



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 10 Number 2

SUMMER ISSUE

July 2016

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Chantal McPherson, Registrar



A warm welcome to new annual member from the US Branch, Andrea McPherson-Mesa of New Hampshire who is Webmaster for the Clan Association. Andrea is responsible for keeping clan-macpherson.org humming smoothly. She joins the ranks of those US and Canadian citizens who enjoy membership in both Branches.

Welcome back Murray Smith of Chilliwack, BC and welcome to his lovely wife, new annual member Lei Peng.

Now to a little business: I have had six email addresses bounce recently, please verify your junk mail and make sure our e-mails are not blocked. This also means I will have to telephone these members to verify or obtain corrections. Sometimes they have moved and we lose track of them, which is a shame. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all members, if you have changed your email or home addresses, please let me know so I can update our records and keep you in contact with CMA.

I hope to see you at the Canadian Annual Gathering in Toronto this fall! Have an excellent summer!



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



At the time of writing there is excitement in the air, the warmer weather has arrived, highland games season is about to begin, The Platinum Dhubh is only 9 weeks away and our Branch Gathering is in 16 weeks' time.

On Saturday, 11th June, I attended the Georgetown Highland Games with eight of our Ontario members at the clan tent including, Bob & Marlene Archibald, Bob & Sondra Archibald, Chantal McPherson, Ed Smith, and James McPherson. A good time was had by all.

I am very pleased to report our Branch will be well represented at the big Gathering in Badenoch. Currently 21 of the 344 registered attendees are travelling from Canada. Please remember to take plenty photographs as I am sure Editor Mark will appreciate your written experiences for inclusion in the fall Green Banner Edition.

Our best wishes for a full and speedy recovery are sent to Honorary Chairman Gordon Macpherson, who is convalescing after an accident at home resulted in a broken ankle.

Details of our Gathering weekend, provided by Jacqueline, are included on page 15 and we hope to see as many members as possible attending. Many officers (including myself) are nearing the end of the customary three terms so we need your support at the AGM to ensure stability and leadership going forward. An interesting and varied program is planned including plenty of time for socializing and meeting up with friends old and new. You will find a Call for Nominations on page two and I hope we will see nominations from the membership for positions in the Council ahead of the AGM so the Nominating Committee can work for you.

Irene joins me in sending greetings and best wishes to all of our readers.

Yours Aye, Bill Macpherson

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TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The Canadian Branch continues in good shape financially as of the end of May. We have just under \$6,600 in our current account and a little over \$11,130 in our Life Membership Fund.

I am presently holding 14 annual membership fees which I will be remitting to

Clan Macpherson Association (CMA) plus any other renewals or new memberships at the end of September. This will reduce our current account balance somewhat, but I am not expecting any large expenses. I would normally remit our membership fees in late spring or early summer, but the Association has asked that we remit as soon after September 30 as possible. CMA is trying to get the remittances to match the Association membership year to simplify the accounting.

The deposit for our Gathering in Toronto has been paid and the event is typically self supporting. So once again I am not expecting any financial problems.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you in Toronto in September.

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the September issue are due on the Editors desk on August 20. 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

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:

William Macpherson PEng, Chairman
Ken Gillis, Honorary Treasurer
Robert W Archibald PhD, Honorary Secretary
Chantal McPherson, Registrar

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John C Gillies

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Bruce Gillis QC, Nova Scotia
Major Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec
Ed Smith CD, Ontario
Donald Pearson, Alberta
Helen Macpherson-Potts British Columbia

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Associate Editor: John C House MOM

Inquiries and articles may be sent by email to Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org or by post to PO Box 1005, Hemmingford QC, J0L 1H0

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Your Nominating Committee wishes to bring to the attention of all members that terms of office for the Branch Council are one year with no limits on the number of terms that may be served. However any member who is interested in serving and is qualified can be nominated for positions on Council. It is important for the Branch to receive nominations from the membership for these positions. Your Branch has a long history of success serving members of Clan Macpherson in Canada and your interest and leadership are essential for ensuring that this continues.

The following provides a summary for the positions to be filled along with the normally expected qualification:

Chairman – Responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the Branch in accordance with its constitution and bylaws. Represents the Branch on the Council of the Clan Association and leads the work of the Branch Council to meet the goals and purpose of the Association. The nominee for Chairman should be a recognized leader and should have at least three years' service on the Branch Council.

Vice Chair – Is the deputy for the Chairman and will preside at meetings when the Chairman is not available. He or she will carry out projects for the Chairman when required, such as convener for the Annual Branch Gathering. The nominee for Vice Chairman should be capable of assuming the position of Chairman when this position is vacated and normally should have at least two years' service on the Branch Council.

Registrar – Maintains the record of the Branch membership and distributes Branch communications such as the newsletter to the members. Communicates changes in the membership to the Association Registrar. Provides Branch and other Clan information to new members on their joining and assists Provincial Councillors with recruiting new members. Provides reports on changes in membership to the Branch Newsletter. The candidate for Registrar should have some proficiency with computer spreadsheets such as MS Excel.

Honorary Treasurer – Maintains a record of the financial transactions and conducts the banking for the Branch. Prepares financial statements for the Branch Council as required and for the Annual General meeting. In addition prepares a short report for each Branch Newsletter. The Honorary Treasurer should have a working knowledge of basic bookkeeping and simple financial statements.

Honorary Secretary – Maintains the minute book for the Branch and prepares minutes of all meetings of Council including the Annual General meeting. Acts as custodian for the Branch archives and assists other Councillors and the Branch Editor with research into the archives when required.

Provincial Councillor – Represents the Branch Council in a province. Advises the Chairman on recruiting and assists with recruiting campaigns. When possible, attends and represents Clan Macpherson at highland games and other Scottish events held in the province. Maintains contact with members of the Association in the province and organizes appropriate local Association events. Prepares reports and articles on provincial activities for the Branch newsletter.

Please submit nominations for the above positions giving the name of the person and the position being nominated along with a short curriculum vitae relating to the position. The person being nominated must accept the nomination and this should be indicated. We look forward to receiving interesting nominations for the 2017 Council before **September 15, 2016**.

Submit all nominations to the Secretary of the Nominating Committee at Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org or to PO Box 1005 Hemmingford QC J0L 1H0.

LLOYD C MACPHERSON CD

By Mark Macpherson



Lloyd C MacPherson, our fourth Chairman, was born in 1916 in MacLellan's Brook, Nova Scotia. He was raised in New Glasgow and attended Mount Allison University at Sackville, New Brunswick, where he graduated in 1938 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. He was hired to teach science at Mount Allison Academy then a private school for boys. By 1941 he had the appointment of Head, Junior School.



New Graduate 1938

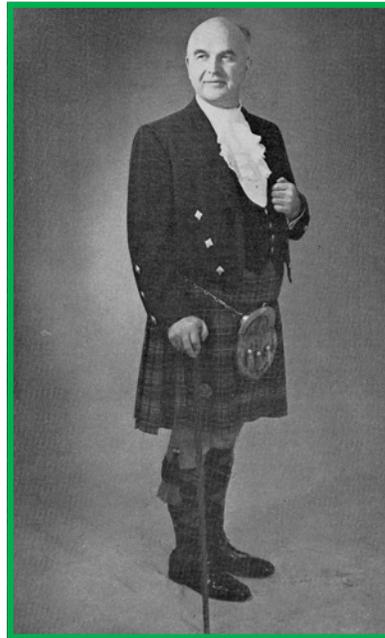
In 1941 Lloyd pursued an opportunity to move to Stanstead College, a prestigious boys' school in Quebec, to teach science. The town of Stanstead is remarkable as it shares houses and buildings with the town of Derby Line Vermont although this does not impact on the College. Stanstead is a boarding school and Lloyd became Master of Students with responsibilities for discipline and counselling. He was noted for being firm and fair with the students who nicknamed him "MacDuff". They also apparently marveled that he never seemed to sleep! He eventually became Headmaster of Stanstead in the late fifties.

While at Stanstead, Lloyd became a cadet instructor for their corps. He qualified as a Second Lieutenant in the infantry which stood him in good stead as World War II was raging and teachers were in short supply. He was excused from selective service and reserve training, the Canadian version of the US draft during the war, on the basis of his military qualification and his profession. He continued to spend his summers to increase his military qualifications for cadet training. Also he used some summers to obtain the graduate degree of Master in Science in Education (MS in Ed) from Cornell University which was awarded in 1951.

Lloyd left Stanstead in 1957 to take up the position of Science Master and Assistant to the Headmaster at St Andrews College in Aurora Ontario. During his time at St Andrews Lloyd was a strong supporter of sporting activities and student drama production. He continued as a cadet instructor at St Andrews, reaching the rank of Captain on the Cadet Instructor List for the army. He was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) for long and efficient service. After he retired from St Andrews in 1981, his outstanding contributions to the school were recognized when the annual hockey tournament was named the

"MacPherson Hockey Tournament" and the MacPherson Prize struck to recognize each year the student, faculty member, or staff who had contributed the most to school spirit.

Lloyd learned of the CMA through a newspaper advertisement for our Gathering in Montreal in 1953. He became a tireless worker helping to organize several Branch Gatherings and convincing other Macphersons to join CMA. From the time of joining he attended every annual Gathering in Badenoch, becoming widely known in the CMA. In 1959 he was elected Chairman of the Canadian Branch. On completing his term in 1965, he was elected Vice Chair of the parent association, succeeding to Chairman in 1968, the first overseas member to be elected to that senior position. During his term with the parent association he continued to help the Canadian Branch with organizing its Gatherings.



CMA Chairman 1968

Lloyd had an early interest in Heraldry and matriculated his personal arms at Lyon Court in Edinburgh in 1958. While he was at St Andrews College, he was instrumental in obtaining a grant of institutional arms for the College from Lyon Court in 1978. He was active in the United Church of Canada serving as Clerk of Sessions. He was interested in chivalry and was invested as a member in the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, a chivalric order dating back to the First Crusade. The Order in Canada is a registered charity supporting Christian unity, and palliative care for persons at the end-of-life. Lloyd achieved the high rank of Knight Commander in this Order.



Arms of Lloyd C Macpherson

Lloyd never married and passed away in 1988 at New Glasgow NS. He is buried at Maclellan's Brook, his birthplace.

The author wishes to acknowledge the kind assistance in preparation of this article by the following:

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Joy Wilbur, Mount Allison University Alumni Association

Sources:

Creag Dhubh No.16 1964 pp 40-41
Creag Dhubh No 41 1989 pp 25-26
Mount Allison Year Book 1941 p 163
Stanstead College Annual 1957 pp 10-11

CMA CHAIR REPORT

By Jean Macpherson-Duffy



The excitement is almost palpable across the seas!! The Platinum Dhubh is going to be the largest gathering of the Clan Macpherson in history!! As of this writing, we have 344 cousins and friends booked for the various events. Some activities have had to close as they were oversubscribed. So, if you wish to attend, you must book immediately at ptdhubh.clan-macpherson.org. There also may be a few room cancelations at the Duke of Gordon.

The spring Executive Committee meeting was intense with the reports of the branch contributions and the grand efforts of Bill Macpherson (Glenfarg), and his committee. It is heartening to see this big event coming together. We have cousins coming from all over the world – and the Spanish Macphersons are returning for the first time since 1996. We are hoping their flair for the flamenco has not diminished and that they will perform at one of the ceilidhs!

Some have inquired as to what to wear at the various events. The ball is the only event that is formal for men and women; the remainder of events is kilts for men and kilt skirts or casual attire for women. For the march on Saturday all men must be kilted and women wearing kilt or tartan skirts. Some dress more traditionally for the Saturday ceilidh and wear “church clothes” for the Sunday service. For the Monday walks, it is always advisable to have sturdy walking shoes for boots – as we never know the condition of the terrain if there has been recent rain.

Turning to another part of Scotland, my brother, Bruce Macpherson, and I ferried out to the Outer Hebrides to spend a week on Harris. We rented a house on a shingle beach from which we could see the distant hills of the Cullins on Skye. Most of the week there was no rain and little wind so we were able to travel Lewis and Harris with ease. To get a feel for the old Lewis and Harris, we had both read the outstanding trilogy by Peter May.¹

We traveled the islands searching the locations of his various characters and their exploits.

We took the ferry from Uig in Skye and the return trip included the island of North Uist.

Of course we were also searching for Macphersons, but alas, we only found MacLeods and Morrisons.



Jean with her brother Bruce Macpherson at the Standing Stones of Callanish on Lewis



Aerial view of the central part of the Standing Stones of Callanish

I am including a picture of us at the Standing Stones of Callanish. These stones are older than Stonehenge in England. The Callanish stones consist of a stone circle of thirteen stones with a monolith near the middle. Five rows of standing stones connect to this circle. Two long rows of stones running almost parallel to each other from the stone circle to the north-northeast form a kind of avenue. In addition, there are shorter rows of stones to the west-southwest, south and east-northeast. The stones are all of the same rock type, namely the local Lewisian gneiss. Within the stone circle is a chambered tomb to the east of the central stone. The stone circle was set up between 2900 and 2600 BC. The setting has recently been used in the Outlander TV series².

Hoping to see you at the Platinum Dhubh where I can share with you the “zizzles” I get when I touch a standing stone that is part of a complete circle!! And, I promise, I am not a witch!

1. *The Lewis Trilogy: The Blackhouse, The Lewis Man, and The Chessmen* by Pete May; Quercus Books; London: 2013

2. *Outlander* is an American-British television drama series based on the historical time travel *Outlander* series of novels by Diana Gabaldon

BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Helen Macpherson Potts, Provincial Councillor



It is quiet on the western front! I have been very busy at work the last while and have not made much progress on things CMA. I hope in the near future to develop some plans for growing the CMA and its activities in at least Northern BC if not all of BC. In the meantime at the invitation of our

Editor, I wrote a very short story on my Scottish connections titled “This Changes Everything”. You will find it elsewhere in this issue and I hope it will encourage more members to contribute their stories to the Green Banner.

REMEMBERING JEAN WHITTEN

By Robert T. (Bob) Macpherson, Cochrane, Alberta



It was with sadness that I read about Jean's passing in *The Green Banner*. It was a number of years ago that I learned that she was actually a distant cousin of mine. We could trace our roots back to Hugh and Janet (MacNab) McPherson in Argyll, Scotland.

My wife, Sylvia, and I had our first holiday in Scotland in July of 2003. One of my intentions was to visit the farm at Kilberry in Argyll where the McPhersons had lived prior to coming to Canada in 1847/48. We visited the farm and were delighted to be able to enter the old house and take pictures of the farm as it is today. However, time spent with the archivists in Lochgilphead produced no new information about the early McPhersons.



Jean Whitten and Cluny in 2008

On returning home to Alberta, I continued to pursue various internet links with little success. Some information had been found by my brother, Bill, and by my brother-in-law, John Mitchell, to show some names and dates of birth, etc. of early relatives, in particular Hugh and Jean (Wilson) and their children. We knew that these were grandparents several generations back. We had always believed that their son, Allan, was the only one, along with his wife, Catherine, who had come to Canada and settled in Ontario, south of London. What had happened to the rest of the family nobody knew.

One night, while fruitlessly searching the internet for possible links, I happened to type in Keppoch Farm. The search showed that there was an entry that mentioned Keppoch Farm. This



Keppoch Farm in Kilberry, Scotland in the 1970's

turned out to be an excerpt from *The Green Banner* that was posted by the Clan Macpherson Association of Canada. An association member, Mrs. Jean Whitten of Oakville, Ontario had submitted an article about a family picnic that she attended in London, Ontario. As I read her article, the hair on the back of my neck stood up! She was providing details that were the same as the ones I had about my family history! I could hardly believe what I was reading and printed a copy to show my wife. She convinced me that, yes, these were the right Macphersons!

I was able to contact Jean and tell her who I was. She was delighted to hear from this "lost branch" of the family and we exchanged a few emails confirming our relationship. She then put me in touch with Keith Macpherson of Chatham, Ontario who at the time was the family genealogist. I was able to provide him with additional information for the family tree as he had nothing after my father Donald's generation.

In June, 2005, my father and brother from Calgary attended the annual picnic in London. This was quite a thrill for all involved as the Ontario Macphersons seemed as excited to discover the Alberta Macphersons as they were to be re-connected with the Ontario branches. In August of 2005, Sylvia and I traveled to Burlington, Ontario and made a trip down to Cour Farm. Here, Doug and Donna Macpherson live in the original house once occupied by Duncan and Mary McPherson. We met Doug who was kind enough to give us a tour of the house and took us to the Macpherson Cemetery which is located at the farm.

Jean Whitten had made numerous trips to Scotland researching our family and produced a book sharing all the information she had found, including the location of Hugh's headstone at Skipness. I feel such gratitude to her for her efforts and will always be so thankful that I was able to make a connection with her back in 2003. I know she will be missed by so many, in particular those she was associated with in the Clan Macpherson Association. Although she would have to go back a few generations to find the Macpherson name, she would be, as she had been told as a young woman, "always a Macpherson".

THIS AMERICAN GIRL GOES TO SCOTLAND, AGAIN!!

by Donna "Dee McPherson" Rucks



Serving as the Hon. Secretary for the Association in Scotland is a pleasure and an honor for me and the travel to Scotland three times a year is an added bonus! Here's a little travelogue covering the first two trips to CMA Executive Council Meetings, with some photos to give you a look at the sights of Scotland!

It made sense for me to fly direct from Chicago O'Hare to Dublin, to clear Customs in Dublin, then take a short hop across to Edinburgh or to Glasgow. The Aer Lingus folks couldn't have been nicer, with that welcoming champagne, and the brilliant sunrise as we arrived, couldn't have been more blinding and intense!

Time spent in Edinburgh is always time well spent, and the wait in Waverley Train Station was rewarded when I looked up at the ceiling. The glass pattern was breathtaking, and I very nearly lay flat on the floor to take this geometrically perfect photo. On your next train ride out of there, go into the



Incredible glass ceiling at Waverley Railway Station in Edinburgh



Fabulous pipe organ in the main hall at Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow

waiting room, and LOOK UP!

Or perhaps you'll start out in Glasgow, as I did for one of my trips over. My hosts John and Irene England, owners of Crubenbeg B&B at Newtonmore, met me and we went to the Kelvingrove mu-

seum for an organ concert and then to see the Winter Garden at the People's Palace. We also had two days of immersion into the art and design of Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

Crossing the Firth of Forth by train yielded some wonderful photos, the new Queensferry Bridge alongside, for one. It is so easy and relaxing to travel by train in Scotland, and you get a look at the scenery as the train rolls north. Seeing the Cairngorms in the distance means we are close to our destination!

A short afternoon in Perth and overnight with Bill and Jan Macpherson (Glenfarg) was full of learning and delightful photo opportunities. Bill and Jan walked me to the North Inch where the Macphersons won the battle in 1396. We passed the house of the Fair Maid of Perth and while walking through the downtown, we happened upon the Fair Maid herself. I was also treated to a private tour of the Black Watch Museum, and I would like to see that again!

After arriving in Newtonmore and settling in, it was time to see a few sights! Irene England took me

for an amazing April day in the Cairngorms. We chased a rainbow up the mountainside, froze in a blizzard at the top of the funicular, saw snow covering the ground around us on the way down, and took a walk on the sunny but frigid cold beach at Loch Morlich.

Another day, another day trip. Ceit Alcorn, of the Clan Museum, picked me up, and the highlight of the day was going to the Highland Wildlife Park . . . where we paid our respects to the wild animals including the polar bears, the tiger, the snow monkeys, and the wildcat! We also visited a stone circle in nearby Aviemore.

In the evenings, we were



Donna meeting the Fair Maid of Perth



The Scottish wildcat at the Highland Wildlife Park in Newtonmore Na Bean!



Road bridges across the Firth of Forth. The suspension bridge closest is the original one. The more distant cable stay bridge is the new Queensferry Bridge under construction

Continued on Page 7

THIS AMERICAN GIRL GOES TO SCOTLAND, AGAIN!!

Continued from page 6

invited to impromptu Ceilidhs, one at Donald and Morag Barr's, and one at Ruis and Ceit Alcorn's. We enjoyed the singing, Scottish dance, bagpipe music, harp sounds, piano-playing, fiddle-playing, guitar-playing, wee drams, meeting old friends and new, and came away with a sense of belonging and a sense of family.

A drive into the countryside around Haddington on a Sunday with Shelagh Noble warmed the heart of this American Girl. We came across a lone ram out standing in his field. She told me her father had a name for each ram: "The Gentleman."

And finally, a visit to the village of Gifford in the parish of Yester, in East Lothian with Shelagh and Alastair Noble. I saw the parish church, the monument to the WWI war dead, took a walk in the cemetery, and learned a notable fact.: The Rev. John Witherspoon was born in Gifford. He is the only clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence of the United States, on 4 July, 1776.



Ruis Alcorn expertly playing the blues on his guitar at a ceilidh



The "Gentleman"



At the stone circle in Aviemore with my friend Patti Tillotsen (left), a US Branch member from the state of Maine. This structure is 4000 years old



The North Inch at Perth where, in 1396 the Macphersons along with members of the Clan Chattan Federation won a battle against the Cromyns. This is commemorated in Cluny's arms as the charge "A hand grasping a dagger" seen in the chief of the shield

Closing this travelogue for now, returning home to finish the Minutes of the CMA Executive Council Meeting, unpack, and to look forward to my next trip to Badenoch. I hope you've enjoyed this short story and photos of my recent travels to Scotland.



Chasing a rainbow in the Cairngorm Mountains in Badenoch

A MACPHERSON IN AFRICA

By Bruce J S Macpherson



Your Editor's invitation to prepare an article on my "adventures in Africa" arrived in my inbox a few days short of Burns Night. As any Scot will testify, this end of January ritual is always something to look forward to: post-Christmas blues banished by the prospect of haggis, pipe and verse and our singularly Scottish commemoration of the life and work of the national bard.

I have had the good fortune of attending Burns Suppers in many different countries, perhaps the most memorable being in South Sudan, just a few months after I had played a very modest role in helping usher the world's newest country into existence.



Photo by Bruce Macpherson

Bruce piping in the first haggis in South Sudan, Robbie Burns Day 2011

North Africa but also in Egypt and the Sudan, once memorably travelling up the Nile Valley to Khartoum by boat and then train on a journey that my Sudanese travelling companion estimated might take anything between twenty-four hours and a week. I was young enough to be unfazed by the fact that there was no glass in the carriage windows, no food, electricity or water on the train and that there appeared to be as many people sitting on the roof as there were inside.

It is through my work that I have been fortunate to visit so many different parts of Africa - Ethiopia, from where I write this article now, Somaliland which I will visit tomorrow, Sierra Leone where I was involved in the fight against Ebola, and Burundi where I supported the establishment of their revenue authority.

In Mozambique I worked with Nelson Mandela's wife to convince the world's media that it was wrong and crude to dismiss her native country as backward and plagued with difficulties. This project started ten years after catastrophic floods had taken out vast sections of the national infrastructure - roads, bridges, schools, farms, clinics and hospitals. The government was able to point to a strong record of recovery and development, harnessing natural assets and resources, capitalizing on China and India's desire for coal. The new infrastructure also facilitated their land-locked neighbours' access to the sea to help stimulate

regional trade.

Whilst visiting a school in Maputo the capital, which had seventy pupils crammed into each earthen-floored classroom, the teachers told me of the three-shift system they operate to accommodate this vibrant nation's thirst for learning. Two different sets of pupils are taught in the morning and afternoon and a third group, adults and children, in the evening.

Their account reminded me of tales of the Scottish Highlands where, after education was made compulsory in the eighteenth century, grown men would form rows at the back of classrooms during the non-growing seasons quietly absorbing the learning they knew could transform their own lives and the lives of their children.

Some of them and their descendants will have no doubt entered colonial or military service or the church and possibly even spent their careers in Africa. One such was Sir Stuart Macpherson, the last Governor of colonial Nigeria and the first Governor General of Nigeria following independence in 1960. He was responsible for the production of the new state's constitution.

Some years ago, after the Clan Macpherson Association announced its presence on Facebook, I was contacted by a Nigerian who also rejoiced in the name Macpherson. I asked how he came to have such a magnificent name and he reported that his father had been a great admirer of Sir Stuart, the late Governor. He told me he was also sometimes referred to by the nickname "Constitution", by his family in recognition of the great man's works.

Pliny the Elder is said to have remarked, "There is always something new coming out of Africa" and so I have found this to be personally true on my many varied visits. It may be the wildlife or the breath-taking vistas, the sheer scale and variety of all that the continent has to offer, the towering and inspirational figures with whom I have worked, or the small episodes that humble you to silence and reflection. I am back there today, and looking forward to it.

Bruce Macpherson's blood is imbued with the spirit of the CMA. His great grandfather, Sir Stewart, was one of the organisation's founders; two of his great uncles served as Association Chairmen, as did his parents, Sandy and Catherine. Bruce is a former Hon Secretary of the Association, a former Chairman of the Museum Trust & Advisory Committee and now serves as Chairman of the England & Wales Branch. When not engaged in Clan affairs, he works as a self-employed consultant specialising in strategic communications. This is a role that takes him from his delightful home and wife in the Scottish Borders to assignments across Africa and the Middle East.

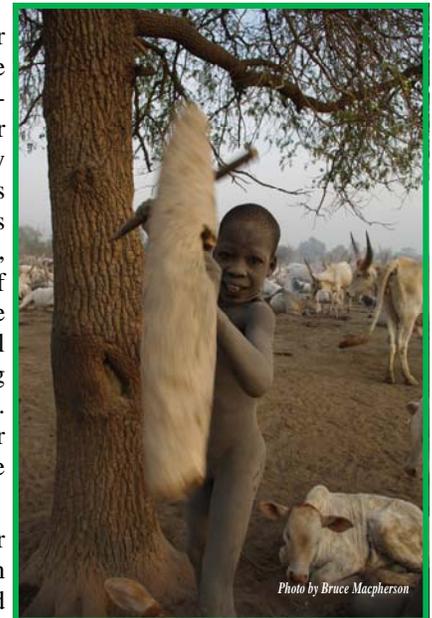


Photo by Bruce Macpherson

A Mundari boy in South Sudan tending cattle. The Mundari are traditional herdsman and are fierce protectors of their ancient way of life

SCAPA FLOW ARMOUR PLATE

By Bill Macpherson (Glenfarg)



Here is a footnote to the story of the “Fleet that Sank in Scotland” by Sandy Macpherson for the July issue of the Green Banner:

Since World War II it is impossible to get metal devoid of radiation, and if you are building a device that is supposed to detect low level radiation that is a big problem. How can you shield it from the presence of external radiation? The answer is to use armour plating cut from the scuttled ships in Scapa Flow. As the German fleet contains a large amount of armour plating, and it has been protected by the waters of Scapa from the various atomic emissions from war, bomb testing and nuclear energy that sent radiation into our atmosphere, it is now the go-to place to access radiation free shielding!



Source of radiation-free shielding

NEW CLAN BANNERS

By Robert J Archibald



The Canadian Branch now has two new display banners thanks to the generosity of our lovely and talented Registrar, Chantal McPherson. Chantal had mentioned during one of the games a couple of years ago, that she would like to purchase a new banner for our highland games exhibit. Chantal and I have been searching for a suitable ready-made item ever since. Most of those we found were either too expensive or just not suitable. Late last year, I discovered something on a Facebook page hosted by Ian Hughes, a talented Macpherson



Photo by Bob Archibald

New display banners donated to the Branch by Chantal McPherson

clansman living in Colorado. I asked him where he had obtained them, and was advised that he custom made them. I then asked for a quotation. When we found how little he wanted for his banners, Chantal agreed to purchase two. I have prepared two two-piece poles for hanging or carrying the banners along with bags and plastic tubes for transporting them. The Branch now has display banners that can be used for games in two different parts of the country and a source for more if needed. These banners are used to delineate our tent or exhibit and can be carried in the Clan March preceding the opening of the games.

Thank you Chantal!

QUEBEC

By Myles G Macpherson CD., Provincial Councillor



Clansmen & Clanswomen, a hearty welcome from the Quebec region! As the weather warms up we look forward to the summer highland games schedule. As reported in the last issue of the Green Banner, Highland Games take place in the Montreal area during the weekend of 29-31

July, Maxville, On and Montreal respectively. I am sure many of you are planning trips to Scotland for the Platinum Dhubh, but if not let me know if you expect to be in the Montreal area in the coming months, and what I can do to facilitate your plans here.

One of our Members, Arielle Macpherson of Kirkland QC,

was recently recognized at Vanier College by being placed on the Dean's Honour List for achieving a GPA in excess of 90. Kudos to Arielle in her studies and continued further success at college and university. This summer two of our life members will celebrate their 60th (Diamond) Wedding anniversary. Congratulations to Mark and June Macpherson of Hemmingford, QC.

I hope to see all of you at our next Canadian Clan gathering in Toronto this fall.

Scotland - The home of golf

Sign at the Newtonmore golf course:

“Members will refrain from picking up lost balls until they have stopped rolling.”

A NEW FLAG STAND

By Robert J Archibald



In the year 2000 the CMA held a joint Canadian – US Gathering in Ottawa. It was the year I first met John & Iris Macpherson, currently immediate past Chairman of CMA, on an elevator on the way to the hotel lobby. Marlene and I, with my son Brian and his wife Amanda, introduced ourselves to John & Iris and chatted a bit while the elevator was descending. When we got off in the lobby, there in a little cove, was a flag stand holding several flags. I stopped to check it out and took some photos for future reference.



Photo by Bob Archibald

New flag stand shown with two of the staffs inserted



Photo by Bob Archibald

Flag stand ready for shipment

The new stand will accommodate five flagstaves which is enough for the Canadian flag, an American flag, the flag of Scotland, the two Association Banners or any other appropriate combination of flags and banners. It is made solid walnut with two brass cross bolts and is covered in several coats of spar varnish. It folds down flat for storage and transport to a size suitable for most car trunks. A nice stand that the Canadian Branch will be proud to display. There are five two-piece hickory flagstaves to go with it that are a work in progress and won't be ready for a while, but should be completed for the Canadian Gathering in Toronto in September.

6TH ANNUAL TARTAN DAY

By Robert J Archibald



In April 3rd Marlene and I attended the 6th annual Port Perry Tartan Day Parade in, you guessed it - Port Perry Ontario! You may recall I reported on this event last year in the Green Banner. The Uxbridge Pipes and Drums provided the music for the march from the waterfront to the United Church. We couldn't take photos as we marched up the main street but did manage to take a few while everyone was milling around the church front door listening to the pipes. As you can see in the photo, the weather was quite cool with no snow, but sunny and bright.



Photo by Bob Archibald

The end of the parade route at the United Church in Port Perry. The Colour Party of the 78th Fraser highlanders, a private heritage unit, is on the steps. The ladies in tartan are holding the parade banner while the piper plays for the assembled throng

The 78th Fraser Highlanders were present and we followed their colour party into the church. The Macpherson tartan was prominently displayed during the service and the Kirking of the tartans.

After the Church service, those who had purchased tickets gathered at the Legion Branch

for a meat pie and haggis supper with all the trimmings, including some liquid refreshments. There was entertainment by highland dancers and Cape Breton cloggers along with singing by a local group called "Claymore", and worth mentioning, a fine rendition from a 8 year old young lady on her pipes.

Following the scheduled entertainment, the Scottish country dancers hit the floor with several spirited dances that kept us all reeling until around 7pm. Some of us had come from considerable distances so we said our goodbyes and promised to do this again next year.

DON'T FORGET

THE 67TH CANADIAN BRANCH GATHERING IN TORONTO

SEPTEMBER 23 -25 2016

A SHORT FAMILY HISTORY

By William Ralph MacPherson CPA, CA



In this article I am going to talk about my father Ralph Stewart MacPherson, his connections with Clan Macpherson, and some of his descendants which includes me.

My father Ralph was born in 1896 in Nova Scotia and grew up in British Columbia. He attended King Edward High School the first secondary school in Vancouver. In 1914 he joined the military organization raised by the Universities of Canada, known as "University Companies". In 1915 he joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) and served overseas in France. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1917 and was wounded twice in action. He was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery during the taking of the village of Mons in 1918, the last battle for the Canadian Army in the War. My father left the army in 1919 and returned to BC.



Ralph Stewart MacPherson as a young officer in 1915

Of interest to members of the Canadian Branch of the Clan Association, is my father and Angus Gordon Macpherson both joined the PPCLI and served in France. Angus Gordon is known to CMA as Rev A G Macpherson, a founding member of the Canadian Branch, and the father of RGM (Gordon) Macpherson who is also a founding member and presently our Branch Honorary Chairman.

On his return to BC in 1919 my father worked on a farm near Vancouver. In 1921 He joined the BC Telephone Company and rose through the ranks to become New Westminister District Commercial Manager in 1943. A position he held until his retirement in 1961. He married my mother in 1922 and raised three children, Jack, Molly my sister, and me.

My father was active in community service as President, Associated Boards of Trade of the Fraser Valley, President of the New Westminister YMCA and was a charter member of the Rotary Club. Ralph died in 1964.

My brother, John Stewart (Jack) was born in 1924 and served in the Canadian Navy during World War II. His ship the New Glasgow, a frigate, was an escort to seven convoys and sank a U Boat off Ireland in 1945. That year, when the war was over, Jack left the Navy and returned to the University of British



My father Ralph, as a successful Manager circa 1950

Columbia to study Commerce. He pursued a successful career with Fiberglass Canada Inc. His notable achievement was convincing the architects to use Fiberglass-designed unit bathrooms for Habitat Canada, an experimental residential building displayed at Expo 67, still being used as a rental property. Jack passed away in 2001.

Another interesting connection is that my brother served in the Navy at the same time as RGM (Gordon) Macpherson. What a coincidence - history repeating itself in the next generation!

I was born in 1930 in New Westminister BC, where I grew up and attended high school. I started in Engineering at UBC but after three years, I decided to article to become a Chartered Accountant. In 1957, I became a member of the B.C. Institute of Chartered Accountants. I moved to Ontario in 1966 as Treasurer and Director of the Finance Division of The Ontario Milk Marketing Board. I was elected a life member of the Ontario Institute in 1999, and in 2015 became a CPA, CA. After my retirement in 1995, I moved to Lanark County, where I live today. I married my wife Dorothy in 1956 and we had six children. Dorothy was the source of enthusiasm and encouragement for many members of our family to join CMA. Sadly she passed away in 2010.

Carrying on my father Ralph's example of dedication to community service, I have served as Treasurer and/or Warden for several Anglican Churches, and was an active canvasser for the Salvation Army, Heart & Stroke Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society as well as acting as a driver for seniors who needed transportation to appointments.

I am proud to say as a life member of the Association, that my son Thomas Ralph and my great-grandson George Thomas joined CMA and are also life members. I have high hopes for my grandson Thomas, and the 23 other members of my family, in this regard.



Four generations descended from Ralph Stewart MacPherson. Left to right, my grandson Thomas Michael (not yet a member of CMA) holding great-grandson George, me, and my son Thomas Ralph. Not shown are my five other children, fifteen additional grandchildren, and a great-grand daughter

I wish to thank Ruth Pearce for her assistance in the preparation of this article.

PROJECT CANADA 150

By Ed Smith, Chair Project Committee



The status of Project Canada 150 to date is as follows:

Leads from the Clan Museum 13
Input from the Branch members 25

I have found a number of likely candidates in the list of responses I have received so far and I have started work on preparing the submissions to the Museum. I have been in contact with Ewen MacPherson of the Museum and some research will be necessary to complete some of the stories. I will be contacting contributors for help with family background information

You may recall, this project was accepted by our Chairman in response to a request by the Clan Museum in Newtonmore for contributions to a display of Canadians who have contributed to our country during the past 150 years. I am the Chair of the committee charged with organizing contributions from the Canadian Branch and look forward to strong participation and help from our Branch. I understand that other branches around the world have undertaken projects for the museum from time to time with some success. Now it is our turn!

The Canadian Branch is noted for many successful contributions to the Clan over the years. Please put something together and help make this current Branch project a success. You will find details on where to send your input in the advertisement for this project on the bottom right of this page.

HIGHLAND GAMES THIS SUMMER

Bob and Marlene Archibald will be firing up the “coach” and driving it to a number of games during the summer to represent Clan Macpherson. Some of these games will have taken place by the time you read this, but if any member is available to help out during the summer with staffing our tent and trolling for new members, your assistance is much appreciated. If you can find some time to attend any of the games on the list below, please contact Bob at rarchiba@sympatico.ca.

- June 11 Georgetown Highland Games
- June 18 Cobourg Highland Games
- July 30 Glengarry Highland Games Maxville
- July 31 Montreal Highland Games
- August 13 Fergus Scottish Festival

Plan to help out the Branch and support Bob and Marlene. We have had many good “get togethers” at the games. For more information on any of these games, consult the Worldwide Web on the internet searching the title of the event. Reports on these games will appear in the September issue of the Green Banner. We hope to see your name there.

ARE YOU ARTISTIC?

THE CLAN NEEDS YOU !

The Clan Museum is seeking a volunteer to prepare leaflets and posters promoting our four-star museum.

If you are interested in layout design and can use tools such as publishing and photo-editing software, we are interested in you.

Hours are short, the pay is eternal gratitude, and you can work from home!.

Contact Bruce at
brucemacpherson@btconnect.com
or +44 7957 532 312 (Mobile) as soon as possible

PROJECT CANADA 150

A Clan Macpherson
Museum Display Project Celebrating
Clan Macpherson and Associated Families
Contributions

To Canada in the past 150 years

If you or a member of your family has contributed service to your community or to Canada your story could be posted in the Clan Museum in 2017.

If your ancestors were prominent in advancing life in Canada their history is also be of interest..

If you know of a Macpherson or Macpherson related family individual who has contributed to Canada since Confederation let us know who.

If you can contribute a story, outline, or idea, contact Ed at

Canada.ON.Exec@clan-macpherson.org

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING!

By Helen Macpherson-Potts



My parents are English. Very English! Although I had a very Scottish name growing up, Macpherson, I never really thought much about it. I had always assumed that my family's connections to Scotland were so far back that we could only claim it as a loose connection at best. Imagine my surprise when I recently discovered that my grandfather, not my great-great-great-great (you get the point) grandfather was born in Scotland and it was his father who moved the family to England. They settled in Swindon, to be precise.

I asked my father where his father and our ancestors lived in Scotland and all he remembers hearing is Badenoch, which, although he is very English, he can, pronounce the "och" with



The John Macpherson farm in Badenoch circa 1900

the appropriate emphasis. He also gave me a faded copy of the only picture we have of what would have been our "ancestral home" in Scotland, circa 1900.

All anyone living from my family knows is that my grandfather, John Macpherson, was a motorcycle dispatch operator during World War I and was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps, presumably as a mechanic as there is no knowledge of him being a pilot. He died during World War II when my father was 6 years old and his brother 13 years old. My father pretty much lost all connection with the Macpherson clan as his mother went to live with her side of the family to raise her two boys.

Years ago I had heard my father mention that my grandfather played the violin but quite recently I discovered, much to my delight, that my grandfather also played the bagpipes. At the age of six, when his father died, my father remembers his brother getting their father's violin, much to his dismay, and an uncle getting the bagpipes, much to his delight (and my dismay).

Knowing that my family's connection to Scotland is as near as a couple of generations back and that my grandfather, bless his heart, played the bagpipes changes everything.

It makes me feel Scottish. Very Scottish!



FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

By Mark F Macpherson



As spring turns to summer, it is time to publish another issue of the Green Banner. The golf season has not been great so far, so I have had some time to ponder the July issue. Our contributors have been very good, sending in their articles well before the deadline. This allows time for us to work together to produce the interesting stories you find in our newsletter. I enjoy this work and I am proud of the results we obtain each issue.

In the July issue, we have a first-time contributor. Bruce Macpherson. Chair of the England and Wales Branch, has shared with us some of his adventures in Africa. I hope he will do again for future issues, as Bruce continues to work in Africa, a place of which many of us are not familiar. Making a second appearance is Bob Macpherson of Cochrane Alberta, who provided some interesting information on his family connection to the late Jean Whitten. Then, there are regulars such as Helen Macpherson-Potts, BC Councillor, who gave us an insight to the Clan diaspora in England, Donna Rucks, Association Secretary, shared a travelogue of her journeys in Scotland and Bob Archibald of Port Hope Ontario a former Branch Chair, who sent in a record three articles covering his recent efforts for our Branch. Bob has promised two more contributions for September. Bill Macpherson (Glenfarg), the Association Vice-Chair, took some time to point out some interesting facts about the ships scuttled in Scapa Flow in 1919 that we turned into a short article to share with you. We have an interesting family history sent in by Bill MacPherson, a first-time contributor from Perth ON in response to our call for articles.

I am pleased to see members at large taking the plunge and contributing to our newsletter. I really hope that more will take up the challenge and that we will see additional members joining the "first time" club in September. You can do it!

At the end of a difficult day, Bernard gets out the Scottish Correction Fluid. It erases the errors, and makes it nice.



ONTARIO

By Ed Smith CD, Provincial Councillor



I need not tell any of you that spring arrived with a vengeance, after a hit and miss kind of winter depending of course, on which corner you call home. We survived the snow and ice storms and enjoyed the sunny days thru out.

Gardens have started to bloom here in Ontario and the first crop of dandelions have gone to seed promising a second crop sooner than you might wish.

The Scottish Games and festivities are starting in early June and continue on into the summer. Thanks to input from the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC), many of the dates for the games have been sent out to our Branch membership by our Registrar. CASSOC have started a catalogue of the member clans and will have this on display at all of the functions and games when we are unable to staff our Clan Tent on certain dates. Thus anyone who has inquiries regarding Clan Macpherson will find the information where they can further make con-

tact with our representative, The Macpherson section of the catalogue contains examples of some of the tartans and a summary of the clan history.

I have attended a number of functions including the CASSOC annual meeting, The Guelph Centre for Scottish Studies Spring Colloquium was held at Knox College. Three of the topics presented were:

- The harboring and networks of support of scandalous person at the margins of early modern Scottish society.
- Another concerned a female arsonist and the formal justice in the Sixteenth century.
- The last was an examination of Scottish chronicles written by Malcolm Canmore covering from the twelfth to early sixteenth centuries.

Finally, I have spent many hours working on the Canada 150 Project which is progressing more slowly than I had anticipated. There is a more detailed report elsewhere in this issue.

NOVA SCOTIA

By Bruce Gillis QC., Provincial Councillor



Greetings to all!

Clan Activities since the last Green Banner have been scarce, but there are a few updates that may be of interest

The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo was held late June- early July in Halifax, and is billed as the world's largest annual indoor show. A number of clansmen from various clans participate in various performances, including piping and drumming, highland dancing and the like. It is well worth the price of a ticket.

Charlene Gillis, whom I mentioned in previous reports, was away on an RCAF posting for some time. She is still trying to get her hands on Macpherson family records of clansmen who settled on the East Coast several decades ago, that her mother has retained. I expect to follow up with her soon.

Debbie and I are delighted to announce we are due to become grandparents for the 4th time early in the new year - gender not yet determined, but we're excited whether boy or girl. We're sticking close to home this summer as our property is listed for sale and we need to be around in case there is action on that front.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your Editor wishes to thank the following for their excellent contributions to the July issue: Robert J Archibald, Jean Macpherson-Duffy (USA), Ken Gillis, Bruce Gillis, John House, Bill Macpherson (Glenfarg UK), Bill Macpherson Missauga, Bruce J S Mcpherson (UK), Myles Macpherson, Robert T Macpherson, William Ralph MacPherson, Chantal McPherson, Jacqueline Murdoch, Helen Macpherson-Potts, Donna Rucks, and Ed Smith.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

By John C. House MOM, Provincial Councillor



I have been approaching some Macphersons in Newfoundland regarding membership in the CMA. Although interest has been evident, there is still some work required to translate this into new memberships.

Any members visiting St. John's this summer might be interested to know that July

1st marks the hundredth anniversary of the near annihilation of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment (RNR) at Beaumont Hamel during the opening day of the Battle of the Somme. To mark this event, Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, Colonel in Chief of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, will participate in a commemorative event and officially open displays about the battle in the Fortis Courtyard and Amphitheatre at The Rooms on July 1, 2016. In addition, the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Museum opened earlier this month at St. John's. As you know, the second Chairman of the Canadian Branch, Dr. Cluny Macpherson, was the Principal Medical Officer to the Regiment during the Great War, and his contributions are featured prominently in historical displays. A visit to these places is recommended.

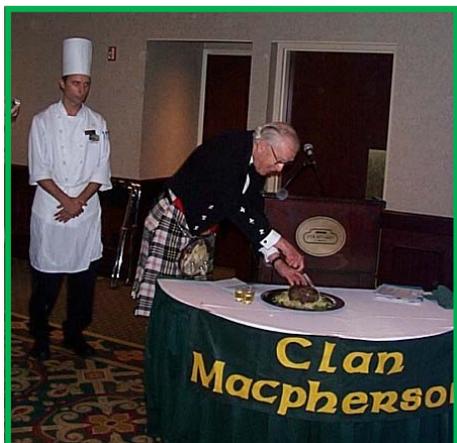
My wife and I will be going to Scotland this summer and look forward to meeting up with the other Canadian members who will be at the Platinum Dhubh in Badenoch in August. In the meantime I wish everyone in CMA a fine summer.

The following was seen on a poster outside the Kirk in Kingussie: **DRINK IS YOUR ENEMY.**

Adjacent to this was another poster which said:

Love your enemy.

SCRAPBOOK OF CANADIAN BRANCH GATHERINGS



In 2004 at the Courtyard Marriott in Toronto. Gordon Macpherson on presenting the Ode to the Haggis is dispatching it with elan



2007 at Collingwood. Dana Fitton (Front) and Mary Margaret Gillies (Background) organizing the incredible prize draw



2008 at Collingwood. Cluny showing off his newly acquired Canadian under trews



2009 at Quebec City During the reception Marlene and Bob Archibald bringing in their fantastic prizes for the draw



2010 at Kingston, Ewan Macpherson Clan Piper leading Cluny and Hilary Lady Burnham from the church following the service

2016
At Toronto
?

67TH ANNUAL CANADIAN BRANCH GATHERING

By Jacqueline Murdoch



If you haven't reserved your tickets for the 67th Canadian Branch Annual Gathering you should order them soon! Held in Toronto, Ontario, from Friday, September 23rd to Sunday, September 25th at the Delta Toronto East on Kennedy Road near Hwy 401, we want all

Clansmen and women to join us for a wonderful weekend of relaxation, historical discovery, and topping it off with our formal Highland Dinner and Dance.

Friday starts with an opportunity to unwind and relax with friends in preparation for an activity packed Saturday.

- 10.30am-12.00pm Branch AGM—Heritage Room
- 2.00pm-4.00pm Viewing of the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry followed by a private talks specifically on the Macphersons and early Scottish settlers to the area given by Pastor Duncan Cameron
- 6.00pm-6.30pm Cocktails
- 6.30pm Formal Highland Dinner featuring a scrumptious Taste of Scotland menu specifically planned for our event, and Entertainment

Church services will be at St. Andrew's, and we will meet for a photograph at 10:45 a.m. with services at 11. There will be coffee and tea afterwards. If the weather is favourable, we suggest a stroll through Toronto's famous Rosetta Maclean Gardens on top of the Scarborough Bluffs before heading home. It offers spectacular views and is a garden-lover's paradise. Alternatively, Bluffers Park has picnic tables and strolls through the lakeside bluffs.

Registration is attached to mail in or go to <http://www.clan->



macpherson.org/canada/rally.html for online registration form. Rooms at the Delta Toronto East (2013 Kennedy Road, Scarborough) are \$129 per night which includes parking. Booking Code is CLANMACPHERSON and rooms can be reserved by calling 1-800-663-3386. Deadline for getting this rate is August 15.



One of 300 panels seen on the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry

We look forward to seeing you all there and renewing friendships.

HIGH EXCITEMENT IN THE MURDOCH HOUSEHOLD !



Photo by Jacqueline Murdoch

Jacqueline ecstatically reports that daughter Rebekkah delivered her first child, granddaughter Clarke Nichole Eagles on June 12. All are doing well.