



# THE GREEN BANNER

## NEWSLETTER

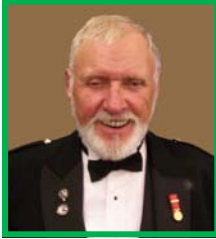
Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 11 Number 3

FALL ISSUE

September 2017

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



**M**y, how time flies!. The last quarter has continued to be one of looking ahead and meeting deadlines.

We will soon be enjoying the reunion of old friends and meeting new members who are attending their first Gathering and Annual General Meeting on September 15 to 17 in Brantford ON.

I have been involved in the Canadian Branch member survey working with the Committee under the guidance of Mark Macpherson. The survey is in the assessment stage and preparation for the report to Council.

The local Highland games are coming to a close. A few members of the Branch including me, managed to attend six Scottish Festivals and Highland games in Ontario. There is further information under the Games report on page 9 in this issue. I hope there is someone who will come forward to cover these games in the future, as I will be unable to continue this next year.

The Council has been working short-handed for almost a year with some of us doing double and even triple duty to ensure the Canadian Branch can continue to function and serve you the membership. Individually the positions are not complicated and take only a small amount of a person's time. However, under the current situation I foresee the possibility of burnout in certain functions.

I urge you to consider stepping forward instead of hanging back.

I managed a little side trip before attending the 71<sup>st</sup> Clan Macpher-

son Association Gathering in Scotland this year. The tour along the west highlands and up to Skye was really great. I got to visit a couple of castles and even saw Hogwarts Express, aka The Jacobite express.

The Gathering in Badenoch was smaller than the Platinum Dhubh last year, however there were almost two hundred in attendance. We had a terrific time and the weather was great. It only rained one night and the rest of the weekend was sunny or at times slightly overcast.

Two items of interest that came from the CMA Council meeting: First, the revisions to the Canadian Branch constitution were approved, and second the formation of a new CMA Europe Branch was authorized

The Clan March to the Newtonmore Games went off without a hitch. I had the honor of carrying the Canadian sword and served as one of the Chief's bodyguard. I was concerned that the Canadian cromag would not be present, but as luck would have it there were four new members from Edmonton AB including Chris Demier, who was properly turned out carried the cromag with great deal of pride, while his wife, Shawna Biamonte, her sister Margaret, and mom Christine, watched from the sidelines. A big welcome to, Chris, Shawna, Margaret and Christine to their first event with CMA.

The usual Clan walk was a little more than just a stroll though the village. After driving a few miles past Laggan, we were faced with a 600ft climb in elevation to visit an ancient Celtic



Clan Chieftain Alastair of Pitmain, Jamie of Cluny representing his father Cluny, Chief of Clan Macpherson, Ed Smith as Sword Bearer, and Clan Chieftain Lachlan of Glentruim, leading the Clan March onto the Elan.



Sir William Macpherson TD, Chief of Clan Macpherson, leading his clansmen and clanswomen up the Royal Mile. Our Chairman Ed Smith CD follows behind on the left.

Continued on Page 2

## TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



**T**he Canadian Branch is in good shape financially as of the end of July. We have \$7,995 in our current account and \$11,131 in our Life Membership Fund. We are showing a profit of \$530 year to date at the end of July. The profit is largely because we have paid the deposit for the clan gathering and to date eight people have registered resulting in a deposit of \$760.

I remitted our membership fees to Clan Macpherson Association in May. Since then I have received one annual, which was paid using PayPal, and one junior membership. These and any others will be remitted mid-September in accordance with the clan association guidelines.

I am only expecting the expenses associated with our clan gathering for the remainder of this year. Our clan gathering is typically self-supporting and so should not affect our final financial position.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Clan Gathering in Brantford September 15 to 17.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank to following for their excellent contributions and support to the September issue: Bruce Gillis, Ken Gillis, Scott Gillis, Bill Macpherson, Donald J MacPherson (USA), Helen Macpherson-Potts, Myles G Macpherson, Donna McPherson-Rucks (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,

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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

hill fort. The view was something to behold.

The following day, August 8<sup>th</sup>, Clan Macpherson was honoured at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The theme at the Tattoo this year was a Splash of Tartan and two clans were selected to be honoured at each performance throughout the month of August. The preparations were quite involved.

With 110 clan members present, we gathered in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle. From there we were marched in patrol formation down through the Castle gate where we were met by Cluny and then onto the Esplanade. The Clan Chiefs exchanged formalities with the Officer commanding the Castle and a representative of the Tattoo who took the salute. When the formalities were completed, we were dismissed and went to our respective seats in the stands to enjoy the tattoo. The performance that followed was the best I have ever seen!

Yours Aye, Ed Smith CD.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

By Mark F Macpherson



Here we are with summer winding down to fall and the September issue is safely in bed. Scott Gillis in Newfoundland, having read the July issue, felt inspired to share his adventures in Scotland tracking down traces of the Gillis family. With Scott's

fine example, I hope other members who

read his story, feel similarly inspired to share their family stories with us. Don McPherson from Sault Ste. Marie Michigan was asked by our Chairman Ed Smith to share his thoughts on the Kincardine Games, which he was visiting sort of "on spec". Don and I worked on his story which started with a couple of lines and eventually exceeded 300 words. I am mentioning this, because many times I have offered to work with prospective contributors and Don's story is a good example of collaborative writing. I can guarantee you that I can cure even the most persistent case of writer's cramp. So if you have even the germ of an idea – let's have it. The more the merrier!

Donna "Dee McPherson" Rucks kept us informed of her continuing activities in Scotland. Donna pops up with great stories and enough high-resolution photos to sink a battleship to illustrate them each time. There are always hard choices with the limited space in the Green Banner, but Donna never complains about her choices that do not appear with her stories. I am trying to use as many photos as possible in each issue, without shrinking them to the vanishing point. Please send in your photos with captions, and possibly we can weave a story together around them or just publish them as is.

As your Editor, I am only as good as the contributions I receive for each issue. Anybody for the November issue?



## THE PIPE OFF

By Donna "Dee McPherson" Rucks



Give a bagpiper the stage, and he will lead the charge! Put two pipers on that stage, and they'll pipe you an exhibition!

As part of the terms to receive our Visit Scotland grant of £4300 (C\$4600) for the 2017 Gathering Marquee, we created two new events. The Pipe Off was one of them. Since I had suggested it, Jean put me in charge of making it happen.

I contacted pipers and contacted others who knew pipers. Two excellent pipers committed: Mary Macpherson and Donald Mackintosh. I asked Xerxes Herrington II, Vice-Chair of the US Branch to act as MC. We had a little pow-wow, and he took charge of the hour.

Xerxes engaged the audience immediately by welcoming all to the Pipe Off, and gave a general overview about how we would be entertained during the event. Xerxes then introduced the two pipers, and the entertainment began!

Mary and Donald alternated and piped a total of 14 tunes. They introduced each number with a few words about the tune, the composer, and techniques for playing it. They played marches, strathspeys, and reels for us. I was on the edge of my seat with excitement, for I love the bagpipes and often stop in my tracks when I hear the mournful sound.

At the end of the final set, they answered questions from the audience about their own bagpiping history, about learning the fingering and practicing with the chanter, and of the importance of cleaning the pipes.



*Commander Xerxes Herrington II USN (Ret) thanking the pipers for their outstanding presentation and performance*

I was thrilled at how well the event was received. It was a huge success with 75 attendees. The decision was quickly made to hold a Pipe Off as an annual Sunday afternoon event at the Gatherings. Well done Pipers!

## NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Mark Macpherson, Acting Registrar

Since the last issue of the Green Banner, We welcome four new annual members who found us on-line. They were the first to use our new on-line application form instituted this summer.



**Gwelda Macdonald-Tuttle** of Pickering Ontario, was born in Williamstown, in the heart of UEL country - Glengarry County. Her maternal grandfather was a MacPherson and her paternal grandmother a McPherson.

She attended York and Queen's universities. The whole of her professional career was in the field of social services. Her first position after graduation was with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind as an orientation and mobility specialist. Gwelda ended her career at the Ministry of Community and Social Services as a policy advisor on developmental disabilities. She is retired and an ardent reader of mysteries, Canadian literature and history. She enjoys researching family history. Time spent with family and good friends is a gift.



**Douglas Murdoch** of Ormstown Québec was a high school teacher for 32 years until his retirement in 2009. He taught English as a second language and coached the boys and girls rugby teams. He was also involved in Outdoor Education, which included such subjects as backpacking, climbing and kayaking. He still volunteers for coaching rugby at the high school.

Doug is an Associate Member of the Royal Canadian Legion and was President of the Ormstown Branch. He discovered Clan Macpherson while surfing the Web and was impressed with its informative content which prompted him to join CMA to find out more



**Brad Farmer**, of Kingston Ontario is a Regular Force member of the Canadian Armed Forces, and spends his "down" time teaching Air Cadets how to play the bagpipes, and as a piper with the local militia unit, the Princess of Wales own Regiment in their Pipes and Drums.

Because his family tree was lost with the passing of his grandfather, Brad completed it during a year of extensive genealogy research. He found that he is connected to Clan Macpherson by way of his 4th great-grandmother in Dundee Scotland circa 1746. Despite all his worldly travels and deployments, Brad has yet to visit Scotland, and yearns to do so to develop his family tree even further.

**Duncan Scott McPherson** of Essex Ontario also joined but for whom we were not able to obtain details for this issue.

# STUART GOWER McPHERSON

By Mark F Macpherson



Stuart McPherson our 11<sup>th</sup> Branch Chairman, served from 1991 to 1993. He was born in London UK in 1934 and grew up during the Blitz in World War II dodging bombs and attending school when it was relatively quiet.

In 1949 he became a Photographic Lithographic Apprentice, starting a lifelong career. His career training was interrupted by National Service when he was conscripted into the Royal Air Force where he served in Kenya for two years. On leaving the RAF in 1954, he completed his apprenticeship in lithography.



Stuart Dressed for the ball.  
circa 2000

Stuart married Sylvia Pearce in 1955, emigrated from the UK to Canada in 1956, and started work in his chosen profession in Oshawa Ontario. He continued his education, taking extra-mural courses at Guelph and McMaster Universities in Industrial Management.

In 1998 He graduated as a professional photographer from the New York Institute of Photography at the tender age of 64. Stuart won many international awards for his work which was published in several magazines such as Photo Life, Photo Digest and Canadian Camera. Some of his photographs are still available at an art store in the Niagara area.

Stuart was an avid competition cyclist, taking part in both junior and senior massed events in the UK. He represented Great Britain in a senior massed start race when he was just a junior cyclist. During his working life in Canada, Stuart continued his keen interest in sports, umpiring in softball leagues and coaching amateur junior hockey plus serving on softball and hockey league executives.

In 1985 Stuart and Sylvia both joined CMA as Life Members and he became a very active supporter of the Canadian Branch. In 1989 he was elected to Vice-Chair and took on the job of organizing the Branch membership list, placing it on a computer disk for easy access and retrieval. Stuart purchased a tent and established a Clan Macpherson presence at several Highland games in Ontario, even acting as Chieftain of the Games at Georgetown on one occasion. On another occasion at the Fer-

gus Games, the Macpherson tent was visited by then Prime Minister Kim Campbell. Stuart and Sylvia were very involved in organizing the third Joint Canada US Gathering held in Niagara-on-the lake in 1990

Following his election to Branch Chairman in 1991, Stuart was instrumental in starting the "Bratach Uaine" newsletter (The early version of the Green Banner), getting Gordon Macpherson

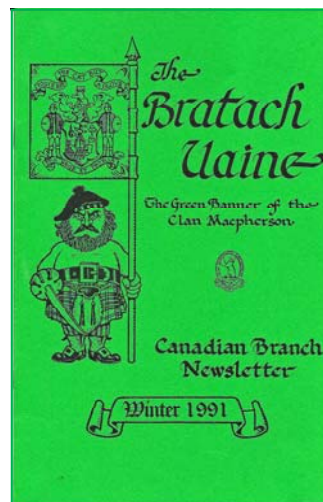
our heraldic artist and now Honorary Chairman, to prepare suitable cover art work. Stuart then arranged the printing of the newsletter for the Branch. He got Douglas MacPherson a former Chairman, to take on the job of editor and several issues were subsequently published over the ensuing years. Stuart attended Clan Gatherings in Badenoch both before and after becoming Branch Chair. During his tour as Chairman, he organized Canadian Gatherings at Halifax, Georgetown, and Hamilton. Stuart represented the Canadian Branch for several years at various US Branch Gatherings. At one of the US Gatherings, held in Chicago, the US Branch presented him with a certificate in recognition of his "outstanding and dedicated service" for which Stuart is justly proud.

Stuart and Sylvia had five children, who then produced 12 grandchildren, followed by 17 great Grandchildren. In 2012 he became a great-great grandfather. In China Stuart would be known as a walking ancestor! Two of Stuart's grandchildren, Nicholas Lord, and Tiffany McPherson were until recently, members of CMA. He hopes when they are less busy with their lives, they will pick up the torch again and will be an inspiration to all of his descendants whom he hopes will become members of CMA!

Sadly In 2012, Sylvia passed away leaving Stuart to soldier on alone. He kept up his interest in CMA, in spite of some health issues, attending Gatherings when he could and providing useful advice to the Governing Council on which he continues to be a member as a former Branch Chair.



"Midnight Snack" one of Stuart's prize-winning wildlife photos



Cover of Bratach Uaine





## CMA CHAIR REPORT

By Jean Macpherson-Duffy



**A**nother successful Clan Gathering was just completed in Badenoch with over 160 members and guests enjoying the various events.

But first I want you to know that the changes to the Canadian Branch Constitution were approved by the Council on, August 4<sup>th</sup> and ratified by the membership at the AGM the next day.

Well done! We also look forward to the results and interpretation of your membership survey. Trying to determine how to attract younger members who have the time to provide for the Association business is a challenge for us all. We look forward to your answers and insights.

Before the Highland Ball, we had the presentation to Cluny of the large engraved silver platter that had been secured by Allan Macpherson-Fletcher with the donations from many of our members. The occasion honoured Cluny for his many years of leadership and love to all of us. Smaller silver trays were also given to Jamie of Cluny and Annie Le Roy-Lewis for their service to the Clan.



Allan Macpherson-Fletcher presenting the commemorative tray to Cluny. Eliza Le Roy-Lewis, Jamie of Cluny, and Jean Macpherson-Duffy behind

We added two new features to the Gathering this year:  
One was the tug-o-war at the Newtonmore Highland Games.



The Broken Rope

This had been a feature in the 70's and 80's but was dropped when the Macphersons couldn't match the "heavies" who were participating in the athletic events. This year, after receiving permission from the Games committee and receiving a rope, I asked for two teams put together by our branch chairmen. The participants were to include young and old, men and women, locals and clansmen and women. The results were wonderful. We had two groups who pulled mightily when the shout "PULL" was uttered. But one side (put together by the US chairman, Bonnie) had enlisted some of the "heavies" after all. The result was hysterical and predictable – but the rope broke. Knotting the rope once more, a second attempt was made with a "sort-of" victory for the clan – but the rope broke again. So much for resurrecting an old sport! But it was great fun and very funny.

The other, a piping event, was organized by our Association Secretary, Donna Rucks, on Sunday afternoon. Two of our pipers, Mary Macpherson and Donald Mackintosh participated. They have very different styles and experiences. The audience of about 75 asked questions – the type of opportunity that we rarely experience. For example: We discovered that pipes can cost from £600 to £2000 or more. The two pipers explained the differences and choices available. We loved the music and the education we received.

The sun shone warmly on our Clan March this year, unlike the previous two years when rain was threatened. Once again I was very proud to lead the Clan Macpherson onto the field at the Newtonmore Games.



Jean proudly leading the CMA group in the Clan March from the Rahlia

## A FAR CRY FROM LOCH AWE

By Scott Gillis



Family history research naturally has its share of both frustrations and rewards. From my earliest recollections there was a strong of interest in family history in my family. Although our Scottish lineage was never questioned and proudly stated, as close as we could come to our place of origin was Dad's

allegation that our ancestors came from Argyll. Little more was known and despite many efforts to trace the line back, the connection to Scotland was elusive. There were many stories of past generations, their deeds, their military background, and their humorous exploits but unequivocally determining who was the original Gillis settler to West Dalhousie, which overlooks the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia, was a challenge.

Over the years progress was made by my siblings on our family's involvement in the early years of the settlement. Eventually in 1998, I made contact with a fellow researcher who had moved to London, England from Windsor, Nova Scotia. Kim MacDonald and her partner Michael Barton were intrigued by the tale of Archibald Gillies and determined to see what they could find. The only clues being the year of settlement (1817) and some sort of military connection.

Kim and Michael became fast friends as Michael made his many trips to the former Public Record Office (PRO) in Kew, and Kim kept me updated with his progress. After searching the musters and other related documents in the War Office files for every regiment of the line, every militia regiment, and every fencible regiment for over the likely period of interest, Michael uncovered several soldiers by the name of Archibald Gillies. We could easily eliminate a few and finally arrived at one who had enlisted in the Breadalbane Fencibles in 1793 who looked intriguing.

Over the next few years, we continued to exchange information and ultimately

ended up with a trail that led from Archibald's enlistment in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. in March, 1793, through discharge from the 1<sup>st</sup> and re-enlistment in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, a couple of months later, the birth of his first child Daniel, while stationed at St. Andrews, Fife, in 1798, disbanding of the Breadalbanes, re-enlistment in the Loyal Surry (sic) Rangers, 1799, the birth of his second child Mary, while in Portsmouth waiting to be

shipped out to Halifax, disbanding of the Surrys, re-enlistment in the Royal Military Artificers (later the Royal Sappers and Miners) in 1802, and finally discharge from the Royal Sappers and Miners in 1816. But throughout all these records the only reference to his place of birth showed up in a latter record of the Royal Sappers and Miners located after several years of research that simply indicated Dalavich, Argyll.

From what I have uncovered since this discovery, Dalavich has always been a small hamlet on the north shore of Loch Awe, in the county of Argyll of course. Its history goes back many hundred years but it never apparently was more than a cluster of a few farms. The church that is currently standing was built in 1770 although it seems that it is highly likely on the site of an earlier structure. It has been my passion to some day visit this place and see first-hand where my great-great-great grandfather called home for the early years of his life. So

in May of this year, my wife Jose and I visited Scotland. After an amazing train ride from Glasgow to Oban, we rented a car and drove through Taynuilt, then along the challenging path to

Dalavich. It was well worth the journey! I will never forget walking the trail up the Avich River towards Loch Avich to see the numerous waterfalls and seeing an owl fly across our path. The scenery was amazing, the midges were terrible, and the people were wonderful. I hope to go back with my children and spend more time but for now I have the memory of walking the shores of Loch Awe where Archibald would have strolled over 225 years ago.



*Dalavich Church built in 1770 on the site of a previous church.*



*Looking west over Loch Awe from a lookout along a pathway there.*



*One of the scenic waterfalls located along the Avich River.*



## MY ADVENTURES AT THE 2017 GATHERING

By Donna "Dee McPherson" Rucks



**D**estination, Badenoch, to enjoy the 71st Gathering of Clan Macpherson Association! My three week-long summer visit was timed perfectly to help produce and also enjoy the events. Those five intense days were filled with Clan activities, with the Edinburgh Military Tattoo the grand finale. This story focuses on the wanderings before and after the Clan Gathering, and some of the folks who made this a memorable trip.

After arriving in Newtonmore and barely leaving my room at the B&B for three days, organizing for the Gathering, I needed a break. I took the train from Kingussie to Inverness, and toured that area for two days with friends and CMA members George and Janice Andrews. We had a look inside the Inverness Cathedral and a visit to the Bishop's Palace. We took a drive at sunset over the Moray Firth to the Black Isle, enjoyed fish at the North Kessock Hotel, then drove under the bridge like trolls to look back at the lights and the other side of the Firth.



*Brodie Castle and my friends George and Janice*

The next day took us through Nairn to walk around the Old Parish Church, to see the ancient gravestones and the Granny Pine. Then, we went to Brodie Castle for a tour. The highlight of the tour came when we entered the sunlit drawing room, and the tour guide asked, "Who plays the piano?" My hand shot up before I knew what was happening. "Would you like to play the baby grand for us?" I had just 5 seconds to mentally prepare what it was I'd play. I was destined to play "Cántame," that I wrote last year. I took a deep breath, smiled, focused on the meaning of the words, placed my hands on the keyboard, and gave a small concert!

The next few days were a blur of final prep for the Gathering, and the arrival of Macphersons from around the world. Booking in to enjoy the weekend activities were 198 members and

guests. Activities included the Highland Dinner/Ball, the AGM, the Highland Games, the At Home, the Supper/Ceilidh, the Walk, the Museum Talk, and new this year, the Pipe Off! In addition, nearly 100 Macphersons joined the locals to attend church at Kingussie Parish Church for a hymn filled hour and sermon on Sunday.

The five intense and exhausting days of the Gathering culminated in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo on Tuesday evening. I took the train from Kingussie to Edinburgh on Tuesday morning, deposited my bag at the Witchery Castle Hotel, then walked to the Scott Monument and climbed to the top! Up I went those 95 steep stone steps, for some breathtaking views of the city and several unforgettable moments.

Next stop, the Edinburgh Military Tattoo with 114 other Macphersons, for the march onto the castle esplanade behind our Chief to open the Tattoo performance. Mustering 2 hours early inside the Castle walls gave me a chance to take a few photos of the incredible displays of weaponry and wood carvings in the Great Hall. The time came, and our Pipers led us through the gate and over the drawbridge to meet up with Cluny for our march, watched by all the folks in the stands.

Literally overcome with the spectacle, I was totally impressed with the sound and light show that the Tattoo presented to the sold-out audience. Featuring "Splash of Tartan" as this year's theme, the Tattoo entertained us royally with performances by The Massed Pipes and Drums, The Indian Naval Band, The Shetland Fiddlers, The US Naval Forces Band Europe, to name a few of the 17 separate entries on the Music Programme.



*Burning Viking ship accompanied by the Shetland Fiddlers at the Tattoo*

I completed my visit to Scotland by posting 66 Gathering photos with captions on "The Official Clan Macpherson" Facebook page, writing this story, and getting a head start on writing up the Minutes for the Council Meeting and the AGM. Then on to home and back to normal!



## CIAMMAR A THA THU ?

By Donald John MacPherson



I like to experience as many different Scottish Festivals/Highland Games as I can. I discovered the Kincardine Festival and was lucky enough to be off work the weekend of June 8, my scheduled long weekend. The fact that Natalie MacMaster was playing on Friday night closed the deal.

My fiancé Barb and I entered the grounds on the Friday via the side entrance not realizing there was a Clan Macpherson tent set up at the main entrance. We discovered the clan tent later on Saturday.



Dr. Ewan Macpherson  
Class 1 piper

Unfortunately, I had not brought my kilt on the trip, but I wore my Clan Macpherson polo shirt, which was recognized by someone who relayed my presence to Ed Smith. That someone was Ewan Macpherson, a piper of high regard in any arena, and a clan cousin. Ewan and I were both a little surprised that we had not seen each other since 2004 at a highland games in Ohio, where my daughter was competing in highland dancing. At these games Ewan had competed in “piobroch”, which I understand is like a slow air played with bagpipes.

Ewan inquired if my daughter was at Kincardine in the dancing competition to which I answered, “Ewan she is thirty years old now!” To which Ewan responded

“Funny how time flies!

The other member of Clan Macpherson I ran into was Ed Smith. We have communicated via Facebook, but I had not met him personally. Except for the tartan, and of course the fact that he was at the clan tent, I may not have recognized him, as I have met so many Ed Smiths at so many Clan Macpherson functions, I easily lose track.

Ed and I discussed clan Gatherings, Clan Association membership interests, and assorted clan topics - very entertaining!

*Slainte Mhath!*

Don joined the US Branch of Clan Macpherson Association in 1997. Since 1990 he has worked as a Safety Officer on the international bridge that joins Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario and Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. He has attended several Annual Gatherings in the States and in Scotland, and really enjoys meeting Macpherson cousins from different locales where the camaraderie is contagious!

His title for this article, “Ciammar a tha thu ?” is Gaelic for “How are you?”

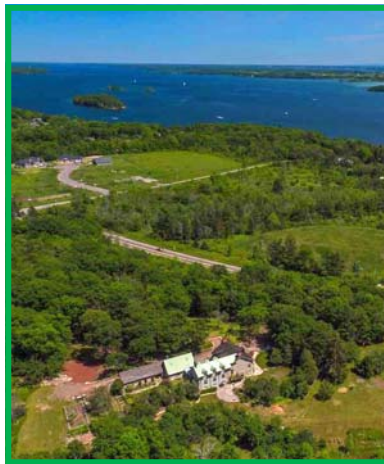


## SALE OF CLUNY HOUSE

By Bill Macpherson Past Chairman



One of the highlights of the 2012 Branch Gathering in Kingston Ontario was a visit to Cluny House, built circa 1817, graciously offered by the owners Anne Croy and husband Carl who both gave us a wonderful tour of the house and grounds.



Drone shot of Cluny House Kingston Ontario

This July, I received an email from Anne advising “It is with deep regret that I have had to place Cluny House in Kingston up for Sale. My husband Carl died suddenly at end of March and I cannot maintain the property on a long term basis” Anne also attached a superb drone photo of the position of the house relative to the St. Lawrence River.

An article on the Cluny House visit, which included our Chief and Lady Hilary, appeared in the November 2012 issue of the Green Banner, and an earlier one on Lt.-Col. Donald Macpherson the original owner, in the July 2010 issue. Both of these issues are available on the Branch web page at,

<http://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/banner.html> .

For more information on this property with interesting Macpherson history you can visit:

<http://davidwilsonsteam.com/listings/948-highway-2/> and read the real estate listing.

## DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the November issue are due on the Editors desk on October 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 .



WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH...  
THE TOUGH EAT HAGGIS



# HIGHLAND GAMES 2017

By Ed Smith



This has been an interesting year for me where I have represented Clan Macpherson at some of the Highland games in Ontario. Bob Archibald (Port Hope) had announced his retirement as our games representative at the Annual General Meeting last September, so I took on this additional task for this summer. Since the July issue of the Green Banner I have attended the four games reported below:

## Embroid Highland Games July 1

This event was well attended and included sheep, dog trials, cattle, the heavies and the usual Highland dancing, pipers, as well as a pipe and drum competition.

There were eleven clans represented. Interestingly Clan McKenzie and Clan Mackay had organized a combined reunion and dinner for that evening. At the Clan Macpherson stand, I was kept quite busy with interest shown by the passers-by, and answering various questions. This was the first time I had set-up in an arena where at the other end the dance competition was taking place. There were a surprising number of competitors, and the dancing continued until late in the afternoon.

## Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games July 8

I arrived very early on the 8<sup>th</sup> and checked in to a friendly and well-organized group. I was shown to the tent supplied by the organizers, where a table and chairs were waiting to be put to use. There were eight other clans in attendance, arranged in semicircle amongst shady trees.

The crowds were quite impressive with an estimated 2000 in attendance. Don McPherson from the US Branch came down all the way from Sault Saint Marie Michigan and visited our stand.



*Kincardine Games enjoyed a good attendance as evidenced by the large crowd*

There were quite a few questions and even from some people who were not aware of the existence of the Canadian Branch. Hopefully this venture into uncharted land will pay off in the future with new members, as there are a large number of Macphersons in this area of Ontario.

The Clan March started several blocks away at the local Legion and proceeded to Victoria Park the site of the games. A member of Clan Chattan Association assisted me by carrying the Clan Macpherson Banner in the parade.

## Cambridge Scottish Festival July 16

I had previously made arrangements to have a tent, table and chairs provided as well as three tickets included for the day. I had asked for volunteers from the area to join me. Bob Archibald from Brantford responded and joined me in the morning. He was very helpful, greeting and talking with the many visitors to our stand during the day.



*Bob Archibald and Ed Smith at the Clan Macpherson tent in Cambridge*

There were the usual activities which were held throughout Churchill Park, the site of the games. The clan area was some distance from the dancing and the pipes and drum events so it was a little quieter than games held in other venues we had experienced. People seemed to wander through our area in waves between changes of events elsewhere on the field. This was the third games in a row where the weather had co-operated, as it was sunny accompanied by a gentle breeze.

## Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games August 12

This year Fergus Games enjoyed unusually good weather for a change. However there was a severe storm that had ended the Friday evening functions earlier than planned.

Saturday was a busy day. Bob and Sondra Archibald joined



*Opening ceremony at Fergus. Bob Archibald is carrying the Association Banner. Behind is Ed Smith and a gentleman named Gow who joined our contingent to help out with carrying our Macpherson parade banner*

me at the Macpherson tent, where we were kept busy by many Macphersons who were not yet members and other visitors, some from as far away as Manitoba. The crowd finally thinned out sometime after five pm.

My camera has been giving me problems as of late, and as luck would have it, Denise Lagundzin a new member of the Branch, volunteered to take a few pictures for us.

My thanks to Bob and Sondra Archibald, for their assistance. A special thanks to, Denise for taking photos at Fergus.



## BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Helen Macpherson Potts, Provincial Councillor



If we weren't feeling isolated from the Lower Mainland before, those of us living in the Central interior certainly were this summer. Over 200 forest fires started on July 7, mostly from dry lightning strikes, others from careless use of campfires and in some cases, arson. Our beloved route South to Vancouver, Highway 97, has been closed most of the summer and in Prince George, we have been accommodating 8,000-10,000 evacuees from communities threatened by wildfires. At the time of this writing Prince George has not been on alert but we are all thinking about what we'd take and where we'd go in the event of an evacuation as there is still a month of summer left! Hmmm. That reminds me. Must remember to put "kilt" on the evacuation list of must take with us...



Fires at Williams Lake south of Prince George

## NOVA SCOTIA

By Bruce Gillis QC., Provincial Councillor



Due to my summer travels and fitting into my new home in Paradise, I have not much to report on the CMA front. However I would like to share with you a formal charitable event that Debbie organized in our community and that we both attended recently. It gave me an opportunity to put on my Highland regalia.

The Paradise Moonlight Concert is an annual fundraiser held each August, with a 25 piece swing band playing music from the big band era. This year the concert was held on a friend's riverside property. The show was a great success, with spectators coming from as far away as New Zealand, Europe, and the Caribbean.



Bruce and Debbie at the Moonlight Concert Paradise NS

## QUEBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO

By Myles G Macpherson CD., Provincial Councillor



The summer season is both in full swing and also about to end. The premier events in my area are the Maxville Highland Games, the Montreal Highland Games and the Quebec Celtic Festival. Although I did not personally attend the events by all accounts from



Caber toss at the Montreal Highland Games

friends who were there each was a roaring success. These games are all family friendly events. There is something for everyone to enjoy including activities for the kiddies. This year the Montreal Games had several addi-

tional events in the evenings leading up to the games as part of Montreal 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, including a Caber Toss. As some of you may be aware, our Prime Minister The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, visited the Maxville Games this year. As usual there was piping dancing and other sporting events to keep all and sundry busy and happy. I am looking forward to the events that normally accompany the fall, such as the St-Andrew's Annual Ball and the Robbie Burns Supper.



PM Justin Trudeau kilted up at Maxville

## THE 68<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GATHERING

15-17 September  
Is ready for you!

The special rate at the Brantford Best Western is still valid subject to room availability.

Registrations are being received by our Hon. Treasurer.

Here is who you will see at the Gathering so far: Bob and Marlene Archibald, Robert and Sondra Archibald, Mary Margaret Gillies, Ken and Ella Gillis, Bill and Irene Macpherson, Mark and June Macpherson, Ed Smith, Dee Engle, Rod Smith, Kim Griffith, Cayla Griffith, and Alex Cornish.

WILL YOU BE JOINING US?