



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 8 Number 1

March 2014

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Chantal McPherson, Registrar



What a great way to start our year than to welcome New Members!

Welcome to our new annual members: Suzanne McPherson of St-Bruno de Montarville, QC. Our own Chairman, William Macpherson, has signed up his two sons Andrew Macpherson of Tofield, AB and Stuart Macpherson of Toronto, ON. Rev. Issa Saliba and his lovely wife Eleanor Gillies-Saliba of Oshawa, ON have signed up their family, so a special warm welcome to Kamy, Mark, Madison Elliot and Mathew Keegan-Elliott all of Brooklin, ON. Continuing with our family theme, welcome to Donna McPherson of Belleville, ON and her granddaughter Ella Sheffer, who loves to wear her Macpherson Red pleated skirt! We look forward to meeting you both.

Welcome back Pipe Major Hugh Macpherson, the gathering is in Ottawa this year so we do look forward to seeing you.

I am also thrilled to report that Jim McPherson of Everett, ON has transferred to a Life membership and Dee McPherson of Itasca, Illinois is our newest Life member. It is always such a pleasure to welcome one of our American Cousins. For those of you that attended our gathering in Waterloo you will recall Dee entertained us at the ceilidh playing the piano and signing some of her compositions.

Remember it's never too late to renew your annual memberships or to sign up a family member

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Winter greetings from Mississauga, Irene joins me in sending best wishes, to all Green Banner (GB) readers, for good health, happiness and prosperity in 2014. I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas & New Year holiday with family and friends around. We went to Edmonton over the festive season to spend time with our oldest son Andrew and his family. It was a nice get together as Stuart our youngest, joined us on the trip.

In January Irene and I were invited as honoured guests to the Kitchener Waterloo Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Annual Burns Supper in St Jacobs, Ontario. Our own Ed Smith and, seven members of their sister group (Blair Scottish Country Dancers) entertained us at last year's Gathering Ceilidh, and as a result I was invited along to propose the toast to The Immortal Memory (of Robert Burns) and to recite Tam O'Shanter. The food, entertainment and dancing were excellent and a wonderful evening was had by all.

Southern Ontario is trying hard to emulate an Edmonton winter this year. The snow continues to accumulate outside and whilst I have been enjoying coverage of the Sochi Olympics, I try to convince myself that I am competing as encouragement for shoveling the driveway.

On the subject of competing, I would remind all members that Vice Chair Jacqueline Murdoch and I will be participating in the Creag Dhuhh Hill Run that takes place during the Clan Gathering in Scotland (details were posted in last month's GB). We are using this event as an opportunity for our Branch to raise funds for the Clan museum. If any member would like to

sponsor us please contact Branch Treasurer Ken Gillis or myself. Any amount is greatly appreciated. As many of you know Jacqueline is a seasoned marathon runner and will be keeping track of her race time. I on the other hand will be pleased to cover the course before dark. As a precaution I have already asked our Chief if I can make use of his ancestral cave over night and hopefully finish in time for church on Sunday morning.



Bill's winter wonderland!

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Continued from page 1

Jacqueline has done an excellent job in organizing our 65th Annual Branch Gathering and we look forward to welcoming many members and visitors to Ottawa in September. Details and Registration Form are included with this edition of the GB.

I am pleased to report Green Banner editor Mark is making a fine recovery from heart surgery in December and our thanks go to him once again for compiling another excellent edition of our Branch Newsletter.

Yours Aye, Bill Macpherson, Mississauga

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Y our Editor wishes to thank the following members for their excellent contributions to the March issue: Ken Gillis Bill Macpherson (Mississauga), Helen Macpherson, John Macpherson (Montrose Scotland), Chantal McPherson, Donna McPherson-Rucks Jacqueline Murdoch, Issa and Eleanor Saliba

GAMES SUMMER 2014

By Robert A Archibald



Arlene and I plan to represent Clan Macpherson at the highland games in June listed below . I would appreciate very much if you are able to come and help staff our tent, that you get in touch with me at rarchiba@sympatico.ca as soon as possible. All help is welcome.

June 14, Georgetown Ontario Fairgrounds

June 21, Cobourg Ontario Victoria Park

We look forward to seeing many CMA members at the games this summer. You presence helps to promote CMA and find new members. You will have a good time as well.

THE GREEN BANNER

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

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Major Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec

Rod Smith, Ontario

Donald Pearson, Alberta

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65TH CANADIAN GATHERING SEP.19-21, 2014

By Jacqueline Murdoch



We are very excited to announce that the Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association will be celebrating their 65th Anniversary in our nation's capital, Ottawa, Ontario September 19-21, 2014. In 1947, the late Col. E.R. Rivers-Macpherson OBE laid the groundwork for the Canadian Branch, and in March 1948 with the Hon. Ewan Alexander Macpherson as the Chairman, the first meeting was held at the home of Col. Rivers-Macpherson. On this 65th Anniversary we will take you back and share some of the history of the Branch .

Join us at the Westin Ottawa for a very special ceilidh on Friday evening at the Daly Restaurant. Our AGM will be held Saturday morning. We have two special options to celebrate this special weekend Saturday afternoon. There is a tour of the Centre Block of the Canadian Parliament, Buildings or a



Houses of Parliament in Ottawa

guided tour of the Canadian War Memorial focusing upon the achievements of Scottish Canadian Regiments. Our Highland dinner on Saturday night will be a veritable feast, followed by music and dancing. Services will be held on Sunday morning at St. Andrews Presbyterian. We expect this will be the biggest and best Gathering yet.

If you have never visited Ottawa, the city is situated on the south bank of the Ottawa River in the eastern part of Ontario. On the border of Quebec, it shares the city of Gatineau in the National Capital Region. The name "Ottawa" is from the Algonquin word "adawa", meaning "to trade" and it was initially an Irish and French settlement.

The first city hall was built in 1849, and on December 31, 1857, Queen Victoria approved Ottawa as the capital of British North America. A compromise between English and French settlers, Ottawa was chosen for its proximity between the French population in Lower Canada, the present Province of Quebec, and the English population in Upper Canada, now Ontario. .

Today Ottawa is a thriving centre of international technology and business, rich in culture and heritage, and an example for all cities for its prized parklands and waterways.

We hope you will join us in Ottawa this September for a truly memorable event.

NEW DISCOVERY IN NEWTONMORE

By Rev. Issa Saliba and Eleanore Gillies-Saliba



In the summer of 2012 Eleanore and I had the pleasure of visiting Scotland for the first time. We were fortunate to have been shown around by an enthused and knowledgeable guide, Rod McNeil, who at one time had actually worked in Canada. Upon his retirement, Rod felt the tug of his land of birth at his heartstrings and so is now enjoying living in Sterling and 'guiding' on behalf of the Scottish Tourist Board. By profession a banker, he is also a history buff with an encyclopedic knowledge of Scottish history at home and in the diaspora. Both he and his wife are active members of the historical society in town. After he picked us up at the train station he reckoned that his first duty was to show us Scottish hospitality, so he took us home for a delicious lunch and to meet his family.

After spending a few days touring together, Rod had an instinct that we should visit a nearby institution where we would learn something interesting about my wife's family background. Next morning immediately after breakfast we were driven to the junction of 486 Fort William Road and B9150 Perth Road where the Clan Macpherson Museum is located. We arrived on a cool damp morning in June at 10 o'clock just as the doors were opening and were greeted warmly by the curator in his Highland dress. He asked our names and I told him that my last name is Saliba, which did not ring a bell! But when he heard my wife's last name, Gillies, he had something to say.

Quickly he recited a *précis* of historical events involving the three brothers one of whom is an ancestor of the Gillies in Canada. He informed us that we come under the Macpherson banner and should seek connection with the Canadian branch of the clan in Canada. He quickly pointed out that the Chairman of the Clan Association in Canada was none else but John C. Gillies. Eleanore was rather surprised to learn that he has the same name as an uncle of hers, but just as surprisingly, to know that the Chairman lived in Collingwood, Ontario where she grew up and went to school. As soon as we came back home she contacted John and found out that he knew her parents and other members of the family. He invited us to join the Association and attend the gathering in September. It was not possible for us to attend that month since I was just back from summer vacation and had to be back to my duties as the parish minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Whitby, Ontario, but we were able to attend the September 2013 gathering. We felt so very welcomed and in no time made some new friends. .

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TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The Branch books were in good shape at the end of 2013 with a balance of \$8,568 and showed a small profit of \$679. The small profit is a little misleading as we have prepaid the deposit for the 2014 gathering of \$1500 which means we really had a profit of \$2,179 for the year 2013.

In January the GIC's that make up the Life Members Fund came due. Funds held in the operating account were added the GIC's to the bring the Life Members Fund GIC to \$11,000, which left us with almost \$8,400 in our operating account.

I believe that the Clan Macpherson Association, Canadian Branch is poised to have another very good year financially.

ODE TO THE CANADIAN BRANCH AND WHY I BELONG!

by Dee McPherson 2014

The warmth of your welcome
So friendly and sincere.
Our time together happy!
I'm glad to be here!

You welcome me home
With a smile on your face,
You gather me in
With a loving embrace.

You let me sing for you
Play for you
Dance with you, too!
We're family, I know it!
You take time to show it.
In all that you do.
All that you do.

Lovely to be there,
To bask in your glow.
I'm coming back soon,
We are family, you know!
Thank you!



Donna (Dee) McPherson-Rucks is a member of the US Branch and the Facebook Coordinator for North America. She joined the Canadian Branch as a Life Member, after having attended our recent Gatherings. She is a Financial Advisor in Indianapolis; also she sings professionally and accompanies herself on the piano. Those of you who attended the Gathering in Waterloo last fall will remember Dee's inspiring renditions of traditional highland songs

and some of her own composition. Dee has produced two CD's, "Listen to Your Girlfriend Sing" and "This Man Beside Me", which are well worth a listen or two. They are available from the Clan On-line Shop.

Ever talented, Dee prepared the above poem in response to a request to provide an article on "Why I joined the Canadian Branch" The poem was a welcome surprise and a unique way of fulfilling the request. I wish to thank Dee for this excellent input to our newsletter. (ed.)

CMA CHAIRMAN REPORT

By John Macpherson of Montrose



I hope all of you Canadians had an enjoyable time over the festive season. Iris and I have attended three Burn's Suppers this year and at the time of writing this report, in February, the Scottish Branch Burns Supper has not taken place but it should be a good occasion with 30-40 expected to attend.

The format for the Gathering in Scotland this year will differ slightly from previous years. There will be the usual meetings on Friday and the dance practice in the afternoon for those that require tuition!! This will be followed by a short Welcome meeting for new attendees. The Chief's reception will take place in the oak hall, where everyone will be able to meet Cluny.

There will be no "At Home" in the Museum after the games as Ewen is organising a World War 1 Commemoration event and Exhibition on Monday 4th of August at the Museum This is the largest event ever undertaken by Ewen and Museum staff will include many details of Macphersons who served and paid the ultimate price in this terrible conflict which began one hundred years ago to the day, on 4th Aug 1914. An excellent new book of Remembrance has been produced and will be on display in the Museum.

After the Newtonmore Highland Games on Saturday a Haggis Supper is available, downstairs in the Duke of Gordon Hotel in Kingussie, which will be followed by our Ceilidh

On Sunday we have our Church Service in Kingussie Parish Church, followed by an informal picnic, weather permitting, at the Cairn site. Allan and Marjorie Macpherson-Fletcher of Balavil who have very generously hosted our afternoon tea party for many years are unable to continue doing so. Our thanks to Angus and Valerie who have kindly offered to host the event this year at Craig Dhu House, Laggan. Angus is serving on the Museum Committee and is the eldest son of Sir Tommy Macpherson. Valerie is currently CMA Treasurer.

On Monday morning our walk of local interest will be led by John Barton commencing at from the Duke of Gordon Hotel car park. As mentioned earlier this will be followed by World War 1 Commemorative Event at the Clan Museum

The booking form for all events will be published in Creag Dhubbh. For those not wishing to use the on-line facilities, payment can be made by cheque. Note that credit card payment will no longer be accepted, but on-line payments can be made via PayPal. This will benefit the CMA by reducing the large transaction expense of the credit cards.

We are looking forward to the Gathering in August and meeting those who can join us.

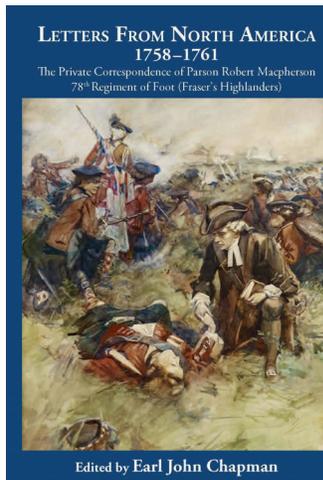
BOOK REVIEW

By Mark F Macpherson

Letters from North America 1758 – 1761

By Earl John Chapman

Published by 78th Fraser Highlanders (HQ), 2013; \$18.00 Cdn 76 pp.



The subtitle of this book is *The Private Correspondence of Parson Robert Macpherson 78th Regiment of Foot (Fraser's Highlanders)* and therefore will be of interest to members of CMA. This short book gives an account of Robert Macpherson's life and times followed by extracts from letters he sent from North America principally to his friend William Macpherson in Badenoch.

The 78th Regiment of Foot was raised by Simon Fraser as part of a force being deployed to North America to fight in the French and Indian wars. Robert who was in the midst of his studies of Divinity at Edinburgh was asked by Col Fraser to join as the Chaplain because of his fluency in Gaelic, as most of the soldiers did not speak English. Robert was given a "hasty ordination" because of his incomplete studies, by ministers of the Presbytery of Abernethy, and he then shipped out on a convoy bound for North America from Cork. The attenuated ordination would return to haunt him later.

Robert soon found himself with the Regiment in a ship before the Fortress of Louisburg. After a difficult landing, the Regiment was successful in its part in the taking of the fortress which dominated the approach to Canada or New France as it was called at the time. Robert distinguished himself in the battle by joining the officers leading the troops in the line of fire even though this was not expected of a Chaplain. When queried after the battle by General Murray, the Commander, as to why he exposed himself in this manner, Robert replied that as the Chaplain he felt the young junior officers needed his example to help overcome their fear. Robert continued with this policy and in spite of taking part in several battles including the Plains of Abraham, and Sillery, he led a charmed life - never receiving as much as a scratch!

In one letter to his brother Andrew, Robert provides a detailed account of the Battle for Quebec which is considered by historians as one of the best from the perspective of the soldiers serving at the time. In another to his friend William we learn of the Regiment's activities in General Murray's campaign in support of the battle for Montreal and a year after that for Quebec. In another letter, he writes about garrison life and his plans to return to Scotland.

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DEVELOPMENT NEAR CULLODEN BATTLEFIELD

By Andy Ferguson



Most people of Scottish blood are familiar with the Battle of Culloden in 1746, one of the most pivotal moments in Scottish history. After this disastrous battle the clan system was destroyed, wearing tartan was banned as was the playing of bagpipes. Events were put into motion which resulted in the depopulation of the Highlands in favour of sheep. The Highland Clearances resulted in a large diaspora of Scots to all parts of the world. The battlefield site has been reasonably well preserved and recent findings have resulted in archaeological discoveries indicating the fighting, extended over a much wider area than generally accepted.

The National Trust for Scotland (NTS), has improved access to the site, which includes a carefully sited Visitor Centre, and a public access astronomical observatory on its periphery. The battlefield site has been restored to as close to its original state in 1746 as possible.

A development company recently submitted a planning application to build 16 houses and possibly others, on a 'brown field' site, 400 meters from the site of the battle. Currently, there are very few buildings around the battlefield site which lends itself to the serenity of such a sad place. The development would interfere with further significant archeological research. Houses around the site can lead to an increase in vehicular traffic, noise and pollution would inevitably follow.

The Highland Council overwhelmingly rejected the application following consultation with the NTS. The developers appealed to the Scottish Government in Edinburgh, who overturned this decision and gave permission for the development to go ahead.

If any member of CMA is interested in helping, a petition is being organized to present to the Government in Edinburgh in March to reverse this decision. Petitions can be received from overseas using the link below:

<https://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/alex-salmond-stop-the-proposed-development-of-homes-to-be-built-within-400-metres-of-culloden-battlefield>

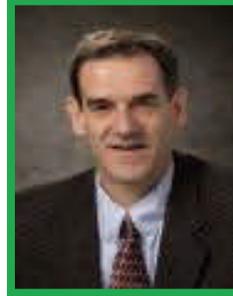
Andy Ferguson lives in Inverness Scotland. He worked for the Royal Mail and is now retired. He has visited the Culloden battlefield many times and has a personal interest in its preservation. (ed)



Part of Culloden battle field today. A plaque showing the battle dispositions is in the foreground

SS CLAN MACPHERSON

By Bill Macpherson, Mississauga



My neice, knowing of my interest in all things Clan Macpherson, give me the postcard shown below that she had bought on the internet, which prompted me to do some research and I share it now for your interest. The ship from the famous Clan Line of steam ships was the 3rd to bear the name Clan Macpherson. Clyde built at The Greenock Dock Company in 1929 this passenger/cargo vessel sailed routes including India & Australia.

In 1943 on convoy during WW2 she was returning to the UK



SS Clan Macpherson in her hey-day

with cargo from Singapore & India when struck by a torpedo from a German U-Boat. She sank in the Atlantic Ocean just off Freetown, W.Africa with the loss of four lives from the crew of 140.

Her predecessor built in 1905 by Furness, Withy and Co, Ltd., West Hartlepool, suffered a similar fate during WW1. In 1918 on a voyage from Malta to Panama she was torpedoed & sunk by a German Submarine in the Mediterranean about 24 miles from Tunisia, N.Africa. Two crew members died as a result of the hit and another eighteen lost their lives when the main mast collapsed and landed on their lifeboat.

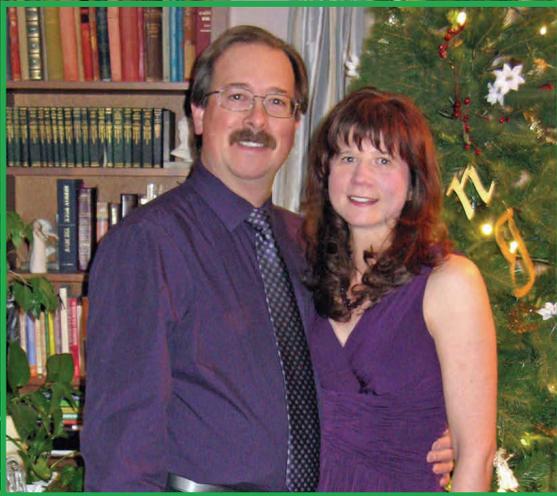
The first Clan Line SS Macpherson was also built on Clydeside in 1883 at Yoker, by Napier Shanks & Bell Ltd. Charles Cayzer, one of the founding partners of The Clan Line Shipping Company, was knighted in 1897 the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Sir Charles was aboard SS Clan Macpherson during the customary Diamond Jubilee Naval Review. In 1905 she was sold to a German owner and renamed Hanna and later that year sold on to a Japanese Shipping Company. In 1914 she was removed from service.

DEADLINE FOR JULY ISSUE

Please submit your notes and captioned photos before
June 15, 2014.

POTTS-MACPHERSON ENGAGEMENT

By Helen Macpherson



Brian and Helen celebrating their engagement at Christmas time

Brian Potts and I met in New Westminster, BC, in the fall of 1986 when we were both attending different colleges in the Lower Mainland. We dated for a year and a bit and then decided to just be friends on the Saturday of the Easter long week-end in 1988. After that we amicably went our separate ways. He married, had 4 children (2 boys and 2 girls ranging in ages from 15-22) and is divorced. I never married and have no children. We bumped into each other in one of our local malls in July of 2012 and then Brian phoned me in October to go for coffee. The rest is history!

We are getting married on April 19, 2014, is the Saturday of the Easter long week-end. We are going to correct a cosmic wrong made 26 years ago! Although we are not having a Scottish themed wedding, my Dad will be walking me down the aisle proudly wearing his Macpherson dress tartan tie!

Brian was pleased to become a member of the CMA this February and we hope someday to attend a Canadian or Scotland Gathering.

NEW DISCOVERY IN NEWTONMORE

Continued from page 3



Eleanor and Issa stop at the Village of Kilmartin during their trip to Scotland

Little did we dream that a personal visit to the museum in Newtonmore would introduce us to so many friendly people in Canada and so many new cousins. We're glad to be part of the Clan Association now.

Issa and Eleanor Saliba came to the Gathering in Waterloo this year – their first event with CMA. Currently retired, they are both active in conducting groups to visit the Holy Land.

Issa is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church who retired after 32 years of active service in churches in PEI and Ontario. Issa was born in the Christian quarter of the old city of Jerusalem and grew up there. He studied in the USA and came to Canada in 1973. He graduated from McMaster University with the Master of Divinity degree.

Eleanor was born into the family of Earl Gillies in Kitchener Ontario. She grew up in Collingwood. She graduated from Brock University with the Bachelor of Arts degree and from Queens with the Bachelor of Education. Eleanor pursued a career as a teacher finishing as Head of Guidance at Miliken Mills High School. Along the way she met Issa and they were married in 2005. Between them they have four grown children and five grand children. (ed)

BOOK REVIEW

Continued from page 4

The book is a fine scholarly account but easy to read. The author provides footnotes that clarify the language used and keeps track of the characters with whom Robert came in contact during his military life or people he mentions in passing. One has to be prepared to interrupt the flow of reading to consult these footnotes from time to time. In addition to an excellent biography of Robert Macpherson, the selection of material from the letters tells an interesting story of a reasonably well to do Scottish gentleman serving in the 18th century British Army in North America. For example, we learn of his concerns for his future after his service with the army, and his problems with increasing weight, as Robert enjoyed his rations and drink. This last strikes a note in modern times in the 21st Century.

This book is recommended for history buffs, particularly those interested in things Scottish. There is a map provided of the theatre of operations for the British forces during the French and Indian war which helps in establishing the venues mentioned in the letters, but some additional maps of the battle areas and situations described in the letters would have helped to clarify things further for the reader. It is obvious the author has done extensive original research for this book. Our own Ewen Macpherson, of Clan Museum fame, was consulted at one point.

Earl Chapman is the historian for the 78th Fraser Highlanders in Montreal. This is a heritage and re-enactment organization started in Montreal in the 1960's and is supported by the Macdonald-Stewart Foundation. The idea of supporting the history and traditions of the Fraser Highlanders has spread across North America with "garrisons" and "detachments" in several cities today. Its headquarters remains in Montreal. Earl is also a historian associated with the Black Watch of Canada and has written several books on that Regiment. Earl won the Gordon Atkinson prize awarded by the Quebec Thistle Council in 2008 for his work on historical topics. He co-authored a book with LCol Ian Macpherson McCulloch; "A Bard of Wolfe's Army", published in 2010 by Robin Brass Studio, Montreal. (ed)