coats and our courage was enough to bring us close to the castle, but not onto the treacherous winding paths. The breathtaking photo above was snapped before we hurried back to the warmth of our chauffeur-driven car! This Ogilvie descendant may not be the bravest of them, but she appreciates her forbears’ grit.

Christy McCreary is a professional entertainer who presently lives in Skokie IL. She performed at the US Branch Gathering in 2016. Her husband Kraig is the Producer for Dona Rucks’ recordings.

## PROJECT CANADA 150

By Ed Smith



We have gathered up as much material as we could from the membership and forwarded it to the museum for the display next year. Initially I had hoped for a grand effort from the members of the Branch but in the end it was slightly less than grand. Our Editor has also offered to provide material previously published in

the Green Banner if this is required by the museum.

I spent several weeks scouring the Internet and came up with five or six dozen articles that were sent to Clan Museum in Newtonmore. This material will be reviewed and added to Canadian items which already exist in the files at the museum and prepared for presentation by Ewen S L MacPherson who is responsible for the project.

The Canada 150 exhibit will be mounted in the Drumochter Room when the present WW1 display comes down at the end of this year.

My thanks to all of the members who contributed to this sesquicentennial project. I hope members who visit the museum in 2018 will enjoy this exhibit

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Helen Macpherson Potts, Provincial Councillor



The last few months were busy as I contacted as many of our BC members as possible regarding the member survey. I had nice chats, whether by phone or by e-mail, with several clan members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those in BC who participated. From the survey response suggestions, I look forward to seeing how we can connect with each other and with those who aren't yet a part of the Association to create a stronger clan Macpherson community in British Columbia

Brian and I recently did a tour of the Okanagan area of British Columbia and extended it into Alberta where our final destination was Nanton and the Canadian Bomber Command Museum. We were there for the "Roar of Four" when the museum pulls out its Lancaster and starts all four engines. The sound is impressive and I always get teary eyed as there is a monument in view of the Lancaster that lists over 10,000 names of Canadians killed - some Macphersons included, while serving in the Canadian contingent of Bomber Command during World War II.



The Memorial Wall including the names of over 10,000 Canadian airmen killed while serving in Bomber Command. Behind the wall is the Canadian-built Avro Lancaster Mark X, service number FM 159. This aircraft never saw a shot fired in anger, but flew postwar in the RCAF before being retired to Nanton.

## NOVA SCOTIA

By Bruce Gillis QC., Provincial Councillor



Since March I have been busy settling in to our new home we call Dunbrae in Paradise NS and my legal practice took up a lot of my time. However I have a short account of one of my activities I will share with you

Each year on the second Sunday in June the Royal Canadian Legion Branch No.1 and members of the RCAF hold a parade and memorial service to honour airmen from WW II who died in training accidents during the British Commonwealth Air Training Program at Green-

wood NS. This program was set up in Canada by the Allies to train airmen at locations across the country distant from the active conflict theatres.

Many of these were sent to Greenwood, where the RAF had constructed the facility which is now Canada's largest RCAF base. Twenty-nine were killed and are buried in a special section of the Holy Trinity Anglican churchyard in Middleton,



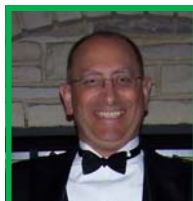
Drum Sergeant Bruce Gillis as Duty Bugler at the Middleton Ceremony

where the ceremony is held, led by the Greenwood Pipes and Drums.

I am the designated duty bugler for this pipe band, and played the Last Post and the Reveille for the ceremony. An honour guard of 29 airmen then placed a rose by each grave. Relatives of the dead airmen have often come from Australia, New Zealand, Britain and the USA and express how touched they were by the ceremony.

## QUEBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO

By Myles G Macpherson CD., Provincial Councillor



Now that the summer is upon us in earnest here in Quebec and Eastern Ontario, there are many ongoing activities. As I reported in the last Green Banner, Montreal is celebrating its 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The city has many cultural events planned and in

progress. If you are going to be in the area during the summer and autumn months make sure to check what is available.

(<http://www.375mtl.com/en>).

There are several Celtic events planned over the next months as well. The most important of which is the Montreal Highland Games. This year there are additional activities occurring starting on Thursday 3 Aug and ending with the Games proper on Sunday 6 Aug.

(<http://www.montrealhighlandgames.com/>).

Never forget that the Glengarry Highland Games take place at Maxville ON just before the Montreal games on 4-5 Aug (Maxville is less than a one hour drive west of Montreal and about an hour from Ottawa). I would be remiss if I did not mention the Festival Celtique de Quebec which happens 18-21 Aug in Quebec City.

(<http://www.festivalceltique.com/?lang=en>).

As always if you are looking to be in this part of the country, do not hesitate to contact me at 514-693-9920 or by email at

[mylesmac@videotron.ca](mailto:mylesmac@videotron.ca).



## YOUR OPINION COUNTS

*Continued from page 4*

Although each member of Council could offer an opinion on why people quit, or why Macphersons and allied family members were not joining CMA, we decided to dig deeper and seek ideas and opinions from a majority of our members. We decided to not to include in the survey life spouses and brand new members, which left us with 120 people to contact.

A questionnaire was designed to be administered by telephone to answer questions and seek ideas related to recruiting and retention as well as members' interests in governance. It was noticed the past few years that it was becoming increasingly difficult to find members to serve on Council, which is related to the problems of recruiting and retention, so we looked into this issue as well. After two months of working on making contacts, 73 members had responded, answering the questions, and provided 223 ideas and suggestions for consideration. This is most impressive and we want to thank all those members who participated so enthusiastically.

This summer the Committee will be analyzing the data and ideas received and developing an action plan to find new members and to keep the ones we have. By the way, keeping our members means not only physically retaining them, but also keeping them involved and interested in the affairs of the CMA. In the September issue of the Green Banner, we will report on the progress this summer. Your opinion counted!

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

*By Mark F Macpherson*



I am always pleasantly surprised how our newsletter comes together for each issue and this one is no exception. I start planning each new issue as the current one is placed into circulation. I can always count on our Chairman to send in his message and our Treasurer to give us the current financial information. The CMA Chair Jean Duffy is a reliable contributor, giving the view from the top of the Association. Our Provincial Councillors in general, are very good at supporting the Green Banner with their reports. All of these things provide an excellent base for the rest of the issue.

What is really appreciated is the many members from across the world-wide CMA who come forward with wonderful articles and stories. When I start the planning for the next issue, I am never sure what we will receive by the deadline, but so far we have been fortunate with the fine material submitted by our members. I sincerely hope that some others particularly in Canada, will take the plunge and submit an idea for a story.

Once again Donna McPherson Rucks came through with more of her adventures and this time encouraged her friend Christy McCreary who is not a member, to contribute as well. Bravo to both! Bruce Macpherson, England and Wales Chair

took some time from his constant African travels to tell us about their annual ball. I hope this will inspire our members to try something similar. Karen Mitchell submitted the story on her father Neil McPherson our 10<sup>th</sup> Chairman, some time ago and was probably wondering if it would ever be published. John House gave us another glimpse of the Scotland of old

Coincidentally this time, two of our Provincial Councilors participated in and reported on air force memorials, Helen Potts in Nanton Alberta, and Bruce Gillis at Middleton Nova Scotia

Bruce first played as the bugler for this parade in 1963 when he was a member of the band of the West Nova Scotia Regiment. While attending McGill University he played first trumpet in the concert band. Later he took up drumming in the Greenwood Pipes and Drums and has played in numerous events over the years such as The Royal International Nova Scotia Tattoo, and performances in Chilliwack B.C., Bermuda, and Norfolk Virginia.

The planning for the September issue has begun. Seriously consider sending in a story.

## CANADIAN BRANCH CONSTITUTION

Constitutions and other legalistic items needed to ensure continuity and good governance of the Branch are usually considered a ho-hum thing that one quotes but never actually reads. If that sounds familiar to you, here we come again!

The Canadian Branch Constitution was approved by the Association Governing Council in 2011. In 2016 following a routine review, the Branch Council approved revisions to 5 clauses to bring it into line with our current terminology and practice. These are currently before the Association Council for consideration at the AGM in Scotland. The proposed changes will be tabled for adoption at the Branch AGM at Brantford in the fall.

Most of the changes impact on wording to clarify the intent of the clause involved. The most significant change being proposed to the membership is defining the quorum for General Meetings including the Annual General Meetings as 10 members instead of the current 20. Whereas the current Constitution does not specify the composition of the Quorum, the new proposal insists the Chairman or delegate plus two other members of the Governing Council be present.

Are you still following this? If so you may asking "So what?" Well, there are two reasons. The first is, on observing that attendance at the Annual General Meeting is slipping year to year, it is possible that at some point we may not see 20 members present. In such a case, the business of the Branch could not legally be conducted at the meeting. The other reason is that in the future we may wish to hold a general meet-

*Continued on Page 10*

# THE BROCHS OF SCOTLAND

By John C House



Scattered throughout the landscape of Scotland are uniquely Scottish structures that date to the Iron Age. Known as brochs, these fortified, circular drystone buildings date back approximately two thousand years. There is much disagreement about their actual purpose and who actually constructed them, but it is evident that they were intended to make an impression. Some have argued that these were Iron Age castles, and others have argued that they were stately homes.



*Dun Carloway, on the Isle of Lewis is the best preserved example of a broch in the Outer Hebrides. Probably constructed in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, the east side still stands about 9 metres at its highest point.*

It seems reasonable to accept that they served as fortified structures occupied by important individuals, probably local chieftains, and could provide a degree of protection against the type of raiding activities that might have occurred during the Iron Age in Scotland. It is unlikely that they would have provided much protection against Roman armies had they come through the region. That being said, it is probably not a coincidence that their construction seems to generally coincide with the arrival of the Romans further south.



*Dun Beag is the best preserved broch on the Isle of Skye.*

Brochs are concentrated in the west and north of Scotland, including the Isles of Skye, Lewis, Orkney and Shetland. Many have been reduced to little more than ruins, however some (like those illustrated here) are in a remarkable state of preservation. It is believed that most were built between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD, and remained in use for some time thereafter. Even after they were abandoned, local people continued to make use of the brochs, even removing their stonework for other construction projects. It is remarkable that some of them have survived in the condition that they are in.

Dun Telve and Dun Troddan are in close proximity to one another near the village of Glenelg. These well preserved brochs are unusual in that they are so close to one another. Typically brochs are solitary structures in an area.

The word broch is derived from an Old Norse word borg, meaning a strong or fortified place. These structures would have been quite old and past their usefulness by the time the Norse began settling the Highlands and Islands of Scotland in the ninth century.

These structures are well worth a visit if visiting Scotland. They are fine artefacts of an interesting period of Scottish history.

## CANADIAN BRANCH CONSTITUTION

*Continued from Page 9*

ing outside of central Canada Central Canada is where most of our members now live. We are more likely to be able to do this with the Chairman and two Council Members plus seven members than we could with 20 members present. This gives our Provincial Councilors something to shoot for, if we are to hold a more local AGM in their area.

If you have stayed with us so far, this will explain the revision sheet accompanying the circulation of the July issue. In the interest of participation, your Council is encouraging all members to review all of the proposed revisions to the Constitution and offer any appropriate comments you may have.

In accordance with the Constitution, only members present at the next AGM can vote to adopt the changes. However we want to consider the ideas of all members prior to the vote taking place. Please take a little time and review the proposed changes then send your comments to the Registrar by email at [Canada.registrar@clan-Macpherson.org](mailto:Canada.registrar@clan-Macpherson.org) or by post to PO Box 1005 Hemmingford QC J0L 1H0 before September 1 2017, so they can be considered prior to the AGM.

If you need to consult the current Canadian Branch Constitution, it is posted at

<https://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/membersdocs/membersonly2017.html>

## WE REMEMBER

We try to publish these memorials as soon as we learn that one of our members has died. We also prefer to obtain information from the family. Sometimes for various reasons this may take some time, hence the late notices.



**Colin A Gillies**, a life member who joined CMA in the 1980's, passed away after a long illness in 2015. Colin studied art in New York City and became a successful commercial artist working from his home in Dollard Des Ormeaux Quebec for several major Canadian firms including Nortel. Colin had a passion for life and did both his art and other interests to perfection. He was an avid golfer, played tennis and was an enthusiastic sailor. He took part in a major yacht race in Bermuda one year. In spite of a serious chronic lung ailment, he continued his golf carrying an oxygen bottle on his back such was his commitment to the game.

We learned in March that **John MacPherson** of Fort Erie Ontario a life member had passed away on March 17 2002. John served in the RCAF during World War II and became an Immigration Officer after the war until his retirement. He joined CMA in 1975.

**Jean W MacPherson** of Fort Erie Ontario, a life associate, passed away in 2004. Jean was the wife of John MacPherson. Jean emigrated from England when she was 5 years old as her father had decided to come to Canada to work. She was a nurse for 35 years at the Hospital in Fort Erie where she married John and raised her family including Bruce, currently a life member living in Fort Erie. Jean had an artistic talent and took up sketching and painting scenes at the family summer cottage.

**William L B MacPherson** of Sydney Nova Scotia a life member, passed away in 2011. William spent 30 years in the home renovation business. He was known in Sydney as an excellent piper and also taught piping to local children.

**Margaret MacPherson** (née Delaney) of Sidney Nova Scotia a life associate, died in 2016. She was the wife of William L B MacPherson. Margaret was an Acadian and her first language was French. She was a devoted housewife and enjoyed Tarabish, a Scottish card game, similar to Bridge, played primarily in Cape Breton, with her friends.

In May we learned of the death of life member **Keith Carrothers** of St. Claire Shores Michigan. No details were available.

## GAMES REPORT

By Ed Smith

The **Georgetown Highland Games** on June 10<sup>th</sup> opened the highland games season in Ontario. As we arrived there was lots of activity, with the pipers and various bands warming up for competition, the dancers of all ages starting their routines, and the heavy weight competitors setting up.

Several clans set up in the area between the dancers and the "heavies". This allowed the spectators ample room to roam through the clan area. We had many interested folk drop by.

We were glad to see that Past Chairman Bill Macpherson was able to spend some time with us at the clan display. Bob Archibald and Marleen came from Port Hope to hand over the Branch equipment used at the games. Bob retired from the games circuit as the Branch representative in 2016 after 16 years.



*At the Macpherson stand, in Georgetown, Bill Macpherson, Ed Smith, Marlene Archibald, and Bob Archibald*

The **Cobourg Highland Games** June 17 started with all the competitors preparing for the day's activity. Bob and Marleen Archibald, who had come the short distance from Port Hope, and I were ready for the day ahead.



*Caleb Macpherson after the piping competition at the Macpherson stand at Cobourg*

There was a very brief shower, then the skies cleared for a terrific day. The clan area was situated along a walkway so there was ample exposure to the patrons. Several people stopped by to make inquiries.

Caleb Macpherson and his dad Stewart, who is a member of the Branch, visited our stand, and let us know Caleb had competed in the piping and placed second in his class. Caleb has plans to compete at the Newtonmore games next year for a

trophy presented by his great grandfather who was a renowned piper in Scotland. Perhaps this young man will become a Clan Macpherson Piper in the future. (See "A Family History of Piping" in the Green Banner November 2016 for more on Caleb).

# 68<sup>TH</sup> CANADIAN GATHERING

September 15 – 17 2017

Ed Smith and his team have come up with an interesting family-oriented event this year in Brantford. There are many options for things to do in the Brantford area at this time of year. There are museums and other points of interest to visit. There are events in the surrounding area and craft shopping galore. A partial list appears below:

## In Brantford

Jazz Festival

Bell Homestead Museum

Glenhyrst Art Gallery

Canadian Military Heritage Museum

## In Paris

Auto Show and Swap Meet

John M Hall the House of Quality Linens

## In St George/Troy

Applefest

Donn Zver Pottery

Following registration and supper on Friday evening, our Chairman Ed Smith is organizing a reception with an after-dinner snack and other suitable refreshments.



*Bell Homestead Museum Entrance*

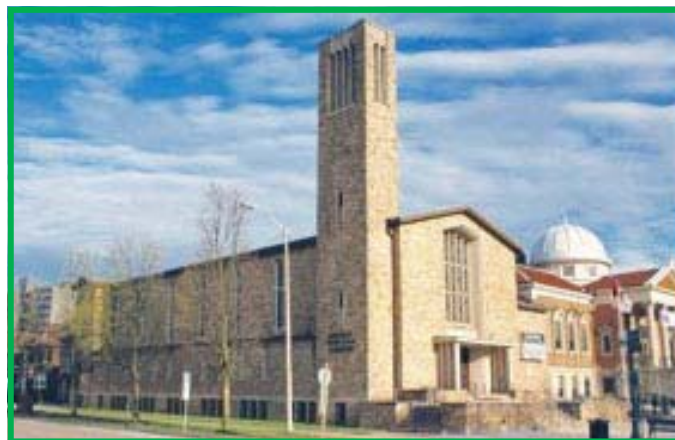
On Saturday members will gather in the morning for the Annual General Meeting in the hotel, which is expected to be lively. The afternoon had been set aside to allow exploration of the area and a chance to attend some of the events taking place, or visit the places of interest. We

hope all will avail themselves of this opportunity

Saturday evening finds us at the traditional Highland dinner with all the trimmings. This year we are offering special fare for accompanying children with lots of choices for them. We will have an interesting programme with expert piping by Dr Ewan Macpherson Clan Piper, followed by an after-dinner speaker:

## **Professor James Fraser, Chair of Scottish Studies University of Guelph**

On Sunday morning for those who are able, we have the traditional Kirking in the Tartan at the Central Presbyterian Church followed by a group photo in the park nearby, weather permitting. In the Afternoon Bob and Sondra Archibald have invited all who are present to attend afternoon tea at their lovely home in Brantford.



*Central Presbyterian Church*

The hotel in which most of the scheduled events will take place is the Best Western Brantford who are ready to make sure we have a comfortable stay during the weekend. The hotel has offered us a special rate under "Clan Macpherson" but they can only guarantee this rate until August 15 as Brantford is a busy place during the fall. With the possibility of sounding repetitive, it is not a good idea to wait until the last minute to reserve your room as the Clan Macpherson rate may not be available after the cut-off date.

To reserve your room call 1-877-341-1234 or 1-519-753-8651, reference "Clan Macpherson."

**A registration form** is included with the distribution of this newsletter for your convenience. Macphersons have been slow to send in their registration in the past, but this year you should make sure it has been sent to us by the second week of September so we can ensure you will get your dinner choice for the Highland Dinner on Saturday