



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 4 Number 3

November 2010

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

While at the Rally we were fortunate to enrol two new members in the Clan Macpherson Association, David and Mary Lynn McPherson of Ottawa. They quickly became known to everyone and certainly enlivened the events they attended.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Greetings all. I am happy to have the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Canadian Branch but am somewhat intimidated by the large shoes I have to fill. Mark Macpherson with the strong support of his wife June has set a very high standard of performance for this post so I will have to work hard to sustain the progress that has been made.

We had a very successful Joint Meeting with the American Branch in Baddeck Nova Scotia in October. It was a pleasure to work with Stuart Macpherson of New Hampshire who was the US Branch Convener. The Inverary Resort was very pleasant and the staff most accommodating. It was a great weekend spent with friends of long standing and a great opportunity to make new ones.

It was particularly pleasant to have our Chief, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie with his companion, Hilary, Lady Burnham and CMA Chairman Shelagh Macpherson Noble and her husband Alistair Noble with us for the weekend. Former CMA Chairman, Sandy Macpherson from Edinburgh also attended. I believe that Sandy has attended more meetings of the Canadian Branch than most of our members have.

The meeting was even a financial success as we had more members register than planned so enjoyed a small surplus. Most of the surplus was achieved from the extraordinary results of the raffle conducted by Mary Margaret Gillies, Ron and Danna Fitton and Peggy Brewster. There was just over \$1,000 worth of tickets sold for the draw and some very generous prizes that helped generate such a great amount of interest.

Great credit must go to Lois Urquart Mussleman of Wasaga Beach ON for convincing us to hold the meeting in Cape Breton. Lois was very involved in making the local arrangements and in providing entertainment for both Friday and Saturday evenings. Her cousin, Ava Strum gave a masterful and very entertaining demonstration of Cape Breton fiddling and dancing on the Friday evening and many joined the sets for the dances on Saturday evening.

We all left the meeting with a renewed sense of our clan as a family group and look forward to more frequent interaction with each other.

The Annual General Meeting was well attended and the discussions interesting. The single major concern continues to be membership in the Association. Our current members are ageing and while the number of younger members who have recently joined has encouraged us, we still have little in the way of programs or activities that interest young people. We hope to address that in the coming year and I would welcome any suggestions that anyone may have that would provide some direction.

It was great to have members of the Executive from a number of Provinces at the meeting. For too many years the Canadian Branch has mostly involved people from the central part of the country. One recognizes that it is expensive and time consuming for members who live at a distance from the normal sites of our meetings to attend but this year indicated that an interesting site with a good program and other local activities can draw a crowd and we must be open in the future to consider invitations to hold meetings in other parts of Canada.

In the coming year I hope to get to know more members on a personal basis and look forward to receiving advice about programs and activities that will help make membership in the Clan Macpherson Association more meaningful to us all.

Yours Aye, John C Gillies

HIGHLAND GAMES 2010

By John Gillies and Mark Macpherson

The Macphersons came to Fergus and conquered it! We had a great turnout on Saturday with 13 Macphersons on parade for the March of the Clans with our banner, two flags and one carved cromag. The tent was well decorated and staffed by at least two people all day with Bob Archibald and Douglas Macpherson doing most of the work. A constant stream of visitors was greeted by members at the Macpherson tent.



Jaqueline Murdoch (left) leading the Clan Macpherson contingent at Fergus

At the end of the day about twenty of us gathered at Bob and Marlene Archibald's campsite for cold libations and a delicious barbeque which featured barbequed roast beef and sausages, freshly picked corn on the cob boiled in a large caldron, a variety of salads, coffee

THE GREEN BANNER

Published from time to time to bring news to the members of the Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association

Officers:

John C Gillies, Chairman
William Macpherson, Vice Chairman
Ken Gillis, Treasurer
Tia Hall, Registrar

Executives:

Jacqueline Murdoch, Convenor AGM 2011
LCol Mark F Macpherson CD, Editor
June Macpherson, Administrative Advisor
Jean Whitten

Provincial Executives:

Maj. Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec
Rod Smith, Ontario
Dr. Brian Macpherson, Manitoba
Donald E Pearson, Alberta
Robert Sinclair MacPherson, BC

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and cake. It was a most pleasant evening. Our thanks in particular are due to Marlene who organized the barbeque during the day.

The efforts made by Jacqueline Murdoch to encourage members to attend for the day were well rewarded. A highlight of the evening was the arrival of Hilary, Bob and Marlene's granddaughter who displayed a beautiful crystal trophy awarded to her as first runner up in the 'A' 12 to 14 age group dance competition. The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games is the largest such event in the world outside Scotland. The competition in all events is keen so an award of that magnitude on Hilary's part is outstanding.

In addition to the Fergus Games, Bob and Marlene attended the Highland Games at Maxville, Ontario as has been their custom the last few years, followed by the Games in Montreal the next day, where they were joined by Mark and June and later Myles, Linda, and Arielle. The weather in Montreal that weekend was great and we saw much interest in the displays at the Macpherson tent



June Macpherson and the Archibalds enjoying a moment at the Montreal Games

JIM McPHERSON HONOURED



This year a signal honour was paid to James (Jim) McPherson, who after 42 years of dedicated service in organizing soccer for young people of the Toronto area had a park named after him. The ceremony was attended by many of the young people whom he had coached, as well as his extended family. How nice that this recognition should come during Jim's lifetime so that he might know how his work is appreciated by the community.

PROFILES OF MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVE

As has been the practice in past issues, the Green Banner will solicit short profiles from members so that we get to know each other. The priority up to now has been on publishing profiles of the members of the Executive so that those who have not met them will be aware of the members who have been elected to hold office. Many members of the 2010-2011 Executive were featured in previous issues and we ask you to check your copies or visit the Canadian Branch page on <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/banner.php> to find these profiles in earlier issues of the Green Banner. For this issue we offer three profiles of members of your Executive.

TIA HALL



Tia, our Registrar elected this year, was enrolled as a Life Member of the Clan Macpherson Association in the month of her birth by her grandfather, Dan W. Gillies of Wheatley. She grew up in Toronto and her principal activities were horseback riding in the summer and skiing in the winter. After obtaining a Phys Ed degree from Wilfrid Laurier University she spent several years in Whistler, BC working as a ski coach and instructor and a white water rafting guide. On her return to Ontario she moved to Collingwood where she worked as a ski racing coach and administrator. She has worked for Blue Mountain Resorts for a number of years where her current position is Accounting Receipts Manager.

Tia and her husband Kevin live in Meaford with their cat and four dogs. Two of the dogs are a breeding pair of Rottweilers and a litter of puppies is anticipated mid winter.

Tia has attended numerous CMA meetings including the 2002 Anniversary Gathering in Badenoch. She provided much help with local arrangements for the gatherings held in Collingwood several years ago. She has just started a term as Registrar of the Canadian Branch and can be contacted regarding membership information at:

tiahall@bluemountain.ca
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Meaford, ON
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KEN GILLIS



Ken Gillis, elected Treasurer at the 2010 AGM, was born in Ottawa, Ontario. Moved to Creemore, Ontario for his teen years when his father was transferred to Camp Borden. He completed high school in Collingwood. Ken located to Toronto to accept a position of inventory operator with the Procter and Gamble Company.

In Toronto he met and married Ella in 1967. Ella and Ken refer to their wedding as their centennial project. They have two daughters, Heather and Wendy. Heather has a son, Connor, and a daughter, Lyndsy. Wendy has two daughters, Mackenzie and Dakota. Ella and Ken currently reside in Burlington, Ontario.

Ken held many positions in his forty years service with Procter and Gamble, eventually becoming project manager with responsibility for the Americas and Asia as part of a global team charged with conversion of existing computer systems to SAP systems.

Ken is an avid squash player, enjoys carpentry and likes to take on do-it-yourself projects, both at home and for friends and family. Ella and Ken enjoy travel. With their next big trip scheduled to take them to Machu Pichu in the spring of 2011. Ken is also currently treasurer for his church.

Ken joined the CMA at the Maxwell highland games in 2008. He missed the rallies in Collingwood and Quebec City because of prior travel commitments. Ella and Ken attended a CMA gathering in Toronto and attended the Fergus highland games August, 2010. Ken attended the rally in Baddeck, October, 2010. Ken is looking forward to active participation in the Canadian Branch Executive and to attending future rallies with Ella, both here in Canada and internationally.

Profiles Continued on Page 4

DON PEARSON



Donald Edward Pearson, the Provincial Executive for Alberta, was born in Alberta and has resided in Calgary all his life.

Don was educated in Calgary attending both Mount Royal College and The University of Calgary.

A born entrepreneur Don started his first company in the early seventies after a brief stint as a Rock musician/singer and has been a businessman in the Calgary area and western Canada since this time involved in Instrumentation, Oil & Gas Consulting, and Real Estate.

Married to Linda since 1989 they have no children and have spent many years travelling around Alberta, B.C., Hawaii, Trinidad & Tobago and a 6 month sabbatical to Mexico.

Don joined the Clan Macpherson Association in 2006 after researching his ancestry and finding out that his first ancestor to Canada arrived in 1835 from Scotland and settled in Manitoulin Island, Ontario.

Don and Linda attended their first Canadian AGM in Baddeck this year and plan to attend the Scottish AGM in 2011 and also the Canadian AGM in Toronto.

Don has joined The St. Andrew Caledonian Society in Calgary which interestingly enough was started by Calgary's first Mayor, whose last name was Murdock.

His hope is that through these associations and attending various Highland games in the coming year will increase membership in the province.

A WEE BIT O' WHIMSEY IN NEWTONMORE

By June Macpherson

After settling ourselves at "our home away from home" in Newtonmore, Mark and I walked over to view the changes in the museum.



Approaching the Museum I notice a small statue of a white cat in the garden. What was unusual about this cat was that Macpherson hunting tartan trews were painted on it. "How strange", I thought.



Later I noticed another cat under the trees in the garden of our guesthouse. But this cat was painted differently. Further down the road I saw yet another statue of a cat painted most bizarrely black with a white skeleton outline. While visiting the Folk Museum I happened to glance upward and there quite high up in a tree was yet another cat. Puzzled though I was I learned the reason for all of these cats at a tent at the Games. It was a local initiative



to raise awareness of the plight of the Scottish Wildcat which is now classed as an endangered species. School children could locate

on a map all of these cats and if successful in locating all of them they would receive a certificate.



On one of the last days of the Rally we were fortunate enough to attend a most interesting talk given by Douglas Richardson, Animal Collections Manager at the Highland. The

Clan Macpherson Association is actively concerned about the plight of the Scottish Wildcat. Should you wish further information on the Scottish Wildcat go online at <http://www.scottishwildcats.co.uk/>

JOINT RALLY

By June Macpherson

The Canadian Branch has had a most eventful year. The climax of the year was the joint Canadian/US Rally at beautiful Baddeck in Nova Scotia. It was wonderful to see not only our Canadian members but so many American cousins, as well as our Chief and Hilary.

In Baddeck the Inverary Resort is located on the Bras d'Or Lakes and is a charming place in which to hold a meeting. The weather was not too cooperative, with off and on rain showers, but the friendly enthusiasm of everyone attending lifted the spirits of all.

We were joined by four 78th Highlanders, guests of Rod Smith who is a member of that unit, dressed in their bright and attractive 18th century uniforms that, along with the kilts worn by our members, made for a very festive sight in the streets of the community.

As the rally was scheduled to occur at the time of the Celtic Colours in Cape Breton, many took advantage of this fact to attend the concerts featuring young people of the region in song and dance and impromptu sessions in the late evening. Others visited the Alexander Bell Museum, Fortress Louisbourg, or drove the Cabot Trail. Several people, including Cluny, opted to take a tour of the Gaelic College at St Anne's near Baddeck

One of the highlights of Friday evening was a lobster dinner for which Nova Scotia is famous and the lobsters were huge and delicious. After the dinner a Ceilidh was organized by Lois Musselman, who, in spite of having a cast on her leg, managed to get several couples on the floor for Scottish dancing. A choir of intrepid Canadians also performed several songs to the laughter and enjoyment of all present.

Our Annual General Meeting on Saturday morning saw a change in the Executive with the outgoing Chairman, LCol Mark Macpherson, handing the cromag over to the incoming Branch Chairman, John Gillies.

During the meeting R. Gordon Macpherson, former Association Chairman and Niagara Herald Extraordinary, was made Honorary Chairman of the Canadian Branch for the tremendous amount of work he has done for the Branch since its founding as well as assisting Clansmen to achieve their coats of arms.

Saturday saw everyone dressed in their finest for the dinner and Pipe Major Hugh Macpherson, CD was presented with a certificate by Cluny to officially appoint him as a Clan Piper for the Association and to honour him for his contributions to the field of piping, and his compositions for Clan Macpherson.

There was the pitter-patter of rain on Sunday morning (something like a Scottish mist) nevertheless there was a good turnout for the Church service and our members

were piped into Knox Presbyterian Church by Hugh. After good-byes people gathered up their belongings to make their way home.

This account started with mention of our Joint Clan Rally and the warm family feeling that was engendered amongst us all. Ken Crocker, the US Chairman, and his wife, Carolyn, were so gracious and supportive in every way, and Cluny and Hilary were always approachable and concerned that they meet everyone who attended so that by the end of the rally we could only hope that we would all meet again in five years for a repetition of this most successful

family gathering.

For more photos of the Rally see page 8



Rod Smith (second from right) and guests in the uniform of the Fraser Highlanders



Cluny escorted by Gail Montgomery of Gaelic College, St Anne's, with members of CMA following on the tour.

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DR. CLUNY MACPHERSON

Edited by Mark Macpherson

Cluny Macpherson, physician and soldier, was born 18 March 1879 in St. John's, Newfoundland. He completed his early schooling at Methodist College in St. John's and then earned his medical degree at McGill University in 1901. Upon graduation, Dr. Macpherson began his medical career at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. In the following year he returned to Newfoundland to join Dr. Wilfred Grenfell's Labrador Mission, and was placed in charge of the hospital in Battle Harbour, Labrador. He also served as magistrate for the area. Dr. Macpherson remained there until 1904, when he returned to St. John's to begin private practice.

Dr. Macpherson was involved with the St. John Ambulance Association, which led to the creation of the St. John Ambulance Brigade with three divisions in St. John's. When World War I broke out Macpherson enlisted in the rank of captain as Medical Officer of the First Newfoundland Regiment. Members of the St John's Ambulance Brigade enlisted in the Regiment and Macpherson organized these people into an ambulance unit, which served throughout the war.

Cluny Macpherson served in France, Belgium, Egypt, Salonica, and was eventually transferred to Gallipoli where he acted as an advisor on poisonous gas, which the Allies feared Germany was about to use there. He used a German helmet taken from a captured prisoner to fashion a canvas hood with transparent eyepieces that was treated with chlorine-absorbing chemicals. In doing so, he invented the gas mask. This invention was considered the most important protective device of the First World War, protecting countless soldiers from blindness, disfigurement or injury to their throats and lungs. Gas masks are worn by millions of soldiers around the world today although they must handle a larger range of toxic agents.

Following an injury in Egypt, Macpherson returned to Newfoundland, October 1916, and served as Director of Medical Services for the Militia. He was appointed a member of the first War Office Committee on poisonous



gases, and also director of medical services for Newfoundland during World War I. He was demobilized on 9 September 1919 in the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Dr. Macpherson played a continuing role in the medical profession in Newfoundland in capacities such as President of the St. John's Clinical Society and the Newfoundland Medical Association. He remained active with the Newfoundland St. John Ambulance as vice-president of the Association in 1937, and later assistant commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade overseas. Dr.

Macpherson was also Honorary President of the St. John Ambulance Association during World War II.

After Confederation with Canada in 1949, he was a member of the Medical Council of Canada becoming its President in 1954 through 1955.



Dr Cluny's gas mask. The piece in front that looks like a cigar is the exhaler. The wearer breathed through the hood which was impregnated with chlorine neutralizing chemicals

Cluny Macpherson received many honours and awards in his lifetime. In recognition of his many contributions. He was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (1918); Honorary President of the Newfoundland Council of the St. John Ambulance (1953); Honorary Vice-President of the Newfoundland Council of Canadian Red Cross (1953); elected a Fellow of the British Royal College of Surgeons (1955); invested as a Knight of Justice of the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem (1955) elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (14 January 1957); and was awarded an honorary degree by Memorial University (1962). He was also Honorary President of the

Clan Macpherson Association, Canadian Branch, and Honorary Vice-President of the CMA.

Cluny Macpherson married Eleanora Barbara Thompson in 1902. They had two children, one of whom, Campbell, became Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1957. Cluny remained in St Johns until his death in 1966.

The Editor wishes to acknowledge the website of Memorial University and that of Wikipedia for material used in this article. I also wish to thank RGM Macpherson for suggesting this article.

EXECUTIVE 2010 - 2011

With the changing of the guard new ideas, new initiatives, and new energy can be expected. At the Branch AGM in Baddeck, a new Executive was



John Gillies receiving the cromag from Mark Macpherson

electd with several new features. The cromag and Chairman's gavel were passed to John Gillies who will be assisted by a Vice Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and a Registrar as officers, an Editor and a Convener for the 2011 AGM. A complete list of the positions and the current incumbents appears below. Note there are still some vacancies that the Executive will work to fill during the coming year. The Hon. Secretary-

Treasurer role was split in three to spread the work and to tap into the ideas of more executive members. The new Editor will have responsibility for producing the Green Banner and the Canadian Branch pages on the CMA website.

EXECUTIVE FOR 2010-2011

OFFICERS:

Honorary Chairman	R Gordon M Macpherson CM KStJ
Chairman	John C Gillies
Vice Chairman	William Macpherson
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Ken Gillis
Registrar	Tia Hall

EXECUTIVES:

Convener AGM 2011	Jacqueline Murdoch
Editor	Mark F Macpherson CD
Administrative Advisor	June Macpherson
Executive-at-Large	Jean Whitten
Past Chairman	Mark F Macpherson CD

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVES:

Newfoundland	Vacant
Niova Scotia	Vacant
New Brunswick/PEI	Vacant
Quebec	Myles G Macpherson CD
Ontario	Rod Smith
Manitoba	Brain D Macpherson PhD
Saskatchewan	Vacant
Alberta	Donald Pearson
BC	Robert Sinclair Macpherson

The AGM and annual rally is our most important event each year with the work for its organization and execution starting at the end of the current AGM and continuing until the end of the next. For these reasons one of the Executives is assigned to the role of Convener for the AGM.

The Provincial Executive's role is to provide a presence in each province and to help identify and recruit new members across the country. We hope to find replacements for Jean in Saskatchewan and Norman in New Brunswick as both of these members had to retire this year for personal reasons. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their work in their areas.

The objective of the Executive is to serve our members' needs and fulfil their reasons for joining the CMA.



Executive at Baddeck, Left to right - Bob Archibald (Former Chairman), Gordon Macpherson, Jean Whitten, John Gillies, Ken Gillis, Rod Smith, Don Pearson, Bill Macpherson, Tia Hall, Mark Macpherson, June Macpherson.

APPLE BREAKFAST

By June Macpherson

One of the customs that we learned about at the US Rally in Charlotte was the Apple Breakfast. Apparently at one their rallies in the past all first-time members were invited to a breakfast to meet members of their Executive and Cluny, if he was available. Those that were eligible were provided with a lapel sticker in the form of an apple to identify them. The name stuck.

This year an invitation was extended to first-time Canadian members and the Canadian Executive. Needless to say we enjoyed ourselves very much and a photo opportunity was held outdoors in between the raindrops.

Together with our American cousins we made a sizable group and we wish to thank Ken Crocker, Chairman of the American Branch, for the opportunity to meet so many new members whom we hope to meet again at other rallies.



The Canadians at the Apple Breakfast with Shelagh and Cluny

A VISIT TO THE GAELIC COLLEGE AT ST ANN'S

By June Macpherson

During our visit to Baddeck, a tour of the Gaelic college was arranged by Lois Musselman. The College was founded in 1938 as a school devoted to the study and preservation of the Gaelic language, arts, and culture. Students of all ages and abilities from around the world take courses at the Cape Breton campus and also online. On Saturday many members visited the campus and were taken to the Hall of



Gaelic College museum heraldry exhibit

the Clans for an exposé of the activities of the college by members of the staff. The Hall is also an impressive museum devoted to the history of the Scots who emigrated to Nova Scotia.

The large craft shop offered many items made by the students. It was impossible to resist making a purchase or two. Many of the items in the shop can be ordered online at www.gaeliccollege.edu

RALLY PHOTO COLLECTION



Registration



Address to the Haggis by Bill Macpherson



Gordon becomes Honorary Chair



Clan Piper presentation



The intrepid choir



Rally being piped into Knox Church

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GREEN BANNER

Your Editor wishes to point out that contributions of articles and captioned photographs from all members are welcome. The preferred format for written material, including photo captions, is MS Word documents attached to an email message. For photos JPEG format sized to 3" x 4" (300kb) is preferred. If you are not sure of your writing skills send in an outline for discussion.

I look forward to receiving your interesting material for the next issue due by February 2011.

ANNUAL DUES

As this is the last issue of 2010, the Executive would like to remind all annual members that your annual dues should be received by the Registrar in January 2011. Please make your cheque in the amount of \$30 in favour of Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch and send it to

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