



# THE GREEN BANNER

## NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 12 Number 2

AUTUMN ISSUE

September 2018

### NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Denise Lagundzin, Registrar



Greetings Cousins!

I hope you are having an enjoyable summer.

Please keep us updated with any life changes, as well as any changes in your telephone number or address.

We welcome four new members to our Branch of the MacPherson Clan Association.



**Graham MacPherson** met his piper wife at the Glengarry Highland Games. They live near Johnstown Ontario on a hobby farm with a small fold of Highland cattle. They have 4 children and 3 grandchildren. One of their daughters met her husband at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxwell and the family continues to meet there each year.



**Jason Smith** lives in Brantford, Ontario with his wife Ann and three children. He has always been interested in his Scottish heritage and with the discovery of his family's ancestry decided to join CMA. Jason is a Director of Facilities working in Toronto working both in building operations and construction. In his spare time, he enjoys lifting weights and spending time with his family.



**Suzanne McPherson** lives in Billings, Montana. She has been researching her family history for 25 years and the McPherson trail has gone cold for her. Her ancestor John McPherson was born in 1797 in Lennox Addington County, Ontario and that is the last thing she has been able to dig up. She and her family visited that area several years ago, and found it to be beyond beautiful. She is hoping to

find others who may be looking for McPherson's that she can connect with. She enjoys camping, reading and traveling.

**Cynthia Best** from Caledon, Ontario has also joined. Unfortunately, her photography and bio are not available at this time.

Welcome everyone and I look forward to meeting at the Gathering this month.



### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By Ed Smith



Greetings Cousins:

Summer has been grinding down to the reality of returning to the school year. There is the hope however that all cousins in the CMA Canada branch are preparing for the Canada Branch annual General Meeting and Gathering that will be held at the Best Western Lamplighter

Inn, 591 Wellington Road, London, Ontario from Friday, Sep-

tember 28th until Sunday, September 30th. Please note that registration is open until September 27th (a copy of the Registration Form can be found at the last page of this issue). As a reminder, rooms will be held until September 13th. After that, they will be based on availability.

The location is easily accessed via Highway 401. We have rooms set aside for the Clan and these need to be booked early. Call the Lamplighter Inn at 519-681-7151 and identify yourself as a Clan Macpherson Gathering participant to re-

*Continued on Page 2*

## TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The clan association is in good shape financially as of the end of June.

We have \$6,701 in our current account and \$11,131 in our Life Membership Fund.

We are showing a loss of \$685 year to date at the end of June.

The loss is largely because we have paid the deposit for the clan gathering. To date 8 people have registered for the gathering using PayPal and I have not transferred the money from PayPal yet.

I will be remitting our membership fees to Clan Macpherson Association in July. Memberships received after I remit, 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 London, September 28th to 30th.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank to following for their excellent contributions and support to the September issue: Denise Lagundzin, Ken Gillis, Robert Archibald, Beth McPherson Frost and Ed Smith.

### THE GREEN BANNER

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

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

**Officers:**

Ed Smith CD, Chairman

Ken Gillis, Honorary Treasurer

Janet McCredie, Honorary Secretary

Denise Lagundzin, Registrar

**Immediate Past Chairman:**

William Macpherson PEng

**Regional Councillors:**

John C House, MOM, FSA Scot, Eastern Canada

Major Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec and Eastern ON

Robert T Macpherson, Western Canada

**Webmaster:** Ewan Macpherson PhD

**Editor:** John C House MOM, FSA Scot

**Editor Emeritus:** Mark F Macpherson CD, FSA Scot

Inquiries and articles may be sent by email to [Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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ceive the special rates. Efforts have been made to encourage families to attend as can be seen on the registration form found in the Canada Branch section of the CMA website.

See Link: [www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/](http://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/)

We have guests attending this year from Scotland, England and the US. The newly appointed CMA Chainman, Bill (Glenfarg) Macpherson and his wife Jan will be in attendance. It should also be noted that Jan is the CMA Registrar and Editor for Creag Dhubh. The US Cousins and their Guests will bring a message from the US Branch Chair along with newly appointed CMA vice chair Bonnie Macpherson. This is the first visit from cousins from beyond our borders in a number of years. Here is an opportunity to learn more regarding the Association.

By all reports, those who attended the Gathering in Brantford, Ontario last year had a great time. It is my hope that we will see cousins who were unable to attend last year. Come out to support the endeavors of convener Janet McCredie and her committee of one, Ewan Macpherson!

As for myself, I have had an interesting season thus far. From answering inquiries from folks not presently members of the Association, attending the Skype meetings of the CMA council that are held each fall and spring in the museum at Newtonmore. As well, I attended the US Branch Annual Meeting in Dallas and the Annual CMA Gathering in August.

As usual we have been working hard at providing a CMA Canadian Branch presence at various events throughout Canada. Bob and Marlene Archibald, Bill (Mississauga) Macpherson, Ken Gillis and I have attended a number of Highland Games in Ontario. Robert (Bob) Macpherson (Western Canada Representative) is attending to Highland Games in the Prairie Provinces. Our Editor and Maritime area Representative John House has been busy in the Maritimes.

We are all meeting and speaking with a number of potential new members. Thank you for your participation and personal expenses. For those who are not aware, this sacrifice at times can add up to as much as a life membership in a season. Albeit, the benefit is the experience of meeting folks from all walks of life. There is a real need for members to step up and help shoulder the load.

Yours Aye,

Ed Smith

## DEADLINE FOR WINTER ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the Winter issue are due on the Editor's desk by January 15th, 2019. We look forward to input to the Green Banner from all members. Send your drafts or outlines as soon as possible to:

[Greenbanner326@gmail.com](mailto:Greenbanner326@gmail.com)



# 2018 HIGHLAND GAMES REPORT

By Robert J Archibald



The Clan Macpherson was represented at several Highland Games in Ontario this summer, including the Uxbridge Scottish Festival, The Cobourg Highland Games, and the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville.

Marlene and I attended the Cobourg Highland Games on June

15th in Victoria Park in Cobourg. These games are a mere 10 kilometres from home and are not a chore for us to cover. Parking is a problem though as it is not free near the Park and I believe it is a problem for some of those wanting to attend these games. We sold a small amount of material and distributed a good deal of information to those who were interested. Weather was good but being near the lake it can be cool.



Cobourg Games

The Uxbridge Scottish Festival was held on July 28th. It was and is making a comeback having been unable to find good people to look after these games. The original group of dedicated individuals put together a fine effort this year to bring these games back to the original glory of years gone by. Admittance was free to everyone this year and attendance was quite respectable because of it. Weather was cloudy with just a hint of rain so the dancers were able to compete without seeking shelter.



Glengarry Clan Parade

The Glengarry Games were held on August 3rd & 4th in Maxville, Ontario. Marlene and I were accompanied in manning the Clan Tent by our granddaughter Isobel. These Games host the North American Pipe Band Championships and I'm told there were 50 plus pipe bands in attendance from all over



Glengarry Clan (barn) Booth

North America. These numbers are down from previous years when 70 plus (in my memory) and perhaps more were the norm. We had two excellent days of weather with just a light shower or two, and a good representation of present and future members in the Clan Parade. We also signed up 1 new member



Ed Smith, Bob & Marlene Archibald, Bill Macpherson, Georgetown Games

and distributed a good deal of information to interested individuals. We also received a heartfelt "Thank You" from an appreciative clansmen for taking the time and effort to represent the Clan Macpherson at the Games he regularly attends.



Ed Smith manning the tent at Fergus Highland Games



## EGYPT – THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS

By Ken Gillis



Ella and I have wanted to visit Egypt for many years. Things finally looked calm and we decided to book our trip.

We flew to Cairo to start our Egyptian adventure. Because we had combined two tours together we had our first day as a free day. What to do with a free day? We decided to walk to the Egyptian

Museum, which was reasonably close to our hotel. The walk was pleasant and we had no uneasy feelings. The most dangerous part of the walk was crossing the roads.

We spent the whole morning and half the afternoon wandering throughout the museum. This museum houses the treasures recovered from the tombs of the pharaohs. King Tutankhamun's (King Tut to his friends) tomb is the most complete. King Tut ruled for a relatively short period of time and had no major campaigns or battles. Yet, his tomb was filled with many very valuable artifacts and his death mask was made of 22.6 pounds of gold. The king's mummy was in the sarcophagus which was inside 3 gold covered boxes each slightly larger than each other. The museum was almost worth the trip by itself, but we were just getting started.



*Ella & Ken at Giza with Pyramids in distance*

The next morning we started our tour with a trip to the old capital, Memphis. In Memphis we saw the colossal statue of Rameses II and the alabaster Sphinx. From Memphis we travelled on to Sakkara where we saw several step pyramids—the largest being that of Djoser I, dating from 2686 BC. Also at Sakkara we saw the walled funerary complex associated with Djoser's tomb / pyramid. It was all very impressive but we were still waiting to see the pyramids at Giza, which was our next stop.

The pyramids at Giza did not disappoint. The largest and most impressive is the pyramid of Cheops (or Khufu) and close to it is the pyramid of Chephren (or Khafre) who was Cheops son. It is smaller but positioned higher on the plain to make it appear taller. Tradition would not allow him to build a greater structure than his father, thus the move to higher ground. There is a total of six true pyramids at Giza with a number of much smaller structures, called queen's pyramids in the area. I went into one of the smaller true pyramids down to the burial



*The Temple of Nefertari*

chamber. I was surprised at how warm it was even though I was about 50 metres below ground.

Part of the Giza complex is the Great Sphinx. The head of the sphinx is thought to be a likeness of Khafre with the body of a lion and the tail of a cobra. The sphinx was created to "clean up" the area. The stones for the pyramids were quarried from this area and the body of the sphinx was a large unquarried rock in the middle of the plain.

Our next day started with a visit to the Citadel, which overlooks the city of Cairo and was originally built by Salah El-Din, of crusader fame, in the twelfth century. The complex was expanded by Mahammad Ali and the Alabaster Mosque added. We left the Citadel and headed for the Egyptian Museum. We had visited the museum on our first day but with a guide to describe what we were seeing, it added a whole new level of understanding.

The next morning we flew from Cairo to Aswan and on to Abu Simbel. Because of luggage problems we missed our flight from Aswan to Abu Simbel. The next (and last flight of the day) had only 2 seats available and our group was 4. Our tour director solved the problem of who stays and who goes by taking the passports of the 2 ladies, holding them behind his back and asking one of the ladies to choose a hand. Ella chose his right hand and we went to get our boarding passes for the next flight. The tour director then went and hired a car and drove the other couple from Aswan to Abu Simbel.

When the other couple arrived at our lake boat, we went to see the temples of Rameses II and Nefertari (his wife). These temples were originally located 65 metres down the mountain, but the flooding that would be caused by the Aswan high dam would have covered them. The temples were surrounded by a coffer dam and then carefully cut into 20 tonne blocks on average. A dome was created on top of the mountain that resembled the rest of the mountain and the temples were reassembled. The project took 4 years, 1964 to 1968, and cost 40 million dollars, or 300 million dollars in today's dollars.

The temples were truly something to behold in terms of both size and decoration. Because of the later arrival we stayed at the site and waited for the light show to begin. It was not a long wait as Abu Simbel is located just north of the Tropic of Cancer. The light show was wonderful, very informative and entertaining.

## EGYPT – THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS

*Continued from previous page*

The next morning we started our cruise down Lake Nasser to Aswan. The boat cruise was very relaxing and we stopped at various sites that had been moved to prevent flood damage from the Aswan High Dam. There was some very impressive engineering work done to relocate the buildings and the artwork on their walls.

On our first day of cruising we passed the Citadel of Kasr Ibrim. It was once a formidable city high above the Nile River, but today it appears as an Island due to the construction of the Aswan High Dam.

Later that day we reached Amada where we viewed the amazing temple built by Thutmose III. We also walked to the Temple Derr built by Rameses II.

Walking a little farther we reached the rock carver tomb of Penout. Penout was once a Viceroy of Nubia during the reign of Rameses VI. It was getting dark as we left the site and at the temple of Derr the generator had run out of fuel and the temple was in darkness.

Early the next morning we cruised to Wadi El Seboua, an area also known as the Valley of Lions. The temple at Wadi El Seboua was restored by Rameses II and is entered by walking up a boulevard lined by sphinx. A very impressive entrance. The temple Amun was added by Rameses II to mark his jubilee



*The Temple of Rameses II*

celebrations which were about 30 years into his reign. One of the guests on our tour remarked that if you were asked to name who the statue was, and if you said Rameses II you had a good chance of being correct. Rameses II became Pharaoh of Egypt when he was 24 and died when he was 94. He was a vigorous campaigner with many victories

After exploring the temple we walked up the causeway to the Temple of Dakka which was probably built by a Nubian King to honor Thoth about 220 BC.

As the Roman Empire expanded it became a fortress protecting the southern border. We left and moved on to the Temple Maharraqa which features a winding staircase to the roof. There is no other structure in Egypt of this period that has this feature.

We boarded our boat and cruised on to the Aswan High Dam. But before disembarking we went to visit the Temple of Kalabsha. The temple was built by the Romans about 30 BC as a

tribute to the sun god. The same site has the Kiosk of Kertassi and the Temple of Beit El Wali both built by, you guessed it, Rameses II.

This ended our lake cruise but we continued on with a cruise down the Nile to Luxor.

More on that in the next edition.

## THE MACPHERSON DNA PROJECT

*By Beth McPherson Frost*

In August 2006, Professor Alan G. Macpherson PhD from Newfoundland, Canada proposed to the leaders of the Clan Macpherson Association (CMA) to commence a DNA project to verify the various clan histories and genealogies through Y- Chromosome testing. The Macpherson Project Group was launched in March 2007 at Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) out of Houston, Texas. Professor Macpherson published his first results of the DNA project's testing in the clan association's annual Creag Dhubbh No.61 in 2009.

As of this writing we have grown to nearly 300 members. FTDNA now offers tests for YDNA, Mtdna, Family Finder and the BigY which is now our ultimate DNA test. The YDNA and BigY tests are for the paternal lines. We recommend our new male members start with a Y67 test for the best results, although they can begin with a Y37 test. YDNA tests the DNA passed down from father to son.

The Mtdna is used by women or men who wish to trace their mother's line as it traces the X- Chromosome, which both men and women carry. As a genealogical note, remember female surnames change from generation to generation.

FTDNA's Family Finder test is the test for autosomal DNA. Family Finder is a very popular and inexpensive test, which will show 4-6 generations of cousins. This is a test for both men and women. Many of our male members like to purchase the Family Finder test along with a YDNA test. This provides maximum benefit for research of DNA and genealogy. To get started, either go to [www.FTDNA.com](http://www.FTDNA.com) to obtain information or you can contact one of our project administrators who will be more than happy to guide you through the process.

Administrator: Athol McDonald: [macdon@iinet.net.au](mailto:macdon@iinet.net.au)

Co-Administrator Beth McPherson Frost:  
[bfro23@yahoo.com](mailto:bfro23@yahoo.com)

Co-Administrator John Templer Harper:  
[j.harper5@bigpond.com](mailto:j.harper5@bigpond.com)

The Macpherson Project also has a Facebook Group with currently over 250 members. All Macpherson Project members and CMA members are invited to join. It is called the MacPherson DNA Project, [Http://www.facebook.com/groups/499302200413599](http://www.facebook.com/groups/499302200413599)



## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

By John C. House



This is my second sole attempt at putting together an edition of the Green Banner. Mark had an outstanding product which was very informative and useful to members of the CMA. In an effort to bring the Green Banner to that standard I am therefore reaching out and requesting the input of members of the Canadian Branch to contribute articles and updates to the Green Banner. If you think you can help out please feel free to contact me and I will document your interest and reach out to you again when the timelines are approaching.

I will also be reaching out to the Regional Councillors across Canada. We are very interested in hearing about things that are happening in the regions. We would also like to hear from any young people who would like to write a regular contribution from a youth perspective of the Clan Macpherson Association. Contributors to the Green Banner may write on a variety of subjects ranging from Scottish cultural activities in their regions, historical pieces, tourism pieces, or any issue that they think might be of interest to the broader Clan membership.

Here in Nova Scotia there is a significant cultural connection to our Scottish heritage, with many events that should interest CMA members. For example, starting on October 5th and running until October 13th there is the Celtic Colours International Festival. This event provides an opportunity to experience the culture and music of Cape Breton Island, including its rich Scottish musical heritage (and where many Macpherson's still reside). Here on the east coast we also have Highland Games each summer, including the annual Antigonish Highland Games (running from July 7th to 14th, 2019), and the New Brunswick Highland Games & Scottish Festival (2019 dates not yet available). In St. John's, Newfoundland, the St. Andrews Society hosts its well-attended annual Burns Supper each January.

On another note, Chairman Ed Smith wishes to acknowledge the fine performance by the Canadian Branch's only Junior member at the Newtonmore Highland Games this year. Caleb Macpherson of Oshawa, Ontario (son of James and Kelly Macpherson) is a piper who competed at the Newtonmore Games,

### ADVERTISING IN THE GREEN BANNER

Members are reminded that there are opportunities for advertising space in the Green Banner. We would like to defray the expenses of publishing and distributing our newsletter and also contribute to Branch operations. The rates per issue are as follows;

Eighth Page	\$12
Quarter Page	\$20
Half Page	\$35
Full Page	\$65

The Green Banner is read by adults and children alike across the country and is circulated outside of Canada.

Anyone wishing to advertise their business, services or talents, or events that might be of interest to our readers, should contact [Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org) for more details and multi-issue rates

## 69TH GATHERING



### CANADIAN BRANCH - CLAN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION

**September 28, 29, and 30, 2018**  
**Best Western Lamplighter Inn**  
**London, ON**

finishing second in one section of the junior class. He subsequently had another fine performance as he participated in the pipe-off on the Sunday evening event of the Macpherson Clan Gathering. Well done!

In the photograph below, Caleb is seen next to Ed (centre) as the Macpherson Clan marched onto the field at the opening ceremonies of the Highland Games (as they do every year).



*Macphersons marching onto field at Newtonmore Games*

## US BRANCH AGM AND GATHERING

**SHERATON PORTLAND AIRPORT HOTEL**  
**8235 NE Airport Way Portland OR 97220**  
**October 5-7, 2018**

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# Clan Macpherson Association

69th Canadian Branch Gathering in London Ontario

September 28, 29 and 30, 2018

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**Registration Deadline: September 6, 2018**

Host Venue: The Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn and Conference Centre,  
591 Wellington Rd. South

Name of Member	
Telephone or Email	

	Price each \$ Cdn Funds	Number Attending	Total \$
Adult Member	\$120.00		
Adult Guest (Dinner only)	\$100.00		
Youth (14-18 years)	\$50.00		
Child (4-13 years)	\$25.00		
Infant (less than 3 years old)	N/A		
Total Registration \$			