



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 10 Number 1

SPRING ISSUE

March 2016

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Chantal McPherson, Registrar



A warm welcome to our new annual members Sharon Archibald of Sioux Lookout, ON and John Vincent MacPherson of Strathford, AB who learned about the CMA from our Facebook page.

Sadly we have four long time Life members that have passed away. Our Condolences to the families of Neil McPherson, Jean Whitten, Miss Arlean McPherson, and Joseph James MacPherson. You will find more details in

“We Remember” in this issue.

Note to Annual members that have not yet renewed, you will find your 2016 renewal form attached. Please complete and send in your dues.

CANADIAN BRANCH MEMBERSHIP at March 2016

Life Members	148
Annual Members Renewed	16
Annual Members in Areams	14
Addresses Lost since November 2015	3

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Best wishes to all of our readers for good health, happiness and prosperity in 2016. This sincere winter greeting usually springs to mind naturally but this year I had to think about it. Here in Ontario and across most of the country it has been unusually mild (the first of my 31 in Canada where shovelling snow has not been necessary). I hope you have adapted and are making the most of the season.

In October last year I attended the funeral service of long standing member Marlene McPherson and this February have attended 2 more. It is with sadness we report the loss of Jean Whitten of Mississauga who died on 29th January after a brief illness and also former Branch Chairman Neil McPherson of Oakville who passed on 31st January. My sincere condolences go to the families and thanks for their past service. We cherish fond memories of their enthusiastic participation and contribution to the affairs of the Branch.

Jacqueline Murdoch has decided to step down from the position of Vice Chairman of the Branch and also as CMA Facebook Coordinator. We owe Jacqueline a debt of gratitude for her sterling service in fulfilling both roles. Jacqueline will continue as Convener for this year’s gathering and I would like to record my personal thanks for all of the support she has given me as Chairman.

Together with Mary Margaret Gillies, Jacqueline has made plans for a wonderful Gathering weekend details can be found later in this Newsletter. A warm welcome and an interesting program of activities await everyone.

I look forward to the seeing many of you there and perhaps sooner at one of the Highland Games events where the Branch will have a tent.

In August I will be representing the Branch at the Platinum Dhubh in Badenoch accompanied by many of our members.

In conclusion congratulations to Editor Mark and all contributors for another fine Newsletter and sincere thanks to the office bearers for continued support.

Yours Aye, Bill Macpherson,

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TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The Branch is in good shape financially as of the end of 2015. We have \$8,220 in our current account and a little over \$11,130 in our Life Membership Fund.

I will pay the deposit on our venue for the 2016 Gathering in Toronto in February. The Gatherings are usually self-supporting and the deposit will be recovered when the Gathering is wrapped up. I will also remit the membership money owing to our association headquarters in February. Those two payments will reduce our current account balance to about \$6,750 which still leaves us enough money to cover all our expected expenses.

I am confident that 2016 will be successful year for the Canadian branch. I am looking forward to our Gathering in Toronto this September and I am hoping to see all of you there.

WE REMEMBER

ARLEAN MCPHERSON 1927 – 2015

Arlean Esther McPherson, a life member of the Canadian Branch residing in Saskatchewan, passed away on July 3 2015 after a long illness. Arlean was a librarian by profession with an interest in genealogy and history. She was the author of a book published in 1967, titled *The Battlefords-a History* based on her thesis for her Master of Arts degree from the University of Saskatchewan. She wrote other articles of a historical nature. It is with sadness we offer our sympathies to her family.

THE GREEN BANNER

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

Honorary Chairman: RGM Macpherson CM, KStJ,

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

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Donald Pearson, Alberta
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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

WE REMEMBER

NEIL MCPHERSON 1924 - 2016



Neil Freeman McPherson was Chairman of the Canadian Branch from 1987 to 1991. He was born on February 3, 1924, on a farm in Logan Township, Ontario. He started school in the township and attended high school in nearby Walkerton.

Neil joined the army at age 19 and served overseas in the artillery in Holland and Germany during World War II. On his discharge from the army in 1946, Neil entered the University of Toronto and graduated in 1949 with the Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree.

In 1951 he married Myrna Todd and they had three children, Karen (Mitchell) and Kirk, who is a life member of CMA. Neil was Manager of Development at Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL), until 1985 when he retired.

In retirement Neil and Myrna took several trips to exotic places such as Egypt. He was always interested in sports even up to the age of 79 when he played football with his grandson, much to the amazement of his doctor. It took Parkinson's disease to slow him down and he had to move to a residence where he passed away in his 92nd year.

Neil was a quiet effective Chairman and an active supporter of CMA. He will be remembered as a true gentleman.

JEAN WHITTEN 1927 - 2016



Margaret Jean Whitten, a Councillor for the Canadian Branch for several years, and a long-time life member, passed away on January 29 in her 89th year. Jean attended most of our Gatherings until very recently, and could be counted on to render good advice to the Branch

Executive at Council meetings. She influenced her late husband John to participate as well in full Macpherson highland kit, in spite of the fact she was the Macpherson in the family. John passed away in 2011, also in his 89th year.

Jean grew up in Niagara-on-the-Lake and graduated from the University of Toronto. She was a sportswoman involved in golf, sailing, tennis, and badminton. She was reputedly a pretty mean pool shark as well. Jean demonstrated her pride in her Macpherson background by naming her sailboat at Muskoka, "Cluny's Cat".

Jean will be remembered by those who knew her, as a friendly and supportive member of the Branch, who will certainly be missed.

COLONEL ERNEST RONALD RIVERS MACPHERSON OBE

By Mark Macpherson



Col. E R Rivers Macpherson, our third Chairman, was born in Kingston Jamaica in 1884. His third name "Rivers" was a family name on his mother's side, as she was descended from the second Earl Rivers. Ernest went to school in

England at Hamlet Kinsey's School in Bournemouth. He joined the British army and was commissioned as an officer in the artillery in 1901. His further formal education was received at the Military College of Science and the London School of Economics.



Photo Provided by RGM

Col Macpherson at the Branch Gathering 1957

When World War I broke out he was an officer in the 71st Highlanders. In 1915 he transferred to the 92nd Highlanders and was gassed at the Battle of Ypres. He was promoted to Major and was Second in Command of the Battalion at the Battle of the Somme in 1916. He was appointed Chief Ordnance Staff Officer at the Boulogne Base in 1918. By the end of the war he had been twice mentioned in dispatches and was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

He remained with the army, serving at various stations around the world, principally in Asia, being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the process. He was re-

tired from the army in the late thirties, taking up residence in Singapore. He was a Director of the Betok Johore Hemp Company until the Japanese took Singapore in 1941, although by that time he had returned to Britain as he was recalled to the British Army at the beginning of World War II.

Ernest was promoted to the rank of Colonel and was appointed Chief Ordnance Officer at Aldershot. He served with distinction in this role and was responsible in 1942 for designing a new battle jerkin which was used by special forces to replace the 1937 pattern webbing in use at the time. Many Canadian assault troops attacking the Normandy beaches on D-Day wore his jerkin, which was lighter and more effective than its predecessor.

In 1945 Col Macpherson left the army and took up an appointment as Deputy Head of the United Nations Relief and Reha-

ilitation Administration (UNRRA) where he remained until 1946.

Col. Macpherson had an early interest in the Clan Macpherson Association and published an article in the Singapore Straits Times in 1939 reporting on its impending formation. We can surmise he was in contact with the future founders at that early date. In those days the stated purpose of the CMA was to raise funds to recover Cluny Castle for the Clan.

In 1947 he immigrated to Canada, devoting his energy to founding the Canadian Branch of CMA. He recognized that it was important in launching a new organization to have prestigious and visible people at its head so as a relative newcomer to Canada, he chose to be the Honorary Secretary of the Branch in 1949 at its founding. In this role he worked tirelessly on the business of the CMA with great success. After a period of 8 years he was elected Chairman in 1957, holding this post until 1958. He died in 1959 in Ottawa.

Ernest Macpherson was married in 1910 in the UK to Vera Mary Kinsey and they raised five children, three girls and two boys. When Vera passed away in 1950 he married Marcelle Lion who already had a daughter.

In 1938 he was granted armorial bearings by

Lord Lyon. These are differentiated from the Ban-chor arms, denoting a relationship to Cluny's family.

Col Macpherson was a freelance military correspondent for thirty years and published several articles and two books, Death or Glory and 17th/21st Lancers. At the time of his death he was working on another book. He was also interested in various sports and was an avid yachtsman. While in the Far East he sailed a junk in competition.



Shield of the Arms of E R Rivers Macpherson

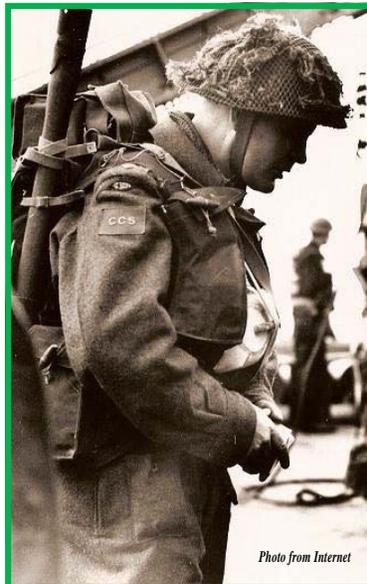


Photo from Internet

Canadian Officer wearing the battle jerkin in 1944

It can be safely said that without Colonel E R Rivers Macpherson, the Canadian Branch would not exist today, certainly not in its present form. All CMA members owe a debt to this energetic and effective Clansman.

Sources:

Creag Dhubh, no 9. 1957

Creag Dhubh, no 11 1959; Obituary

Ancestry.com; Ancestry Hints for Ernest Ronald Rivers MACPHERSON

http://www.kinseyclan.com/kinsey/en_24.htm

<http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers/Digitised/Article/straitstimes19390719-1.2.61.aspx>

<http://www.canadiansoldiers.com/equipment/loadbearing/1942battlejerkin.htm>

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CMA

By Bill Macpherson, CMA Vice Chairman



Surely this is a contradiction in terms? Clan and technology? A clan is all about heritage, auld lang syne (old long ago), and nothing to do with the modern day. I am afraid I have to disagree. To me the very essence of a clan is values of kinship and friendship which

are timeless. If technology can assist in maintaining that, then it should do so. So let's look at the way in which we use modern technology to keep the CMA relevant in the modern day.

Probably the most important means by which we harness modern technology is with communication. We are a worldwide organisation. If we go back 30 years, to communicate between Branches one would have used Air Mail, really quick (but not inexpensive!) and replies would come back in a matter of weeks. Now an e-mail sent from the UK today can be answered by tomorrow morning from Australia, or even later the same day from North America. The other advantage with e-mail is that the address moves around with you (or should do). Imagine looking up a postal address for a Secretary in 'Creag Dhubh' only to have a letter returned a month later as 'Gone away', or worse still delivered but ignored because that person is no longer the

Secretary. All Officers of the Association have CMA e-mail addresses, so send an e-mail to CMA.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org and you don't have to know that John has handed over to Jean; it goes straight to the right person.

As an organisation we have three major planning meetings a year: March, August and October. These are always at the Clan House (Museum) in Newtonmore, and although some do make the commitment to travel from overseas to attend, it is too much to ask for Branch representatives to travel as a norm. Now we have Skype! Most Branch representatives are at the August meeting as it coincides with the Gathering in Badenoch, but we can now have representation even at the March/October meetings. It does mean that for those in North America and Australasia they have to be awake at abnormal

times, but just twice a year some do manage it. So a speaker and a microphone are on the table and those from overseas can contribute. Because the internet connection in Newtonmore is not very good it's not quite as good as having them present, but it has broadened the scope of discussion and quality of decisions considerably.

All the above is communication, but due to limited numbers, we also, however use technology to communicate with our members and the wider world. Since the formation of the CMA the main vehicle for communication with all members has been the annual magazine, 'Creag Dhubh'. Yes, individual Branches have their newsletters, but 'Creag Dhubh' was the only means of communicating with the whole membership. It has to be said it is still 'the master'. What 'Creag Dhubh' doesn't allow, however, is the output of information during the

year. So we now have two additional means of communication: the web site and Facebook page. The web site is used mainly for 'output', e.g. information of Branch activities. It is also used to enable members to book on-line for attendance at Gatherings, both national ones and the CMA Gathering in Badenoch. For interaction we have Facebook, or to be precise 'The Official Clan Macpherson' Facebook page. Here we can post information and the world can respond.

Even the production of 'Creag Dhubh' relies heavily on technology. Originally the Editor collected articles (mostly written on paper in longhand) and sent them to the printer. It was the printer who put the content into printed form and then provided a proof copy which had to be sent via post to a number of people, round-robin, for proof reading. All this took time and was very expensive. Now articles come into the Editor mostly by e-mail, are laid out in software and sent out via e-mail to a team of proof readers. Once all corrections are made the final copy is converted into an Adobe PDF file and put on a server on the cloud for the printer to pick up. The PDF file is fed directly into their printing press so what the editor has set up is exactly what is printed. This has resulted in a huge cost saving which has allowed us to go to a colour magazine, and because of the shortened production time, include late news.

Clan Macpherson Association

Welcome to the Clan Macpherson Association

The Clan Macpherson Association (CMA) is a world-wide organisation with objectives that include:

- promoting and fostering the Clan spirit and life of the Clan at home and abroad
- keeping Clansfolk in touch with one another in all parts of the world
- encouraging the study and preservation of the history, folk-lore, literature, music, treasures and traditions of the Clan Macpherson

To find out how we set out to achieve those aims, read below and browse this site. If you are a Macpherson (or MacPherson or McPherson) or from one of our many Associated Families, join us. Details can be found on this site.

Started in 1946 by a group of clansmen in Scotland, the CMA now has a world-wide membership, from New Zealand to Sweden, from the United States of America to Borneo, with its traditional heartland being Badenoch in Scotland. Where a country has a sufficient density of membership local branches maintain local contact, but whether a member of a branch or not, we are all part of the Clan Macpherson Association. Branches operate in Australia, Canada, England & Wales, New Zealand, Scotland and the United States of America. Branches have their own pages on this site, and they can be accessed from the menu on the left.

The name Macpherson, MacPherson, or McPherson, according to the spelling preferred by individual families, comes from the Gaelic Mac-a-Phearsain and means literally "Son of the Parson". Muirich Cattaneach, Fourth Chief of Clan Chattan, was made Parson of Kingussie, and his second son was the first to be called Macpherson.

The banner header shows several places of significance to the Macphersons. From the left these are: the view of the River Spey from Cluny's Cave where he hid after Culloden, the Clan House in Newtonmore which houses the Clan Macpherson Museum, and the hill in Badenoch called Creag Dhubh, from which the Macpherson war cry is derived. On the left of the header is our (the CMA's) Coat of Arms and, on the right, the CMA Badge.

As well as local Branch activities, the Gathering is held each year in Badenoch, where members from all over the world come together to dance, sing, talk and enjoy each other's company. This happens on the first full weekend in August, and coincides with the Newtonmore Highland Games, our "own" games.

The Cairn, to the left, is a symbol of our world-wide spread with a foothold for all in the root of our families. Built on Macpherson ground in Badenoch, it is constructed of stone from all around the world, sent by Macphersons from where they live.

To give commitment to our objective of preserving our history, the CMA owns and runs the Clan Macpherson Museum, also in Badenoch, in the town of Newtonmore. You can find information about the museum, and make a virtual visit and tour, by following the link on the menu.

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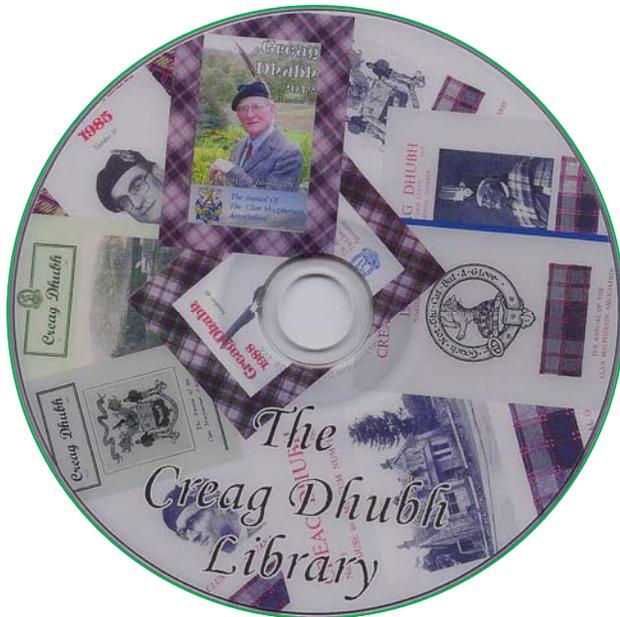
Clan website welcome page

Continued on page 5

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CMA

Continued from page 4

Talking of 'Creag Dhubh', there is a wealth of information published ever since issue number 1 in 1949, some of which is of significant historical importance. It was realised that there were very few places where all back-numbers are available. Even where available, finding information was a long and laborious process. Again the solution was technology. All the copies were scanned and put through Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software which changes the scanned 'picture' into individual letters. Actual pictures were scanned as well, although because the paper quality was not good (particularly in the early days) the results on the pictures are mixed. The data was laid out as



close as possible to the original and then printed to an Acrobat PDF file. So we now have 58 PDF files. There is a 'Professional' version of Adobe Acrobat that can create a searchable index of individual words from a collection of Acrobat files, this was used to create a 'Search' function. So if you want to know all the information available about the 'Black Officer' it takes to seconds to find the 60 instances in 26 Creag Dhubhs. This collection and index is available on a DVD from the On-line Shop.

So there you have it, yes we revere auld lang syne, but fully incorporate today!

Bill Macpherson joined the CMA as a Life Member in 1974. Having purchased a kilt from the late Hugh Macpherson in Edinburgh, he found joining was a condition of sale!

Bill was Association Treasurer from 2000 to 2005, and has been a Museum Trustee since 2000. He served as Webmaster from 2010 to 2013 and Scottish Branch Chairman from 2009 to 2012. He is now Association Vice Chairman.

Although trained as an electronics engineer, he finished up as a Chromatography and Data Handling Specialist supporting customers from Scandinavia to India through Europe, Africa, Middle East and Russia. Now semi-retired he keeps his hand in by running his own company together with his wife Jan (Association Registrar and Creag Dhubh Editor) providing bespoke software and web programming to CMA and others.

CMA CHAIR REPORT

By Jean Macpherson-Duffy



Finally the rain has come to California and, as I write this to you, it is pouring. It will take 80 more inches here in my hometown to make up for the four years of drought. We just pray it doesn't come all at once!!

I am blessed to have a great team working on all aspects of the Platinum Dhubh. (PD) and, at the rate the bookings are arriving, we know that it will be a success!! I remember how delighted we were at the 50th with the golf tournament, the flamenco dancing by our Spanish cousins, and the trip down Loch Ericht. The highlight was the unveiling of the Cairn with stones from all over the world.

It seemed we hardly blinked and it was 2006 and we were involved with the 60th Anniversary of the Association. Again we had a large marquee for dancing and celiidh but used three different dinner venues in the hotel. The highlight was the ceilidh at Ruthven Barracks where we enjoyed a rain-free evening. Personally, 2006 was memorable because my grandson, Mason Miller, was baptized during the church service.

Now we are excited by the weeklong activities planned for the 70th – or Platinum Anniversary of the Clan Macpherson Association. We start the week on Wednesday the 3rd in Edinburgh. You can read all about each event in the Creag Dhubh.– or go online to the Clan Macpherson website and you will note the Platinum Dhubh link.

I think that it is tribute to our close relationships as clan members that so many of the "young" people who worked on the 1996 gathering are still taking lead roles in this Platinum Dhubh. Those that come to my mind are Bruce J.S. Macpherson, Bonnie McPherson, Jamie Macpherson, Annie LeRoy Lewis, Ewen MacPherson and others whom I will recall as soon as I send this off!

I didn't get to Scotland to chair my first exec meeting as I had hoped. Instead we did it by Skype. Thank goodness that Bill, Glenfarg, can put the whole Skype business together and make the connection work.

I asked where each person was sitting and could just imagine how it all looked. The nice part for me with the time difference between Newtonmore and California, I was dressed in pj's and robe! Obviously the Skype was audio only. For the most part, the meeting dealt with plans for the "PD."

There is so much strife in the world today that we sometimes overlook the importance of our clan family. We get busy in our own little world and we sometimes forget about others. I am hoping that this can be a reminder to all of us to care for one another. Each gathering we have the church service on Sunday where we hear about compassion for others. May we have a fresh appreciation for all God has done for us and may that appreciation spill over into relationships with others.

THE GREEN LADY - THE GHOST OF NEWTON CASTLE

By Shelagh Macpherson Noble, Vice President CMA



Newton Castle, the home of our chief Cluny, is a beautiful and fascinating place and like a lot of ancient buildings, it is reputed to have its own ghost, The Green Lady. There exists a delightful ballad entitled “The Green Ladye o’ Newton”, written in the old Scots language, which tells the story of how she became the ghost of Newton Castle. The origin of the ballad is obscure; however, as Cluny says, “it is fun”.



Photo from Internet

Newton Castle Blairgowrie. The “round” tower is on the left of the building

Back in the mists of time, Lady Jean Drummond, daughter of the castle owner, fell in love with a young man named Ronald; however he did not return her love. Dejected, but refusing to give up, Lady Jean tried to gain Ronald’s affection by wearing all her finery. “A grey auld wife” was not impressed by Jean’s efforts and persuaded her to try a different tactic.

The auld wife’s advice was strange:

“Gae cut a bout o’ the kirkyard grass,
An’ a branch frae the rowan tree,
That stan’s by itsel’ on the Gallows Knowe,
Whar they hang’d the murderers three.

“Gae twist an ell-lang rashy wyth,
An’ tak’ them doon alane,
To the Coble Pule, ‘tween the licht an’ the dark,
An’ sit on the Corbie Stane¹.”

Lady Jean followed the instructions. She bound the grass and the rowan branch together and as dusk came down, she sat on the “Corbie Stane¹” in the River Ericht. She closed her eyes and soon heard a strange sound coming from the water. A voice said:

“Warlocks, wabsters, ane and aa
Weave the witchin claith
Warp o’ grass and weft o’ rash,
Weave the wab o’ death”

Jean remained on the Corbie Stane all night. “An’ at the dawin’ o’ the day, whan she ope’d her steekit een²”, she found she was clothed in the “witchin claith of green”, or the fairy green.

She returned to the castle and found Ronald awaiting an audience with her. He was duly bewitched by her appearance and they were wed.

Whilst the wedding feast took place, Jean heard a terrible voice, repeating the verse about the warlocks that she had heard the night before. She collapsed. Ronald carried her up to their bedroom at the top of the round tower of Newton Castle and there she died. Lady Jean was buried on Knockie Hill. Legend says the fairies claimed her spirit for stealing their “claith”. It is said that on Hallowe’en, Lady Jean walks down the hill to Newton Castle and climbs the stairs to the bedroom at the top of the tower seeking her lost lover. The last verse of the ballad says:

“An’ the Ladye Jean comes oot frae the mools,
An’ doon tae the Newton Ha’ –
Frae sic a sicht on that ghaistly nicht,
The gude Lord keep us a’!”

Please find translations for two of the expressions in the Ballad. We trust the rest will be reasonably clear to the reader:

1. Corby Stane—Crow Stone
2. steekit een”, - closed eyes

The author wishes to thank Sir William Macpherson for his kind advice and assistance with preparing this article. Although Cluny has not yet seen the Green Lady this doesn’t mean he may not.

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 2016.

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



Without delay!



THE FLEET THAT SANK IN SCOTLAND

By Sandy Macpherson



At 11:00 am on the 11th day of November 1918 the Great War ended and all over the world men and women emerged after a dreadful four years of horror and bloodshed resolving to create a better world for the future.

In mainland Europe the defeated German army found its way home again and the victorious allies began the task of disposing of the tons of war material which had accumulated over the past four years.

The German Fleet, although mauled by the British at the Battle of Jutland and blockaded in German ports for two years, was still largely intact. Seventy ships of all sizes sailed across the North Sea under a white flag of surrender and assembled in the Firth of Forth to await further orders.

The British Government was undecided on what to do with this huge fleet. As they were getting in the way of a busy sea lane, it was decided to send them elsewhere until a final decision had been made.

The fleet steamed north until they reached Scapa Flow, a large well sheltered deep water anchorage in the Orkney Islands which had been a Royal Navy base during the war. There, they assembled in neat lines and dropped anchor.

Most of the German sailors were sent home, leaving only a skeleton crew on board each ship, where they spent a monotonous life, as they were forbidden to go ashore the only recreation was fishing over the side. They were under strict orders not to communicate between ships or to display any nationalistic signs. To ensure that these orders were obeyed regular patrols by Royal Navy ships sailed up and down the lines.

On Midsummer's Day, the 21st of June 1919, the pupils of Stromness Academy, the nearest town to Scapa Flow, were due for a treat. It was nearing the end of the summer term and to celebrate this event a small steamer the "Flying Kestrel" had been chartered to take a party of children into Scapa Flow to sail around the moored German Fleet.

It was a fine summer's day and the children gazed in awe at the

huge ships towering above them, totally dwarfing their tiny steamer. Suddenly, without any warning, terrible things began to happen. Before the pupils' eyes the huge ships began to sink. They listed to one side or the other, they dropped down by the bow or stern, getting lower and lower in the water until they finally disappeared.

The scene became chaotic, the Royal Navy patrols were racing up and down, shots were being fired at the German sailors who had taken to the life boats and were rowing for the shore. Several of these men lost their lives.

The children were horrified, what was happening? Would their little ship be the next to sink? They made all speed back to Stromness, where they went ashore terrified after their frightening ordeal.

The story behind this extraordinary event was as follows: The senior German Naval officer in charge of the fleet was Admiral von Reuter, a patriotic and proud officer of the old school, he had vowed the his fleet would never surrender to the enemy. He made a plan and secretly passed orders to the commanders of the other ships of the fleet. At noon on Midsummer's Day he hoisted the German flag, strictly against orders, which signaled that all German ships were to open the sea cocks, let the sea flow in and send all German ships to the bottom of the sea rather than have the shame of surrender. Of the total fleet of seventy four ships

that were interned at Scapa Flow, fifty two were sunk, many in deep water. Several were salvaged over the next fifteen years but some still lie at the bottom of Scapa Floe, a memorial to this extraordinary event.

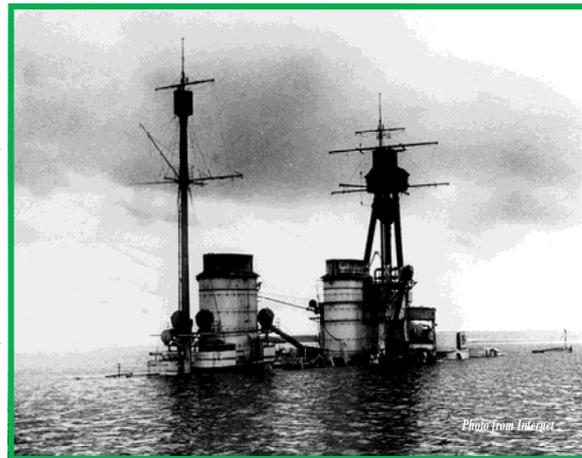
This story was told to me by an elderly lady, now deceased, who had been a child passenger on the "Flying Kestrel" on that momentous Midsummer's Day. I feel that it is a privilege to have heard an eye witness account of such an amazing and unique event that happened in Scotland.



Sandy Macpherson has been a life member of CMA for many years and was Chairman from 1988 to 1991. Currently a Trustee of the Clan Macpherson Museum. The best part of the Association was his meeting Catherine, his future wife, at a Clan Country Dance in Edinburgh. The rest is history.



Bored German sailors fishing in Scapa Flow 1919



SMS Hindenburg scuttled on orders from Admiral von Reuter

THE DOCTOR MCPHERSON OF RYLEY

By Andrew Macpherson



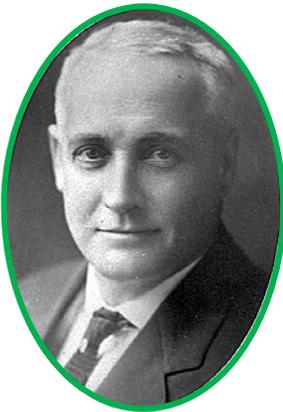
When my wife Susan and I decided to move from Brampton, ON (population 520,000+) to Ryley, Alberta (population 497) back in 2009, we were not expecting to see anything familiar. Sure enough, when my father-in-law picked us up from the Edmonton airport (an hour's drive away) and we drove down the main street for the first time, there it was. Right there in "downtown" Ryley – The McPherson Library! And what were the chances that our next door neighbour happened to be the Librarian there? Well I suppose they weren't exactly astronomical odds considering the size of the wee village we would now call home.



McPherson Library, Ryley Alberta

Certainly this was intriguing and after a visit to the Ryley Museum, we were able to find out more about the history of the man after which the library is named: Dr. James L. McPherson.

Dr. McPherson had moved from Southern Ontario, from a small town called Teeswater in Bruce County, where He was born in 1881. His parents emigrated from Scotland in the early 19th century.



Dr James L McPherson
Circa 1948

Dr. McPherson graduated from the University of Toronto in 1908 and starting practicing medicine in Ryley that same year. He was a life member of the Canadian Medical Association. He became quite the prominent citizen in Ryley serving the community in the various capacities. He was: Chairman of the School Board and Founder of the Curling Club. He was first Noble Grand Master of the Ryley Lodge,

of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) and Alberta Grand Master of this Order in 1925. He was elected to the Alberta Legislature in 1935 and continued as a Social Credit member until his resignation in 1948.

In 1911, Dr. McPherson married Clara Thorsley, daughter of a pioneer couple. The McPhersons never had any children of their own, but took in and raised several displaced children



Photo by Andrew

Latest curling rink for the club founded by Dr McPherson

over the years. One of these later took over the town pharmacy that the McPhersons owned.



Photo by Andrew

Display of samples of pharmaceuticals from the McPherson Pharmacy in the Ryley Museum

Dr. McPherson passed away in 1951, having served the county as a physician for over forty years. He was on call 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, from the horse and buggy days, right through to his retirement. According to a local history book, *Beaver Tales*, there were very few babies born in the area after 1908 that he was not on hand for the delivery!

We met a few people that knew Dr. McPherson, and there is a large parcel of farmland that has the McPherson name on it according to maps printed in the 70s and 80s. We haven't come across any distant cousins, but with the McPherson name firmly established in this area of rural Alberta, it would not surprise me at all. Not even in a small town!

Sources for article:

Beaver Tales; Ladies Auxiliary, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 192; Friesen Printers, Calgary 1978

Ryley Museum, Ryley AB

Wikipedia; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_L._McPherson

Andrew Macpherson joined CMA in 2014. He presently lives in Tofield, Alberta with his wife Susan and daughter Keziah. Tofield is about 60 km east of Edmonton and 10 km west of Ryley. Andrew is employed by Altek Industrial Supply in Edmonton, working in Logistics.

ST ANDREWS BALL 2015

By Robert J Archibald



On Saturday Nov. 28th 2015 the latest edition of the Saint Andrews Ball was held at the Royal York Hotel in downtown Toronto. Four members of the Canadian Branch of the CMA pictured here from r to l Chantal McPherson, Jacqueline Murdoch, Marlene Archibald and Robert J Archibald attended along with nearly 500 other guests and dignitaries.



At the Ball. Bob and Marlene Archibald, Jacqueline Murdoch, and Chantal McPherson

The St Andrew's Charity Ball as it is known today is a joint affair with the Toronto St. Andrew's Society and the 48th Highlanders of Canada and has been held in Toronto since 1843 but not continually. War and economics have played a part in its continuity. In its recent past upwards of 1200 revelers have been in attendance, filling both the Canadian Room and the Ontario Room in the Royal York with dining, dancing, drinking and music. It has been billed as the premier Scottish event in Canada (*the Montreal St Andrews Society and the Black Watch may beg to differ – ed*) and perhaps North America. I would certainly encourage anyone interested in a really good time and Highland Balls, to attend this event at least once in their lifetime.

EDITOR'S NOTES

St Andrews Societies can be found in most major centres in Canada and in other countries. The Canadian Societies vary in age from founding, 1798 St John NB to 1871 Winnipeg MB. They all were started to assist Scottish immigrants and needy Scots, and developed to support knowledge of Scottish culture in Canada. Most of them hold fund raising events on or near key Scottish days such as St Andrews day, November 30, and Robbie Burns Day January 25. Toronto and Montreal are noted for their longstanding highland balls and most of the others hold a celebratory dinner for St Andrews day.

PROJECT CANADA 150

By Ed Smith CD



Spring is coming! The snowbirds of the CMA are probably still snuggled up in their winter lodgings in Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, and Florida.

Meanwhile Project 150 continues to struggle onward. We have made progress with the excellent contributions that have been submitted thus far. We have been consulting with Ewen MacPherson of the Clan Museum. We have received some help from our own Green Banner Editor, Mark Macpherson, who has joined the Committee consisting of Jacqueline Murdoch, Chairman Bill, and me.

Ewen made us aware of the display format that meets the UK museum standards, so we are ready to produce a great exhibit! Now all that is required are some more submissions from the Canadian branch membership to make our display a proud addition to the Clan Museum.

I understand that Scots, who immigrated to Canada after the two World Wars or during the fifties, sixties thru to the nineties, may feel they have no Canadian background. However I find it difficult to believe there have been no accomplishments since arriving. No matter how insignificant you may think they are, we are interested in hearing about them.

I hope all Branch members realize a contribution to one's country need not be world shattering. Anyone, be it man or woman, who has risen to a challenge and attains a position or takes an opportunity that contributes to the well-being of society can contribute to this project to mark the 150th anniversary of Canada.

If you or you or a family member has been involved in industry, agriculture, business, politics, education, military or in general social welfare of the general public you may have a story to tell. Your contributions in these areas make our nation what it is today.

I can only ask you to take part in this endeavor. I am not asking for money, I am asking you for a few moments of your time to give us a short article or even an outline with at least one appropriate image. Compiling, editing, and formatting will be completed by the Committee on the material you provide. We need and appreciate your help with Project 150.

Should you feel you have nothing to contribute for whatever reason, we would like to hear from you anyway, so we will know our message has been heard? Just drop an email note to the committee at Canada.ON.Exec@clan-macpherson.org

ONTARIO

By Ed Smith CD, Provincial Councillor



After the busy times in the later part of 2015 including the Combined Canada-US Gathering in Itasca Illinois, Thanks giving Day feasts, attending the annual general meeting of the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC), followed

by elections at two of the clubs of which I am on the executive, the festivities of Christmas, spending time with my daughter, son-in-law, and my two granddaughters, I finished the year with a relatively quiet New Year at home- just the cat and me!

Now is the season of Robbie Burns Dinners, Scottish functions, including various The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) Chapter activities from classes, workshops to gala balls. and the Tartan Day celebrations, around the Province.

I mentioned CASSOC earlier. I should explain that I put forward a motion during the Canadian Branch Council Meeting at Itasca that the CMA Canadian Branch should become a member. After some additional research, it was concluded that the Branch would become a member. Chairman Bill delegated me to attend and be the contact representative for CMA Canadian Branch at the CASSOC annual meeting on November 22nd. I completed the required paperwork and paid our dues for the year ending Aug. 31 2016.

There are many advantages accruing to the Canadian Branch: I will receive information and a newsletter called *An Dro-chaid* (The Bridge), courtesy of the CASSOC Secretary, which I will endeavor to pass on to the membership via the usual means. We will have a section on the CASSOC website where we can publish Clan information as well as a link to the CMA website so visitors can be directed to learn more about the Clan Macpherson Association. Perhaps we shall see new and younger members as a result.

WE REMEMBER

JOSEPH MACPHERSON 1921 – 2015

Joseph James. MacPherson, life member, joined the CMA several years ago. He served in the Royal Canadian Navy during World War II. Joseph lived in Scarborough ON and was active in the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons Lodge 451, elected as Master, and in the Order of the Eastern Star where he was Past Patron. Our condolences to his family.



BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Helen Macpherson Potts, Provincial Councillor



For the past while I have been contacting clans people from the Canada 411 file for BC. This has been tough going from my location in Prince George as we are far from the population centres of the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. We are now reassessing our strategy as to how to grow the CMA in BC. However on a positive note, please find my account of an annual Burns supper here in Prince George:

Once again our estimable hosts Michael and Sylvia held their annual Robbie Burns dinner and what a night it was! There was a plethora of plaid as wearing something tartan is a mandatory requirement for attendance. If one is to attend, one also must come prepared with a song, joke, game or trivia of something to do with Scotland. Robbie Burns poems are, of course, welcome although few of us can do them justice, except for Michael and his recitation of Robbie's "Address to the Haggis". The food was delicious and the haggis so popular that Sylvia may have to buy two haggis' (haggi!?) for next year's dinner. After a traditional Robbie Burns dinner of meat pies, neaps and tatties and haggis and also including the aforementioned address and the toast to the Lads & Lassies the evening naturally transitioned into another time honoured Scottish tradition: A Ceilidh.



Brian and Helen doing their number at the Ceilidh

There were numerous jokes shared by many of the guests, my favourite one being "what's the difference between a bagpipe and a chainsaw?" Answer: "You can tune a chain-

Continued on page 11

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Continued from page 10

saw.” (Truthfully though, I love the sound of bagpipes!) A kindergarten teacher in our midst created a game called “Scot or Not” that tested our knowledge on things or people that are Scottish...or not. She even had a game board and plasticised placards!

This year’s musical entertainment included a fiddle, guitar and vocalist ensemble with “Donald Where’s Your Trousers” and a trio of vocalists sang “A Red, Red Rose”. I played a waltz on a soprano recorder, prefacing my recital by saying that the reason I don’t play in public is because I can’t breathe when playing in front of people. I got almost through the waltz when I nearly had the giggles because I knew I wasn’t breathing and realized the way to play in front of people is to only play songs short enough so that I don’t have to breathe part way through. My husband, Brian, determined as we left last year’s dinner that we should play “500 Miles” by the Proclaimers at this year’s dinner, which we did and everyone wholeheartedly sang along and stomped their feet.

Another enjoyable Robbie Burns dinner officially closed with Auld Lang Syne.

“May the best you’ve ever seen
Be the worst you’ll ever see;
May the mouse ne’er leave you giral
Wi’ a tear drap in its e’e;
May your lum keep blithely reekin’
Till ye’re auld enough to dee;
May you aye be just as happy
As I wish you now to be!”

NOVA SCOTIA

By Bruce Gillis QC., Provincial Councillor



Sainte to all!

The early winter has been pretty quiet in Nova Scotia, with weather, as usual, keeping most of us huddled down.

However, yours truly represented the Clan at the Robbie Burns dinner held at RCAF Base Greenwood Annapolis Mess, and had a chance to talk about the state of Clan associations with a number of other Clan reps, including Major General Ian Patrick, (Retd) who has been President of the Canadian Clan Lamont Association. He was the Guest of Honour and gave an erudite and entertaining address to the Immortal Bard.

The General was a big admirer of my late mother Mary Gillis who was not only an avid supporter of our Clan Association, and worked with him on many Scottish events and projects, including the Annapolis Valley Highland Games, which they were instrumental in establishing.



Debbie and me with our neighbours Grant and Lynn Moar, who never miss a chance to wear highland dress at this event.

Live entertainment from not only the Base Pipes and Drums, but a group of very talented musicians and dancers from the Antigonish area was instrumental in livening up the evening. The performers included several MacPhersons, Gillis’, and a Smith or two - all clansmen and clanswomen. We made some efforts to get them interested in becoming members which we hope will bear fruit.

General Patrick and I had a good discussion about ways to encourage participation of younger members in the Clan Associations, and hopefully can put some initiatives in place.

QUEBEC

By Myles G Macpherson CD., Provincial Councillor



As we are all in the middle of winter at the time of this writing I hope everyone is keeping warm. Mark, June, and I attended the annual St Andrews Society Robbie Burns dinner here in Montreal. It was well attended with over 100 people and well organized. We met with fellow Scots and aspiring Scots and enjoyed

great conversation during dinner and a few small libations.

As always there are upcoming events planned by some of the local Scottish groups in the Montreal area. If you are interested and plan to be near here I recommend that you take a quick look on the St-Andrew’s Society web page; <http://standrews.qc.ca/>.

I recently discovered a Scottish and Celtic store near me, Kennedy Celtic Boutique, which is helpful if you are looking for finding kilts and other related paraphernalia to purchase or repair.

For all those of you who are looking to attend Highland Games this summer, the two major events in the Quebec Region are: the Maxville Highland Games July 29-30 and the Montreal Highland Games July 31. Let me know if you are planning to come to the Montreal area and we can meet at that time.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

By John C. House MOM, Provincial Councillor



In January 30th we attended the annual Robert Burns supper hosted by the St. Andrews Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. The event was well attended and featured excellent entertainment provided by various individuals and groups, including the City of St. John's Pipe Band, members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, the Highland Dance Collective and many others. It is evident that there is a great appreciation for Scottish heritage here in NL.



"Address tae the haggis."

Left to right are, Ava Djan-Chekar of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, David Allison, Doug Dorward, both of the St Andrews Society, and Sonya Leclerc of the City of St Johns Pipe Band

There is very little to report relating to CMA activity. Arising from some conversation at the Burns Supper I anticipate at least one application for membership to CMA.

I still have much to learn about assisting Mark with his editor duties. With all my questions thus far I am afraid that I am caus-

LEGION OF THE LOST

In previous issues we noted the following members need to be located:

Mr. Roderick Ian MacPherson	Kanata, ON
Col. Glen W. McPherson	W. Vancouver, BC
Mr. John D. and Glenna McPherson	Vancouver, BC
Bruce MacPherson	Hamilton, ON

The following were added in March:

James Place	Stoney Creek, ON
Dr Ian MacPherson	Victoria, BC
Ian Gillies	New Westminster, BC

If any member knows where any of these lost members is presently residing, please send an email or note to:

Chantal McPherson, Registrar
991 Matheson E #13
Mississauga ON, L4W 2V3

Email: Canada.Registrar@clan-macpherson.org

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

By Mark F Macpherson



As I sit in front of my computer composing this report, it is a bone-chilling minus 25° C outside my window. I hope by the time you are reading this issue of the Green Banner, the weather will be warming up again as we head for spring.

This issue has been prepared by John House and I working together, using the famous internet "cloud" to send the draft copy back and forth until it was satisfactory for publication. The native documents in MS Publisher are large and complicated and would take all day if there were sent by normal email. The use of cloud services allows us to share the document for editing in a reasonable time. As you know, if you don't receive your copy by post, you are getting a full-colour copy by email as a Portable Document Format (PDF) document which is considerably smaller in size than the original. It comes to you fairly quickly, depending on the speed of your internet service. We hope by this "cloud" method to be able in the future, to allow more editors to work directly on an issue, thus spreading the workload a bit and also to help them gain experience working with the Publisher software.

It was gratifying to me to see that we have three new contributors for the March issue. Two from Scotland and one from Canada. I approached Sandy at Itasca and he readily agreed to submit "something". His "The Fleet that Sank in Scotland" was the interesting result. I for one, was unaware that the German Grand Fleet had been scuttled in Scotland in 1919. A request to Bill Macpherson of Glenfarg, a fine engineer, and the technical driving force behind the Clan Macpherson website, brought forth the article "Technology in the CMA" demonstrating the scope of his activities on behalf of the Association. Andrew Macpherson in Alberta volunteered his article on "The Dr McPherson of Riley", a piece of Canadian history that we may not have learned without Andrew thinking of us during his travels. I sincerely hope that more members reflect on your experiences of a Clan or Scottish nature, and come forward with ideas for articles. This is your newsletter and the more input we have from different contributors, the more interesting it will be.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank all of our contributors to this issue. Without their support this fine March edition would not have been possible: Robert J Archibald, Jean Macpherson Duffy (USA), Bruce Gillis, Ken Gillis, John House, Andrew Macpherson, Bill Macpherson (Scotland), Bill Macpherson (Mississauga), Helen Macpherson Potts, Myles Macpherson, Sandy Macpherson (Scotland), Shelagh Macpherson Noble (Scotland), Chantal McPherson, Jacqueline Murdoch, and Ed Smith.

67TH ANNUAL CANADIAN BRANCH GATHERING

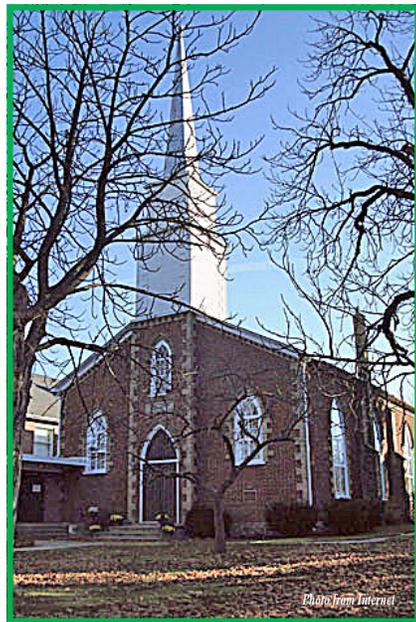
By Jacqueline Murdoch, Convener



The Canadian Branch will celebrate its 67th Annual Gathering in Toronto, Ontario, from Friday, September 23rd to Sunday, September 25th. Held 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.

The weekend starts with a casual meet and greet at the Delta where we can catch up, have a wee dram or two, and arrange dinner at one of the three terrific restaurants the Delta Toronto East has to offer. After a long drive, a long work week, and often a long time since meeting up with our old friends, a no-fuss evening will be what many will look forward to. For those looking for entertainment, stay tuned for a couple of Friday evening opportunities for a group to attend.



St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Scarborough

Saturday promises to be busy so you will enjoy breakfast before attending the Canadian Branch AGM at 10:30. At 2:00 p.m. join the Clan at Toronto's oldest Church, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Scarborough to tour the fantastic Scottish Diaspora Tapestry. This is the only stop the tapestry will make in Toronto, and hundreds of volunteers in over 30 countries came together to make this grouping of tapestries of the 2014 Scottish Homecoming

(www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org). Scots have migrated all over the world and have stories from their new communities that are documented in more than 300 embroidered panels. These panels display the determination, courage and achievement of Scottish migrants and their descendants across the centuries and around the world. In addition to the tapestry, the

church is also displaying designs modeled after the Menai Suspension Bridge from senior high school student teams in Toronto.

After viewing the tapestries, a tour of the St. Andrews Cemetery and parts of the old Indian Trail will be given by Pastor Duncan Cameron, who has a Macpherson connection. The

church cemetery contains a history of early Scarborough, including the Thomson family who were the first settlers of Scarborough. The church and cemetery sit on land that was once part of the Thomson farm. In fact, the Land patent was issued in 1802 by King George III. The names on the headstones

bear the names of many of Scarborough's early settlers.

The evening program begins at 6:00 p.m. with cocktails at the Heritage Room. The traditional Highland Dinner will follow at 6:30 p.m. and a host of entertainment to follow after dinner. Visit the Canadian webpage Annual Gathering tab at <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/rally.html> for more details. You will find a registration form distributed with this newsletter.

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.

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

DEADLINE FOR JULY ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the July issue are due on the Editors desk on June 10. 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

Gillies went to Toronto for the annual Gathering and stayed at a less expensive hotel. He didn't find that the natives were very friendly.

'At 4 o'clock every morning,' he told a friend, 'they banged on my bedroom door, on the walls, even on the floor and ceiling. Sometimes they hammered so loud I could hardly hear myself playing the bagpipes.'

COME HOME TO BADENOCH THIS SUMMER

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THE PLATINUM DHUBH AUGUST 3 TO 9

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