



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 11 Number 1

SPRING ISSUE

March 2017

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Mark Macpherson, Acting Registrar



There has been some activity on the membership front since November 2016 with 15 annual members renewing their membership for 2017. Our current slate of life members stands at 134 as of March 2017.

John C House, our Associate Editor was elected to be Fellow, Society of Antiquities of Scotland in November on St Andrew's Day and is now entitled to carry the postnominals FSA (Scot).

Welcome Back to Mrs Edith Higgins of Oxford NS, who returned to us this year.

We welcome six new members of the Branch:

Kimberly Griffiths of Hamilton ON joined the Branch in November as a life member. Kim is a nurse by profession specializing in serving the elderly. She attended a number of Gatherings with Rod Smith and found them to be a lot of fun.



Kim



Arielle

Arielle Macpherson of Kirkland QC transferred to annual member on turning 18 in 2016. Arielle is a student at Vanier College in Montreal and is considering social work as a career. Arielle has been to the Gathering at Badenoch and attended several Canadian Gatherings as a Junior Member.

Four Members of the Biamonte family of Edmonton AB joined in December. They are all planning to travel to Scotland this summer to meet with relatives and attend



Margaret



Shawna



Christina



Christopher

the Clan Gathering.

Margaret Biamonte is a HR Benefits specialist. Margaret's Macpherson connection is through her 5th great grandparents Catherine and Alexander Macpherson.

Shawna Biamonte, Margaret's oldest daughter, is currently working in Edmonton as a Massage Therapist and is completing her BSc degree at the University of Alberta.

Christina Biamonte, Margaret's youngest, is an early childhood educator in Edmonton.

Christopher Demler, Shawna's husband, is a professional engineer working in Edmonton with Fluor Canada and is completing a MEng at the University of Alberta.

Two of our annual members transferred to life status in January.



Andrew

Andrew Macpherson of Tofield AB joined in 2014. He works in Logistics with Altek Industrial Supply in Edmonton. Andrew came to Alberta from Brampton ON.

Stuart Macpherson of Toronto ON joined in 2014. He works as a Senior Business Analyst with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) in Toronto.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Good day cousins. It's March already. Soon the snowbirds will be returning, wild birds too, mustn't forget them. The flowers and weeds will be taking over the landscape. Grass will be greening the lawns and the lawnmower will require a tune up.

During the 2016 Council meeting it was brought to our attention that the Canadian branch had suffered

an unusual loss in membership over the past two years.

The Council decided that a survey be taken to check the health of our Canadian Branch. A single-page questionnaire was sent out to the membership by email to be filled out on line and returned to our hard working Registrar / Survey developer / Editor Mark Macpherson. Unfortunately, many did not respond to this survey reducing its relevance.

With the help of a large number of concerned volunteers, we

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TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The Branch is in good shape financially as of the end of 2016. We have about \$7,464 in our current account and a little over \$11,130 in our Life Membership Fund.

Creag Dhubh mailing costs in 2017 are borne by CMA in Scotland. Previous practice required we remit the Association portion of your membership dues to CMA less the local mailing costs of Creag Dhubh. Last year I remitted prior to knowing the exact mailing costs. When our annual membership renewals did not match prior years, I was left with a situation where the Association owed our Branch money. There should be enough dues from members to allow me to remit the balance of last year's and all of this year's memberships to CMA. The remittance will reduce our current account balance to about \$6,900 which still leaves us enough money to cover all our expected expenses.

Once the venue for our 2017 annual Gathering is finalized, I will provide the required deposit. Again, we have ample monies to cover this and the Gathering is expected to raise enough money to pay for itself.

I am confident that 2017 will be another successful year for the Canadian Branch.

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:

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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are undertaking a phone follow up survey. You will be contacted by phone and asked for a suitable time when you can work with the interviewer to answer a questionnaire and give your suggestions. This information will be used in decision-making to guide the Branch in providing better service to the membership. Hopefully it will help stabilize our numbers and perhaps gain new members in the process.

I would like to draw your attention to my continuing effort to make the Sesquicentennial Clan museum project a success. I hope all members will support this program

The 2017 Annual Gathering is planned for Sept 15 -17 in Brantford Ontario. We have a really nice hotel with affordable accommodations or a campground for those who are so inclined. Mark your Calendars!

Remember to attend your local Highland Games - renew your Highland vigour.

Yours Aye, Ed Smith CD,

WE REMEMBER



Nancy Macpherson Life Member and wife of Gordon Macpherson our Honorary Chairman, died on February 13. Nancy was very active in CMA starting with her first Gathering in Toronto in 1956 and attending most of them through the years until

recently. She served as Branch Hon. Secretary from 1994 until 2000 when she relinquished the position. She was a founding member of her local gardening club pursuing her interest in that hobby. Nancy was a strong supporter of her Church and was known as a "great Christian" by her friends and family. Nancy's sparkling personality and helpful nature will be missed by her Clansmen and Clanswomen.



Colonel Roderick Clark (USAF Ret)

A former member of the Canadian Branch, who was a driving force in the development of the Clan Macpherson Museum in Newtonmore, passed away on February 8. He initiated the idea of the Guardians of Clan Macpherson to gain financial support

for the museum. Rod was a real gentleman, engagingly affable, and passionately interested in the museum. As a result, several members of the Canadian Branch eventually became "Guardians". His strong presence at Clan Gatherings and the museum will be missed by all members of Clan Macpherson.

WALLACE C. MACPHERSON

By John C House, MOM, FSA Scot



The ninth Chairman of the Canadian Branch was Wallace C. MacPherson, who served in that role from 1983 to 1987. Wallace was born on May 5th, 1927 in the town of Dominion, Cape Breton, the son of Colin Murdoch and Martha (nee Caldwell) MacPherson. He grew up with three brothers and one sister.

Dominion is a mining town founded in 1906, aptly named after the nearby Dominion Coal Mine (later the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation – or DOSCO). It was the quintessential company town, as Dominion owed its very existence to the mine. It therefore comes as no surprise that Wallace's family was closely connected to the mine, and Wallace's father was a miner there. Upon completion of high school, Wallace chose to follow a different career path and enrolled in studies at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. His university career was to be brief however, as his father was injured in a mining accident, which necessitated Wallace's return to Dominion to help out his family. Being older, he took a job at the mine. One of the jobs Wallace did at the mine was "driving" the pit ponies. Many years ago pit ponies were common in some underground coal mines, where they were used to haul coal on underground narrow gauge railways. Wallace used to relate a story about a time that he lost track of one of the ponies. He searched for it and could not find it until it returned to the surface on its own volition.

Following his brief stint at the coal mine, Wallace took a job with the Maritime Telegraph & Telephone Company (or more commonly known as Maritime Tel & Tel, or MT&T). MT&T provided telecommunications services in Nova Scotia until 1998 when it merged with Island Telecom, NBTel, and New-Tel Communications to form Aliant (now Bell Aliant). He remained at this job until he made another career move which

took him into the insurance industry. He accepted a position at the London Life Insurance Company, where he remained for about twenty years until he moved on to Canada Life where he stayed until his retirement. During his professional career, Wallace was



Jean and Wallace MacPherson

an active member of the Canadian Underwriter's Association (later the Insurers' Advisory Organization [IAO] of Canada).

In 1955 Wallace married Jean Dollin Furay of Saint John, New Brunswick. They had initially met through their mutual involvement with the United Church of Canada's Young People's Society. They settled and began raising their family of three daughters, who were affectionately known to many friends as "Wally's Angels". There are now also six grandchildren.



Wallace as Chairman (right) with Gordon MacPherson Immediate Past Chairman in 1984

Wallace was a keen and active member of the Canadian Branch of the CMA for many years before accepting the role of Chairman. He hosted the 34th annual Canadian Branch Gathering at the Citadel Inn in Halifax. This was a major event for his family, who recall the excitement associated with hosting the event. Wallace and Jean were also very involved with their church, the United Church of Canada. They were very involved with Halifax's Meals on Wheels program. Their daughter, Marion, recalls that many times on Christmas day her parents would be busy delivering meals to those in need. The MacPherson family's Christmas meal would have to wait until later in the day when all the work was done.

Wallace was a keen sports fan, and curled as a member of the Sydney Curling Club. He enjoyed watching baseball and hockey, and seldom missed Hockey Night in Canada, especially when his favourite Montreal Canadiens were playing.

Wallace also had a keen interest in Scottish history, and was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, a prestigious organisation that has been part of Scotland's intellectual landscape for over 230 years. As well, he was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Wallace passed away on April 6th, 1998 at the age of 70. Sadly, his wife Jean has also passed away on February 3rd, 2017.

CMA CHAIR REPORT

By Jean Macpherson-Duffy



By the time you read this report, the plans for the summer Gathering should be complete. I wrote last time of the wonderful invitation we received to take part in the Edinburgh Tattoo on Tuesday, August 8th. I hope to see you there showing that the Clan Macpherson is a vibrant and vigorous family.

I will be attending the April 1st Executive meeting via Skype – always an interesting venue. We have purchased a new microphone so that those of us who cannot attend the actual meeting will be able to contribute. My Vice Chairman, Bill (Glenfarg) will conduct the meeting, but I will be there virtually along with your Chairman Ed Smith, the US Chairman, and the Australian Chairman, to speak up when the opportunity arises. We all understand that traveling to Scotland three times a year, while desirable, is not always feasible. With the technology available, that should not stop anyone from participating in Clan meetings.

Amendments to the Canadian constitution along with the new European (sans the UK) constitution will be discussed and hopefully approved. These then move on to the Council meeting in August.

These documents while seemingly mundane actually form the structure of our branches. They are living documents. But to quote Alice in Wonderland, Through the Looking Glass:

“When I use a word,” Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, “it means just what I choose it to mean – neither more, or less.”

“The question is,” said Alice, “whether you can make words mean so many different things.”

“The question is,” said Humpty Dumpty, “which is to be master – that’s all.”

I look forward to reading the Green Banner as it always has so many interesting articles. For those who long to see Scotland, I am reminded of this Emily Dickinson poem. Although she never left her home and, in fact, not her bedroom in her later years, she could still dream and write. I leave you with this poem:

I NEVER SAW A MOOR

I never saw a moor,
I never saw the sea,
Yet know I how the heather looks,
And what a wave must be.

I never spoke with God,
Nor visited in heaven;
Yet certain am I of the spot,
As if a chart were given.



FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

By Mark F Macpherson



We were very fortunate this time in receiving more contributions from overseas. Four of these were first-time contributors to the Green Banner who produced first class articles for us on topics of current interest. Tony McPherson Chair of the New Zealand Branch gave us an interesting historical view of Scottish immigration to that country in which there are some parallels to our history in Canada. Derek Macpherson Chair of the Africa Branch, gave us a view into his work in Africa, conserving wildlife with the aid of ultra-light aircraft. John Barton came forth with an unusual story on the fate of the elaborate targe carried by Bonnie Prince Charlie at Culloden. David MacPherson of Australia told us about his experience in the Creag Dhubh hill race last summer at the Newtonmore Games. All of these are much appreciated.

James McPherson of Creemore ON, another first-time contributor, gave us a super insight into his hobby of flying advanced ultra-light aircraft and his flight from Ontario to Alberta - an odyssey indeed! I can assure you that it is a coincidence that two articles involving ultra-light aircraft appeared in this issue. We are not going to compete with flying magazines!

Once again we had great support from Shelagh Macpherson Noble and Sandy Macpherson from Scotland. Shelagh, taking us back with her experiences during the early days of the CMA and Sandy with his great story of Sergeant Malloy who held off the clans at Ruthven against impossible odds.

Donna McPherson Rucks of Itasca Illinois presented three stories of her recent travels to Scotland and her exposure to Scottish art and culture. Dee is a fantastic observer in this milieu. I am always fascinated by her artistic insights, supported by lots of photos.

Our Associate Editor, John House, put his oar firmly in the water with three articles. John took on the task of enlightening us about our ninth Chairman as part of our Chairman series, and gave us an exposé of his travels to Neolithic sites in Orkney. John also provided a short article on the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland that is of interest to Scottish history and archeology buffs. Helen Macpherson Potts obliged us for the third time with her annual Robbie Burns celebration in Prince George.

I feel honoured indeed and humble to enjoy such incredible support from all of these contributors.

Last issue I enjoined you, the readers, to come forth with your ideas for the Green Banner and some feedback on what we are doing. I am happy to report that one member chose to write me with his impressions and I am very grateful for this. Others had written me previously. I hope I will gain guidance from more members in the future as this is very helpful.

MEETING GUY FAWKES

By Donna "Dee McPherson" Rucks



Last fall I spent a week in Scotland, with three days in the Highlands. The purpose of the entire trip was to spend one day attending the Museum and Council meetings at Clan Macpherson House in Newtonmore. After the meetings on Saturday, six of us started our evening at Chairman Jean Macpherson

Duffy's apartment in Laggan. November 5, the day of the meeting had coincided with Guy Fawkes Day, a celebration with roughly the same status as Halloween in North America.

The fireworks were just getting ready to start! Several people braved the cold drizzle and walked down the street in the dark to the Laggan bonfire celebrating Guy Fawkes Night.

Guy Fawkes was a member of a group of 12 provincial English Catholics

who planned the failed Gunpowder Plot of 1605, a secret scheme to blow up Parliament and overthrow King James I, who was a Protestant and also King of Scotland. During the interrogation after the plot was uncovered, Fawkes defiantly stated his intention was "to blow you Scotch beggars back to Scotland." After the failure of the plot got out to the public, bonfires were lit around London in celebration.



Huge bonfire in Laggan celebrating Guy Fawkes



Painting of Guy Fawkes

Guy Fawkes Night is now an annual commemoration observed in the UK on 5 November, where British people gather 'round bonfires to burn effigies called "Guys" and watch fireworks.

After the celebration, I enjoyed a spaghetti supper with other members at Jean Duffy's table, complete with wine and good talk.

THE KELPIES

By Donna "Dee McPherson" Rucks

During my one-week stay in Scotland last fall, my Newtonmore hosts John and Irene England took me to see the Kelpies, near Falkirk. The Kelpies are two enormous horse-head sculptures. As we approached the park on foot,



Dee standing near gigantic horse sculptures of two Kelpies.

the heads seemed to grow larger and larger. We joined a tour at the Visitors' Center and walked all around the sculptures. The tour took us inside one of the heads, and looking up, we experienced the strong steel interior of the immense structure.



Inside structure of Kelpie sculpture. It has a modern art feel

The Kelpies represent the heavy horses of Scottish industry, that pulled the wagons and barges. Industry shaped the geographical layout of the Falkirk area. Designed by sculptor Andy Scott and completed in October 2013, the Kelpies are 30-metres-high and each weighs 300 tonnes. They reside near the River Carron in The Helix.

They form a grand gateway to a new extension that reconnects the Forth and Clyde Canal with the River Forth.

The Kelpie refers to the mythological transforming beasts possessing the strength and endurance of 10 horses. It is the Scots name given to a shape-shifting water spirit inhabiting the lochs and pools of Scotland. It has usually been described in mythology as appearing as a horse, but is able to adopt human form¹.

There are more Andy Scott sculptures to see in Scotland: Heavy Horse, along the M8 Edinburgh to Glasgow Motorway; Arria, Cumbernauld; Rise, Glasgow Harbor, to name a few.

When in Scotland next, plan a stop in Falkirk to see the Kelpies!

A FLYING MCPHERSON

By James G McPherson of Creemore



In 2015, for my 70th birthday I gave myself a gift: A flight from my home near Toronto to Olds AB to see just born grandson Iver McPherson, the then latest addition to our Alberta offspring. Being Scottish I decided to do it myself, why should Air Canada or WestJet get the glory and my money? Enter C-IDBJ into my plan, a sprightly little thing who gives hours of pleasure.



Jim with his pet - Juliet

She (I call her Juliet) is an advanced ultralight aircraft ("AULA" in aviation-speak) that cannot weigh more than 1232 pounds FULLY LOADED, which includes the plane itself, the pilot, any passenger, fuel, and all necessary equipment. The AULA class goes back to 1991 and grew out of the "basic" ultralights of flying lawn chair fame. Canadian AULA pilots are fully trained, licensed, insured and medically tested, then turned loose in the air.

"Loose" in my case usually means the skies around Georgian Bay or over Muskoka, Haliburton or the farmlands of southern Ontario. Lots of variety, but always back home the same day to the delight of any passenger on board and my wife too - I hope!

But as you may have guessed, ultralights are propeller driven, low powered, "slow" (a relative term) and must be flown only in daylight with visual reference to the ground at all times. In other words, old fashioned flying, old fashioned navigation, with lots of stops and always weather uncertainties. In short, a challenging trip from Ontario to Alberta not to taken lightly, and rarely done.

My approach was to fly in June, to pack the second seat area full of food, water, tent, sleeping bag, tie down equipment, empty fuel can, some spares, locator beacon, bear and bug spray, charts, GPS, and a hundred other things to ensure that I

could camp out enroute for days if need be (and not exceed 1232 pounds) I also chose to use all Canadian routes and to avoid major airports. This plan is easier said than done. In Northern Ontario, good roads and trucking have diminished the importance of many great little airports that now lie abandoned outright or have no fuel, no people, no facilities and a cloudy future.



Juliet carefully loaded for the trip

I can summarize only the highlights of one of the great journeys of my life. Starting on day one, the staff at Elliot Lake helping me with my first fill up away from home, and not laughing when I pulled up to the jet fuel pump in error. The Lake Superior fog lifting like a curtain on cue for my landing at Wawa, exactly when the experts at Nav. Canada said it would. The blackflies, darkness, isolation, and exhaustion, upon landing at Atikokan after a long, long, day of watching beautiful but bewitching Ontario wilderness pass under my wing.



Flying westbound over Lac des Mille Lacs near Atikokan, Northwestern Ontario

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A FLYING MCPHERSON

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On day two, the German food truck at Winkler MB. The angel who found me an empty hangar and a dry bed at Killarney MB as a severe storm broke.

On day three, “pothole” country, the Badlands and Grasslands National Park.



Over the pothole landscape in Manitoba

Finally on day four, the Cypress Hills, then Alberta and its Dinosaur Park. A rushed and rainy landing at Olds, outbound completed. My first glimpse of Iver and a week of rest.



Over dinosaur country in Alberta heading toward Olds

Homeward over coal country, the great spaces of northern Saskatchewan, the kindness of many strangers, crossing the vast waters of Lakes Manitoba and Winnipeg (don't look down too often!). The tail wind took me from east of Brandon to my hangar in one day. That last landing, perfect in a strong crosswind, late in the day, nobody to see it but me. Home!

There you have it dear readers of the Green Banner. Make of it what you will. You can read into it Macpherson pluck, Caledo-

nian courage, Scottish frugality, clan canniness or maybe senior citizen stupidity - as you choose. I know that I marvelled at the sheer size of our country and the courage of our forefathers. It was they, with many of Clan Chattan among them, who explored, surveyed, settled, built and made Canada. From four thousand feet up it stretches endlessly in all directions but the greatest wealth is the good hearts of the people on the ground.



Jim flying Juliet eastbound for Ontario and home! Note the wide smile.

Which reminds me. I have yet to fly from Ontario to the Maritimes. The charts are in hand, my medical is good, and winter gives time to plan. So next summer, if you live in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia or PEI, be ready! If you spy a little white plane with a bubble canopy and hear the whir of a Rotax engine, give it a wave. Maybe Juliet and a fellow CMA member will drop in to see you.



Juliet in the hangar after a long trip

James G. McPherson was raised on the family farm in the McPherson School district of Brant County Ontario. His education started there, and continued at the University of Western Ontario, and at the University of Toronto, graduating with the Law class of '70. Now happily retired he divides his time between Creemore Ontario and Canmore Alberta where he and his wife Dawn enjoy their 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Dawn and Jim have visited all 7 continents. James has been a proud member of the Clan Macpherson Association since his teens and once played the bagpipes. Now he just writes, sings, and flies Juliet.

WHAT CLAN MACPHERSON MEANS TO ME

By Shelagh Macpherson-Noble, CMA Vice President



Having been a member of the Clan Macpherson Association for 54 years, I am often asked how my involvement has endured and why I am as enthusiastic now as I was then.

Since childhood the CMA has been part of my life. My paternal ancestors came from Badenoch, the heartland of Macpherson country and I have been told that I must be related to most of the inhabitants in Kingussie & Newtonmore!

Life with the CMA began with my father's keen interest and involvement with Macphersons. He was one of the founder members of the Association and was instrumental in the purchase of the Clan Macpherson Museum in Newtonmore. My earliest memories of the Museum were of visits to the Clan House as it was known then.

My sisters and I had strict instructions not to touch the epergne which, in the 1950s, sat on a large table in the window. The epergne is the branched, silver, table centrepiece presented to 'old Cluny' that is now housed in a glass case safe from idle touching.

Whilst my father emptied and counted the contents of the donation boxes, my mother, sisters, and I would be invited upstairs to the curator's apartment for afternoon tea. It had to be best behaviour all round. The extensions to the Museum were not built until very much later.

In the early days, there were four branches in Scotland, which was divided into regions. My parents were in charge of the Highland Branch as it was called. My father was Chairman and my mother was Treasurer. Funds were raised by holding jumble sales, and although it was a lot of work for the adults, it was great fun for my sisters and me. Items of all kinds from clothing to furniture were collected and sorted before being laid out on large tables in the local hall. The date and venue would be advertised, and I remember queues formed outside in the street before opening time. Nowadays jumble sales are unheard of.

Outings were held during the summer months and nearly always included a picnic. One of the early ones in 1948, was a visit to Culloden battlefield. The photo shows some of the members exiting the "Black house" These dwellings were warmed in the winter by a fire in the centre on the floor as well as by the bodies of the people and the cattle that were brought inside to occupy half the house. The effect of the fire blackened the inside with

soot. I am sure the visiting CMA members were glad they didn't have to live in it!

Numbers at the outings were such that a bus would be hired to transport members to and from the venue. I particularly remember a picnic in clan country where we ended up dancing an eightsome reel in the heather, accompanied by a piper. On another occasion, we attended a church service in a remote glen with the Duke & Duchess of Gloucester present as part of the congregation.

As children we sometimes accompanied our parents to the



Well-dressed CMA members on an outing in 1948

annual Gatherings in Badenoch which introduced us to the world wide family of Macphersons. I have fond memories of our Canadian cousins, Lloyd MacPherson, your late fourth Chairman, and Gordon Macpherson who is still active in CMA.

In the 1960s, when my father became Association Chairman, my sisters and I became life members. For a period of years my career, marriage and family took priority over clan events.

However my interest and enthusiasm never waned and when the four Scot-

tish branches merged into one, I was invited to be Vice Chairman of the Scotland Branch.

I progressed through the ranks of office bearers to be honoured with the position of Association Chairman from 2009 to 2012. Over many years I have become firm friends with the Macpherson family worldwide. Luckily I have been able to travel extensively and have formed lasting Macpherson friendships with members in all CMA branches and beyond.

I am often asked by non-Macpherson friends what makes the bond of friendship so strong. The answer is easy. We all have a 'connection' and a sense of belonging. We give and receive hospitality, we are a group of people who love to party and we are bound together by having a wonderful and enthusiastic Chief.



Photo from Internet

Culloden Moor today

SCOTTISH MOLDING OF NEW ZEALAND

By Tony McPherson, Chairman New Zealand Branch



Between 1840 and the 1970s, many thousands of Scots immigrated to New Zealand. Large numbers came in the 1840s, settling mainly in Auckland and Wellington in the North Island.

These were not refugees from the Highland Clearances, as the majority were lowlanders of modest means, typically farmers and artisans such as weavers, and later tradespeople and skilled workers. They left harsh economic times for a better life. In the 1850's a settlement consisting of mainly Highlanders was established in the Northland Region at Waipu.

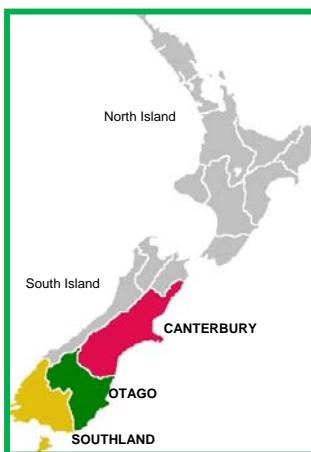
Otago Province was where a group of Free Church Scots founded their 'new Edinburgh', Dunedin, in 1848, now the second largest city in South Island. They had high moral values, a belief in hard work, and the value of education.



Larnach Castle at Dunedin. The only "castle" in New Zealand. Construction started in 1871 and was completed in 1887. It is now a tourist attraction.

My Great Grandfather immigrated to New Zealand in 1867, landing at Port Chambers the port of Dunedin. The Family established themselves in Central Otago inland from the coast. They became involved initially in gold and coal mining and also operated wagon teams transporting coal and produce to railheads. Sheep farming was the main family activity from the early 1900's onwards.

The surge of arrivals from Scotland reached its height in the early 1860's when the discovery of gold in New Zealand coincided with the American Civil War. Assistance schemes enticed more to Otago and Canterbury, also on the South Island, in the 1870s seeking immigrants with farming backgrounds, many were Highland shepherds. Scots spread throughout the country, though many favoured Otago and Southland located on the tip of South Island, and made up about a third of the total population in these three provinces. Between the two World Wars



Map of New Zealand showing the three provinces of interest

there was another surge of Scottish immigration.

In the second half of the 19th century, when many immigrants were from farming backgrounds, there were higher proportions of Scots in the countryside than in towns. In the harsh Mackenzie Country in Canterbury, Scots succeeded an earlier English generation to dominate the holding of sheep runs. The Scottish shepherd with his border collie was also a familiar figure on sheep runs throughout the grazing lands of New Zealand.

Scots were also successful farmers. In 1882 they owned about half the farms of more than 40 hectares. Some succeeded spectacularly well. In 1892, 40% of those owning more than 4,000 hectares were Scots.

Otago with clear rivers and brisk frosts was reminiscent of Scotland to the Scottish immigrants. Today, clans and tartans, Burns night celebrations, and tossing the caber, are part of a lasting legacy. From porridge to Presbyterianism, there are numerous signs of Scotland's traditions. Surnames such as Macpherson, Campbell and MacDonald are very common. Many of today's Caledonian and other patriotic societies have lasted since the earliest days. In 2004 there were over 80 pipe bands in New Zealand.

A recent example is the Hororata Highland Games created in 2011 following the earthquakes in Canterbury and the devastation of a number of key community facilities there. Rather than wait for assistance, a motivated group of individuals developed a theme which resonated with them and filled a unique gap in the event market. Competitors come from throughout New Zealand and overseas to compete.

Individual Scots, well-educated and inheriting a Calvinist concern to improve society, made important contributions to New Zealand's public life. Besides individual achievements, the egalitarian spirit of Scottish culture helped make New Zealand a nation of rough equality, compared with the class system of England. The Scots contributed in many fields, particularly in farming, politics, education, industry, medicine and science.

Tony McPherson joined in CMA NZ in 2002, He assumed his current role as Interim Chair in May 2015. He owns and manages a Real Estate Company in Christchurch. Tony and Linda with 7 children and 10 grandchildren between them have a busy family life.

Tony's vision for the New Zealand Branch is to have wider appeal for the baby boomers who seek an understanding of their genealogy and Scottish connection.



Monument to the Border Collie, erected by descendants of Highland Shepherds and Runholders at Tekapo in Canterbury

A HANOVERIAN HERO

By Sandy Macpherson



The Jacobite Rising of 1745-6 has produced some heroes in the public imagination. The romantic figure of Bonnie Prince Charlie, the fidelity of Flora MacDonald and the loyalty of the Highland clansmen are all the stuff of the Jacobite legend.

The Hanoverians, on the other hand, have not produced any figure to excite the mind. The Duke of Cumberland, who was later nicknamed the Butcher, General Sir John Cope, later the subject of a derisory song are the only persons of note.

A man of much more humble origin, however, stands out as a person of courage, initiative and resourcefulness. Enter Sergeant Terence Molloy of the 55th (Lees) Regiment of Foot in the British army, an Irishman and an experienced soldier!

To set the scene, it is August 1745 and Prince Charles Edward Stuart has landed in the west Highlands, raised his standard at Glenfinnan and marched into the central Highlands en route for London to proclaim his exiled father as the rightful British king.

The Hanoverian Government forces in Scotland were led by General Sir John Cope, who gathered together a somewhat ill trained and inexperienced force and led them north from Stirling with the intention of stifling the Jacobite rebellion before it got too far.

Marching up through the central Highlands Cope reached Laggan, but on learning that his enemies were waiting for him at the top of the Corryarrick Pass, he changed course. The prospect of having to fight his way up a steep road with seventeen hairpin bends in the face of a well-entrenched enemy would have resulted in a massacre of his men.

The decision was made to continue northwards to avoid contact with the enemy and try to raise the northern clans to the Hanoverian cause. On the road north Cope paused at Ruthven Barracks to take some of the men to reinforce his troops, leaving the Barracks in the hands of Sergeant Molloy and twelve men.

Ruthven Barracks, situated just outside present day Kingussie had been built in the 1720s

as part of the Hanoverian General Wade's plan for the pacification of the Highlands following the 1715 Jacobite Rising. It was one of a series of strong points connected by the first proper roads in the Highlands, built to enable the rapid passage of troops in time of danger.

Set on a small hill near the River Spey, it consisted of two double storey accommodation blocks facing an open square surrounded by fifteen feet high stone walls. The main gate was well protected and smaller rear gate led to a separate stable block.

It was more than a barracks for soldiers, it was a symbol of the dominance of the Hanoverian Government, designed to impress the local Highlanders and keep them in their rightful place.

Cope continued to advance to the north, leaving Ruthven on the 28th of August he added most of the garrison to his force, leaving the Barracks in the hands of Sergeant Molloy and his skeleton garrison.

The next day a determined attack was launched by the Jacobites, three hundred strong, with the objective of destroying this symbol of oppression and carrying off its supplies of arms and food.

The ensuing battle is best described by Sergeant Molloy himself in a report written the next day and addressed to General Cope.:

"Honourable General

This goes to acquaint you, that Yesterday there appeared in the little town of Ruthven above 300 Men of the Enemy, and sent Proposals to me to surrender this Redoubt, upon Condition that I have Liberty to carry off Bag and Baggage. My answer was, that I was too old a Soldier to surrender a Garrison of such Strength, without bloody Noses. They threatened hanging me and my men for Refusal. I told them I would take my Chance. This Morning they attack'd me about twelve o'clock, by my Information, with about 150 men: They attack'd Fore-Gate and Sally-Port, and attempted to set the Sally-Port on fire, with some old Barrels and other combustibles, which took blaze immediately; but the attacker lost his Life by



Prince Charles Edward Stuart, 1720 - 1788.
Eldest son of Prince James Francis Edward Stuart"
by William Mosman



General Sir John Cope

Continued on Page 11

A HANOVERIAN HERO

Continued from page 10

it. They drew off half an Hour after three. About two Hours after they sent to me, that two of their Chiefs wanted to talk with me. I admitted and spoke to them from the Parapet. They offered Conditions; I refused. They desired Liberty to carry off their dead Men: I granted. There are two Men dead of their Wounds in the Town, and three more they took with them, wounded as I am informed. They went off Westward, about eight o'clock this Morning. They did the like March Yesterday in the Afternoon, but came back at Night-Fall. They took all the Provisions the poor Inhabitants had in the town; and Mrs M'Pherson the Barrack-Wife, and a Merchant of the Town, who spoke to me this Moment, and advised me to write to your Honour: and told me there were above 3000 Men all lodged in the Corn – Fields West of the Town last night, and their grand Camp is at Dalwhinny: They have Cluny M'Pherson with them Prisoner, as I have it by the same information. I lost one Man shot through the Head, by foolishly holding his Head too high over the Parapet, contrary to Orders. I prevented the Sally-Port taking Fire, by pouring water over the Parapet. I expect another Visit this Night, I am informed, with their Pateraroes, and shall give them the warmest reception my weak Party can afford. I shall hold out as long as possible. I conclude, Honourable General, with great Respect,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

Molloy, Sergeant”

Cope promptly forwarded this report to Lord Tweeddale, the Secretary of State for Scotland, with the generous recommendation that Molloy should be “made an Officer for his gallant Behaviour” This was done and on the 12th of September it was recorded the promotion of “Terence Molloy, Gent. Lieut. Company in Colonel Lee’s Regiment of Foot”

This promotion was unusual in the 18th century British army as commissions were usually given on the basis of wealth and social standing, but Molloy was obviously well educated and courageous and well deserved his promotion.

Lieutenant Molloy and his tiny garrison featured again in history a few months later when the Jacobite army, this time on the retreat after reaching Derby and returning to the Highlands, arrived in strength.

A Jacobite force surrounded Ruthven and demanded surrender. Molloy, defiant as ever, answered “That it was not consistent with his Honour to do so, and that he would not give up his Garrison until he was besieged in Form, and that he would not see yet but he was able to give a good defence”

Unfortunately for the garrison three cannon appeared in the

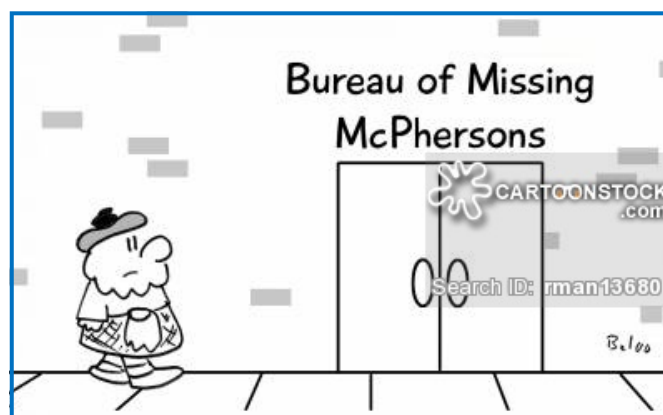
afternoon and fired at the Barracks. Molloy then realised that he could not attempt to hold out against heavy weapons and offered to surrender on his own terms. He and his men surrendered with honour and made their way to Perth where they were freed. The Jacobites then set fire to the Barracks, reducing them to the ruinous state that they are in to this day.



Ruthven Barracks today

What of the gallant Molloy’s subsequent career? He transferred to the 44th Regiment and in 1749 was posted to Ireland, no doubt to his great satisfaction, for the next five years. In 1755 his regiment sailed for North America with General Braddock and in July of that year was cut to pieces on the Monongahela River while fighting the French. Braddock was killed as were seven officers of the 44th including their commanding officer. Molloy survived this disaster and in November was appointed Captain-Lieutenant to succeed an officer who had been killed. This marked the end of his service, the official records state that on the 5th November he sold his commission and retired.

After that he vanishes from history, did he take his discharge and settle in America or did he go back to his native Ireland? We shall never know but the memory lingers on of this extraordinary soldier, one of the few heroes to emerge from the Jacobite Rising.



AMERICAN GIRL IN SCOTLAND, REDUX

By Donna "Dee McPherson" Rucks



Once again, I am flying in the dark of night to Scotland. This time, on Halloween night, from Chicago through Dublin to Glasgow. After landing the next morning on 1st November, I began my journey of one week in Glasgow, culminating in the Executive Council meeting in Newtonmore. Clearing Customs in Dublin was quick, easy, and there were no lines!



The House for an Art Lover



Dee in the music room

The first two days in Glasgow filled my senses with art, design, and another immersion into the world of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Met at the airport by my B&B hosts, John and Irene England, we first visited the "House for an Art Lover" in Bellahouston Park. The house was bathed in sunlight on this beautiful day, making it warm and welcoming. My favorite room was the Music Room, where I sat down at the magnificent Mackintosh white piano concoction and entertained my hosts with a simple Scottish tune, "Alexander MacDonald of Keppoch."



Model classroom in the Scotland Street School Museum

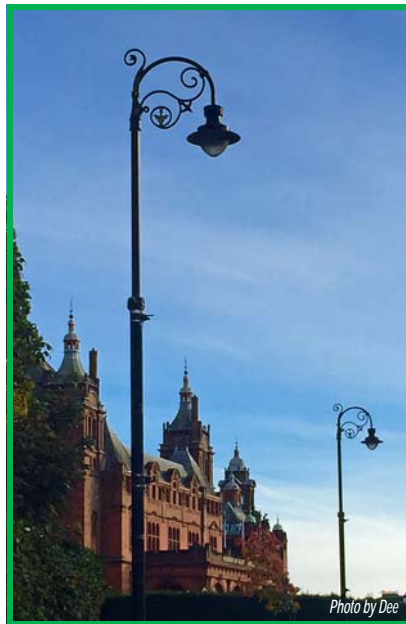
Next day, we toured all three floors of the Scotland Street School Museum, a majestic school building that is now a newly refurbished museum offering an insight into Glaswegian schooling in the first half of the 20th century.

We walked through the University of Glasgow campus to see the Mackintosh House, recreated in the Hunterian Museum & Art Gallery. The sequence of rooms exactly reflects the original home of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his wife Margaret MacDonald. The minimalist interiors have been furnished with the Mackintoshes' own furniture, of his own design. We departed the campus, walked across the River Kelvin,



Cameronian War Memorial

and stopped at the Cameronians War Memorial. The bronze sculpture of three soldiers commemorates the service of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) Regiment in WWI and



In the street near Kelvingrove

WWII. Along the walk, in every direction, there is ART! Lamps, buildings, ornaments, monuments! Everywhere I looked, I saw unique designs to further understand a new concept I have learned: "art without limits".

Into the car we went, for the drive north with a stop to see The Kelpies, large statues of mythical horses near Falkirk. Oh, my goodness! The excitement of seeing the Kelpies in their natural setting was like catching a glimpse of the Eiffel Tower for the first time!

After a short stop in Pitlochry at Robertson's, to add to the mini-whisky collection, we reached Crubenbeg House, our Highland destination in Newtonmore.

Then the purpose of the trip. On Saturday the regular meetings of the Museum Committee and Executive Council, were held at Newtonmore, after which I attended Guy Fawkes Day celebrations in the evening at Laggan.

The kind hospitality of the Scots continued the next day, with Shelagh Macpherson Noble picking me up at my B&B for the drive south to *Bruar*, to shop, with final destination Haddington, for supper and an overnight. Next morning, flight out at 11, destination Chicago. Thank you, Shelagh!

It was a great trip, packed with Art, Clan Business, Food, and Friends!



PRINCE CHARLIE'S TARGE

By John Barton



The Targe (Scottish Gaelic – An Targaid) was a small round battle shield which was the Highlander's main means of defence. It was usually made from two thin layers of wood, with the grain of each at right angles. The leather face was attached with many dome headed nails – usually in intricate patterns.

James, the 3rd Duke of Perth, presented Prince Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) with a spectacular targe which the Prince carried throughout his campaign leading up to Culloden – the targe being studded in silver and with the form of Medusa as its centrepiece. Following on the battle, the targe was rescued by the Clan Macpherson and kept safe during the nine years that Cluny remained in hiding. After Cluny's lands were restored to his son (Duncan of the Kiln), the targe became a treasured relic in the new Cluny Castle.



Prince Charlie's elaborate targe

Duncan's son (Old Cluny) met with Queen Victoria on a number of occasions when she toured the Highlands. Her fascination with the traditions of the Scottish Clans was such that she commissioned Kenneth MacLeay (1802 - 1878), a well-known portrait painter, to paint a series of paintings depicting Highlanders of the various Clans, and for the paintings to be reproduced in two large leatherbound volumes which were published in 1870. The Clansmen chosen to represent the Clan Macpherson were Lachlan Macpherson of Catlodge and Ewen Macpherson of Garvamore, and it is significant that Ewen is shown as holding the famous targe. The painting is featured at Panel 37 in the Clan Museum at Newtonmore; and the website

contains a full description of both Highlanders. The originals of the whole series of these paintings were retained by Queen Victoria and they are still in the possession of the British Royal family at Windsor Castle.



"The Highlanders" by Kenneth MacLeay with the Prince Charlie Targe carried by Ewen Macpherson on the right.

Sadly, all of Old Cluny's sons struggled financially, and Albert Cameron, his youngest son and the last family resident of Cluny Castle, sold the famous targe in 1928 for the sum of 4000 guineas (£4,200). It is now in the possession of the Royal Museums of Scotland and is to be on display in Inverness until 21 May 2017. Thereafter from 23 June 2017 it will be on display in its usual location at the Royal Museum at Chamber Street in Edinburgh.

A grandson of Ewen Macpherson of Garvamore was the novelist, Ian Macpherson (1905 – 1944). He lived in Laggan for many years, and in describing rural life in the Highlands in the 19th century he was greatly influenced by the experiences of his father and grandfather.

John Barton is a retired lawyer, now living near Kingussie. Fifty years ago, he was Secretary of the Clan Macpherson Association and he continues to be a trustee of the Clan Macpherson Museum. He has written many articles for Creag Dhubh and each year he leads an interesting historical walk as part of the program of the annual Gathering in Badenoch. John is the author of Exploring Badenoch: Clan Macpherson Country which was recently published. This book takes the visitor round the district and tells many of the stories of the Clan. A full description is on the website www.exploringbadenoch.co.uk

MACPHERSONS IN AFRICAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

By Derek Macpherson, Chair Africa Branch



After working in wildlife tourism, hunting, anti-poaching and game ranch management in East Africa for fifteen years, my wife Shannon and I set up a firm called “Cluny” in 2008 (with the permission of our Chief). Its mission is to supply aerial services to the wildlife management community in Malawi. Our first aircraft was a fabric covered ultralight called a Bantam. We operated this machine

for four years before buying a similar but upgraded version of the same plane called a Bathawk, named after a raptor found in Sub-Saharan Africa, in 2013. To this fixed wing aeroplane, we added a Rotary Air Force RAF 2000 gyrocopter,



Bathawk ultra light aircraft of South African design

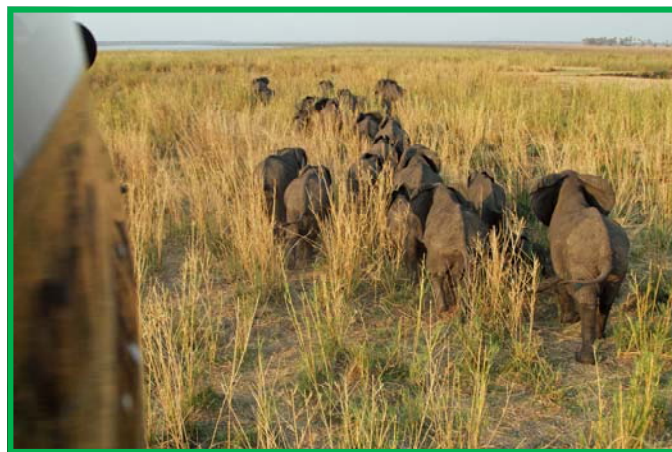


RAF 2000 gyrocopter, originally a Canadian design, now manufactured in South Africa. This ultra light aircraft features a non-driven rotary wing that aids in short take-off and landing. Note the two-element VHF antenna mounted on the nose to track radio-collared animals

Our core business is aerial wildlife census. We have supplied this service to five out of nine protected areas in Malawi over the last nine years. Aerial wildlife census is the serious business of counting wild animals in their own environments providing wildlife managers with vital information about how well their interventions are succeeding.

We also do aerial tracking of animals fitted with VHF tracking devices. This usually involves rhinos which are being extremely carefully monitored due to an unprecedented rise in poaching across the African continent. Our function is to locate individual animals from the air when conditions are not conducive to finding them on the ground, such as during the rainy season. A radio receiver is fitted into the aircraft and operated by the pilot. Confirming that a certain rhino is indeed alive and well and perhaps has given birth to a new calf, is always a moment of elation!

Aside from these functions, as well as general reconnaissance, aerial photography, and security surveillance, one of the most exhilarating activities that we have performed over the years is to drive elephants that have wandered into communal farming lands back into their protected areas. This is done by herding the animals with the aircraft and occasionally creating a loud noise in their rear, using a modified tranquilizing dart, to hurry them along once they are on the move in the correct direction!



Herding elephants from the air

In 2014 we added to our portfolio a capacity for ground response to wildlife emergencies. In our case this involves mostly rhinos and elephants. In many of our National Parks poachers use wire snares as the predominant means of killing wild animals. This method of dispatching animals is completely indiscriminate, results in an extremely painful death and is indefensible in nearly all contexts. When a rhino or an elephant is caught in such a snare it often breaks the wire but continues to walk around with the wire embedded under the

Continued on page 15

MACPHERSONS IN AFRICAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Continued from page 14



Treating an elephant that was caught in a wire snare in the Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve

skin. This causes a horrifying wound. Our role is to dart the animal with drugs designed to anaesthetize them for a period sufficient for us to remove the snare and treat them. They are then woken up and allowed to recover at their own pace. This is enormously satisfying work and we have the pleasure of saying that we have made a difference to many individual elephants and rhinos over the last few years.



Tracking rhinos from the air



Derek in flight

Sometimes our work proves hazardous. In September 2016, I was flying our gyrocopter in Thuma Forest Reserve in Malawi with the Reserve Manager, Lynn Clifford. We were conducting a surveillance patrol attempting to locate poached elephants following the loss of several animals the week before.

About an hour and a quarter into the flight, the motor suddenly stopped during this low level operation. I was forced to land aircraft in hilly, wooded terrain on the African Rift Escarpment. The result was a broken aircraft, two smashed heels for me and a broken arm for my passenger. My passenger was treated in Malawi and is recovering adequately. With excellent medical care in South Africa during the last three months of 2016, I am happy to report I am on the mend and will be back in the air soon!



Aerial view of a fishing village on Lake Malawi



Elephants wading in the Shire River in Liwonde National Park Malawi

Derek's grandfather, David Macpherson, home in Blairgowrie Scotland, came to Africa in 1921 as an officer in the King's African Rifles in Tanganyika (Tanzania). Five years later he resigned his commission and moved to Nyasaland now Malawi, where he became an ivory hunter and tobacco planter at Namitete where Derek and his family still live today.

Derek was born at Namitete in 1970, the first child of European origin at the Catholic mission hospital there. He was educated at St Andrew's College in Grahamstown, South Africa and attended the University of Natal, graduating in 1993 with an Honors Degree in management of multi-species grazing systems. He first pursued a career as a professional hunter which took him to some wonderfully wild areas in Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Malawi. In 1998 he married Shannon Coutts from South Africa and they now have two girls, Morgan and Meren.

Derek took an early interest in his Macpherson heritage and learned to play the bagpipes at school. In 2014 he became Chair of the South Africa Branch now known as the Africa Branch. He is thoroughly enjoying furthering the cause of CMA on African soil.

THE HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY

By John C House, MOM, FSA Scot



Scotland is a place rich in natural and historic beauty. Therefore, there are many choices of places to visit. In this article, I shall highlight a spectacular location in the west of Mainland, the largest of the Orkney Islands. That place is the Heart of Neolithic Orkney, which was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999. This designation recognizes it as a very important place. This is certainly not an understatement, as the wealth of archaeological evidence found there bears witness to its obvious importance to people in pre-historic times.



Maeshowe Chambered Tomb, Orkney

The site is made up of a complex of Neolithic and early Bronze Age monuments that date between 5,100 and 3,500 years ago. It provides evidence of the domestic, ceremonial, and burial practices of a long extinct culture that flourished for centuries in northern Scotland. This complex site includes the Maeshowe chambered tomb, the Stones of Stenness, the Ring of Brodgar, the settlement at a Skara Brae, and much more. I shall briefly describe just some of the wonders that can be seen at this place.

Maeshowe is considered to be the finest example of a chambered tomb in Northwest Europe. Contained within a grassy mound, it rests upon a large, circular platform and is surrounded by a ditch, and beyond that is a bank. The tomb is entered through a long, low stone passageway that leads to an elaborate, stone lined chamber with side cells. Maeshowe's construction has been dated to about 5,000 years ago. Archaeologists suspect that it was used for communal burials. What is certain is that during the three weeks before and after the winter solstice (December 21st), the rays of the setting sun shine straight down the entrance passageway, illuminating the back of the chamber. An interesting feature of the interior chamber is early medieval runic inscriptions left by Viking warriors who had broken into the tomb sometime during the 12th century. They may be associated to an incident mentioned in the 13th century Orkneying Saga.

A short distance from Maeshowe are the Standing Stones of Stenness. What is now seen at Stenness is quite different to



Standing Stones of Stenness, Orkney

how it would have looked when constructed between 5,400 and 4,500 years ago. They were originally surrounded by a henge and a ditch and outer bank. Access to the site was by way of a causeway to the north. The original stone placement was an oval about 30 metres in diameter. Although subject to different interpretations, a small arrangement of stones may have been associated with a hearth. Shards of pottery and animal bones have been found on the site, leading researchers to conclude that this site may have been the location of feasts or other celebratory activities.

Nearby, the Ring of Brodgar is regarded as the most spectacular and best preserved prehistoric monuments found in the British Isles. Arranged in a near perfect circle, approximately 36 of the original 60 stones survive. It is one of the largest of all Neolithic henges, measuring 130 metres in diameter, including its ditch - the ring of stones themselves measuring 104 metres in diameter. It is estimated that the Ring of Brodgar was constructed between 4,500 and 4,000 years ago, making it slightly later than Stenness, which is considered to be the earliest henge in the British Isles. Like Stenness, archaeologists believe the site served a social and ceremonial function, probably commemorating the dead.



Ring of Brodgar, Orkney

If you haven't yet been there, the Heart of Neolithic Orkney is an extraordinary place, and well worth a visit on a future trip to Scotland.

KILTS AND CEILIDHS

By Helen Macpherson Potts



Another successful Robbie Burns Ceilidh in Prince George, hosted by my friends Michael & Sylvia Eaton, has come and gone. There were two never-seen-before features at this event. The first and most important was that Michael now owns a kilt and can do the “Address to the Haggis” in style instead of wearing his plasticized kilt apron. After dinner, Michael and Sylvia explained the origin of the kilt, kilt pin, sporran and sgian-dubh to their guests, some of whom had never attended a Robbie Burns dinner, let alone eaten haggis.



Michael and Sylvia demonstrating highland dress for the Ceilidh

There was music, laughter and the second feature: dancing! Well, a wee bit o’ dancing. Brian and I thought we’d put some of our ballroom dance lessons to good use so Brian fooled everyone into thinking they would have to get up and dance. As the dance floor was probably only 8ft x 8ft in size, there was no room to teach a Virginia Reel or even a St Bernard’s waltz, and certainly not the space for Strip the Willow, so Brian and I had to improvise. Our contribution to the dancing portion of the ceilidh was to do an East Coast Triple step (not terribly Scottish) to The Proclaimers song “I’m on My Way” (very Scottish in its origin if not its style).



Helen and Brian doing the East Coast Swing

To further celebrate Robbie Burns and all things Scottish, our local Celtic Club had a Robbie Burns evening the following Saturday. There was a Knobby Knee contest (my friend Michael didn’t win), music from some members of Out of Alba and from Richard Parks, an amazing fiddler from the East coast, who also danced a jig. At least at the Celtic Club venue there was room for Strip the Willow!

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

By John C. House MOM, Provincial Councillor



My role as Provincial Councillor has come to an end as I have left Newfoundland and relocated to Nova Scotia to pursue a new career opportunity. I certainly intend to remain involved with the CMA, especially assisting Mark with his excellent work putting together the Green Banner. This will include writing articles that members may find interesting.

There are many Macpherson folk (including associated families) residing in Newfoundland and Labrador. I will endeavour to find someone to accept the role of Provincial Councillor for Newfoundland and Labrador.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Helen Macpherson Potts, Provincial Councillor



Up here in Prince George, BC's "Northern capital", the months of January and February are cold, dark, dreary and seemingly endless. I wait, impatiently, for the days to get longer, the temperature to get above zero and colour, namely green grass, to reappear as currently the world outside my window is shades of white, grey and brown. This year, however, the dreariness was broken up by lovely chats with Ed Smith and Mark Macpherson, reminding me how important it is to connect with one another as clan members across this vast country as I am sure I am not the only one who feels geographically isolated at times. The irony is that an 85 year old (Mark) has encouraged this 49 year old to embrace technologically and use Skype. Yes, I was dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st century. As BC Councillor, I look forward to chatting with some of our BC members regarding the survey and hopefully by the time this article reaches the Green Banner in March I will have had the pleasure of speaking to some of them. If any Clan members would like to chat, I can be found on Skype under the user name Helen Potts. I'd love to hear from you!

NOVA SCOTIA

By Bruce Gillis QC., Provincial Councillor



Not much in organized Association news, but there are some significant events among the clansmen of interest to report:

First our son Paul and his wife Mary had their second child, a fourth grandchild for Debbie and me, on the 17th of January, 2017. (I'm guessing 17 will be his lucky number). Proud

Grammie and Grampie are delighted.

The weekend of February 12, the second massive storm of the season closed down the east coast. Schools, businesses, public transit, government offices, postal service, courthouses, and the like were all shut down. Even the military were told not to report to base, but unfortunately for our son-in-law Josh who is an air force maintenance engineer, he had left aboard a



Proud Grampie with the new arrival

Navy frigate on the day before the storm. He was out at sea amidst 90-100 kph winds and the seas were huge, so we were concerned about him! Incidentally my plow truck got stuck in 7 foot drifts while I was digging out requiring a local farmer to come with his tractor to release the vehicle.

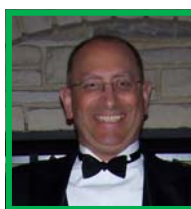
Burns Night was celebrated by many Scots at the Annapolis Mess at the Greenwood Air base, with several joining in the entertainment by members of the pipe band with highland and Scottish country dance troops. Yours truly performed the Address to the Haggis, and of course had a wee dram to seal the toast.

I have been getting the phone survey of clan members moving along and will be sending results to Mark over the next few weeks.

Debbie and I have moved to a very comfortable home also in Paradise NS, and are heavily involved in finding and sorting our stuff to reorganize our lives. We hope to be able to entertain some Macpherson clansmen in due course.

QUEBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO

By Myles G Macpherson CD., Provincial Councillor



As with most of the country Quebec and Eastern Ontario are in the midst of a good winter. The snow is coming and this creates opportunities for the enjoyment of outside activities.

Linda and I attended one of the many Robbie Burns suppers in January with Mark and June. This dinner is always a fun affair and I had the chance to speak with other like-minded Scottish clan enthusiasts.

The Black Watch Regiment is sponsoring a Tattoo in April here in Montreal and I am planning to attend. This event promises to be filled with several Scottish activities, dance groups, pipes and drums, singers, etc.

I am starting to more closely track the Canada 150 and Montreal 375 celebrations in my area and any Scottish oriented activity. I will provide everyone with more information as it develops. If you are planning to be in the area let me know and I will help you with your plans.

DEADLINE FOR JULY ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the July issue are due on the Editors desk on June 10. 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

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND

By John C House MOM, FSA (Scot).



The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland was founded in 1780 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1783. It is the senior antiquarian body in Scotland and its purpose is "to investigate both antiquities and natural and civil history in general, with the intention that the talents of mankind should be cultivated and that the study of natural and useful sciences should be promoted."

Since 1823 members have been known as Fellows of the Society. There are thousands of Fellows spread across the globe. Fellowship is by election, held annually on St Andrews Day November 30th and is open to all with an interest in Scotland's past. Fellows may use the post-nominal 'FSA Scot'.

Membership in the Society enables Fellows to play an active part in safeguarding Scotland's past. Other members of the Canadian Branch of the CMA have been elected as Fellows, including past Chairmen Wallace MacPherson and Gordon Macpherson.

WE REMEMBER



Mrs. Jean MacPherson of Halifax NS, a Life Member and wife of the late Wallace MacPherson, former Chairman of the Canadian Branch, died on February 3 at the age of 91. Jean was very active in her church and charitable activities. She was the founding Chair of Meals on Wheels in Halifax. Our deepest sympathies go out to her family.



George E Macpherson. We learned in December that George Macpherson of Orangeburg South Carolina, who became a life member in 2008, passed away in July 2009. Our belated sympathies to his widow Judith who remains in Orangeburg and his son Malcolm a life member, who lives in Toronto.



Peter Instater MacPherson. In February we were advised that Life Member Peter MacPherson of Orlando Florida had died in 2009. We offer our sympathy to his widow Joan and sons Peter Callum MacPherson and Daniel Shaw MacPherson of Orlando.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank to following for their excellent contributions and support to the March issue: John Barton (Scotland), Bruce Gillis, Ken Gillis, John House, Sandy Macpherson (Scotland), Derek Macpherson (Africa) Jean Macpherson-Duffy (USA), Shelagh Macpherson-Noble (Scotland), Helen Macpherson-Potts, David McPherson Jr (Australia), Donna McPherson-Rucks (USA), James McPherson, Tony McPherson (New Zealand), Ed Smith.

THE HILL RACE TO CREAG DHUBH

By David McPherson Jr. (Australia)



I travelled to Newtonmore with my parents David John and Sally McPherson, to attend the Platinum Dhubh last summer. As a health and fitness enthusiast in Australia, I decided that, for the experience, I would join the hill race which is held each year at the Newtonmore Highland Games which entails an approximately 8 kilometer run through the rocky Scottish Highlands in Badenoch and up to the peak of Creag Dhubh.

After marching with Clan Macpherson down the hill from Old Ralia on to the Elian, where the games are held, I changed in a car from my kilt and highland gear to appropriate dress to join the hill race. The day was wet with drizzling rain, and the race lived up to its reputation as one of the toughest hill and cross country runs ever, with wet and slippery conditions which made the going tough and treacherous.

It was a lot tougher than I had expected with numerous ravines, crevices and water crossings, not to mention steep hill climbing, and precarious conditions during the descent. The winner of this race had won three times before and is a specialist who finished in approximately 25 minutes, well before the main field was made up of male and female competitors.



David running in the Creag Dhubh Hill Race in 2016

I would like to try it again, but will need to be fit and very agile to join a run like this.

David McPherson lives in Templestowe, Victoria Australia and joined the CMA at the Clan Macpherson Museum in Newtonmore in 2000. He lived in Glasgow Scotland for four years where he attended Kelvinside Academy. On return to Melbourne in 2011 he completed an honours degree in Industrial Design at Swinburn University, Melbourne. David presently works at International Solutions Management (ISM) in Melbourne as a designer and Project Manager. His hobbies and interests are, golf, physical fitness, scuba diving, and world travel. He has attended three Gatherings in Scotland and is an active CMA member in Australia.

CANADA 150 MUSEUM PROJECT

By Ed Smith and Mark Macpherson



Canada was established as a country 150 years ago and 2017 is therefore our sesquicentennial year. For the past two years we have been soliciting from our members material to include in a major exhibit in the Clan museum at Newtonmore Scotland. In previous issues of the Green Banner we have reported to you on our progress.



From the early days, before Canada became a country, Scots immigrated here, contributed much to the development of

the fur trade and other businesses. They carried out major explorations that made the country possible by 1867. Since Confederation, Scots have continued to come and apply their boundless energy and enthusiasm to building the country in areas such as commerce, military, and government.

We are confident that their descendants, some of whom are presently members of CMA, will continue this tradition.

The Museum has challenged us to provide 150 panels of display material consisting of images and some descriptions of what our forbearers and we did during the past 150 years to contribute to Canada by their work and their presence. Remember those of you who are over 75 have lived through half of this period and could easily have a story of your own.

This is a significant challenge, but we took it up confidently knowing we could rely on our members to come forward with ideas and suitable materials for the exhibit. Our Australian cousins had already produced a similar exhibition in the museum and we can see no reason why we couldn't do as well.

Although we have some material for displays, we will likely fall well short of the 150 panels unless we get more images and stories. We would like you, our members, to look again at your family history and the photographs that your family have accumulated, and see if you can contribute to our Branch exhibit at the Clan museum. The Canada 150 Exhibit is scheduled to open in 2018 so we have time to pull together and produce a first class display. Are you with us?

How about it?

You can contact Ed at Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org or Mark at Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org and tell us what you can do to help, or to simply tell us we were wrong to take up this challenge and are not of sound mind.

68TH CANADIAN ANNUAL GATHERING



The 2017 Gathering will be held at the Best Western Brantford Hotel and Conference Centre in Brantford Ontario on the weekend of September 15 to 17.

Our Chairman Ed Smith has been working hard to present a memorable experience for CMA members and guests at a reasonable cost. The program for the event is under development but promises to be in the best Macpherson tradition.

At this point we are asking you to reserve the date and start lining up your guests. The Gathering is an ideal time to introduce potential members to the Association.

More details including registration cost, will be available in the July Issue of the Green Banner.

We have negotiated a special rate for standard room at \$110 per night. For those who wish to book early to ensure a room contact the hotel at 844-235-2049 and quote the booking code "Clan Macpherson".



Photo of a standard room taken by Ed Smith

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

At an auction in Glasgow a wealthy American announced that he had lost his wallet containing £10,000 and would give a reward of £100 to the person who found it. From the back of the hall a Scottish voice shouted, 'I'll give £150.'