



# THE GREEN BANNER

## NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 10 Number 4

GATHERING ISSUE

November 2016

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



This is a new experience for me!

There are many members before me who have served as officers for the Canadian Branch, all giving their service to the Clan Association to ensure it has continued to survive to this day. I have noticed that each year the effort is handled by just a faithful few.

I believe that enjoying a membership, whether annual or life, in any organization comes with a measure of responsibility to contribute skills or time one may have to ensure that the mission and objectives are met.

I am aware that some members have young families, or careers that absorb much of their time. However if all of us contribute a small percentage of our spare time - together we can make our Branch a much more vibrant organization.

I am looking for ideas and suggestions that will contribute to helping our membership numbers increase and identify activities that will be more inclusive and interesting for all members. We are concerned with turnover in our annual members and need to know what can be done to make the CMA serve our

members better and meet the expectations they had when they joined.

This has been a great year for the Clan Macpherson Association overall. From an amazingly successful Platinum Dhubh Gathering at Badenoch in August, the Scotland / Northern Ireland Branch hosting the Clan Museum fund raising function in Edinburgh where £9,000 was realized, to a donation to the museum of \$1,315 raised at an auction held during the recent US Branch Gathering.

Other contributions have been made recently to the museum in the form of Branch-sponsored exhibits. The Australian Branch provided an excellent presentation on Australians who contributed to their country over the past 100 years.

Two years ago the Canadian Branch was asked to help organize a presentation of Macphersons' contributions to Canada during the past 150 years The museum needs displays covering 150 panels for presentation We can provide an exhibit that all 200 members of the Canadian Branch can be proud of, if all of us take up this challenge and provide material to the Committee to send to the museum. I am counting on you.

Yours Aye, Ed Smith CD,

### A FAREWELL



It was a pleasure to chair my 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual

General Meeting in September with so many of our regular members in attendance. This meeting gives the members not only the opportunity to hear first-hand reports from the Branch: Chairman, Treasurer, Registrar, Editor, Highland Games Convener, Webmaster & any Provincial Councillors present but to ask questions and make suggestions. Members were given an update on the highly successful 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Platinum Dhubh Gathering in Badenoch and were read messages from our Chief, the Association Chairman, and the Chair of the US Branch.

Attraction and retention of members was discussed with the agreement that we form a small committee to report back next year with some recommendations. Thanks to Dana Fitton for

volunteering to serve and I am sure our new Chairman would be happy to hear from any other members so inclined.

Other highlights included our Treasurer being given the green light to set up a Paypal account for collection of annual and event registration fees plus the votes of thanks to both Jacqueline Murdoch for organizing the excellent Gathering program and to Mary Margaret Gillies for all of her hard work on the team that brought the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry Exhibition to Toronto and ensuing it was a highlight of our weekend.

Ed Smith was elected as new Chairman and I would like once again to thank all of the Past Chairmen, officers and members for their support and to wish Ed and the current team success and enjoyment in the coming years. I will be around to help where needed .

Bill Macpherson (Mississauga)

## TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The Branch is in good shape financially as of the end of September. We have \$7,107 in our current account and \$11,131 in our Life Membership Fund. We are showing a loss of \$1,112 year to date at the end of the month of September.

The loss on the year is the result of several factors. The Canadian association voted to supply commemorative pins for the 75th anniversary celebration. The cost was \$815 and represented good value in my view. Another expense item was the purchase of flag staffs and fittings at a cost of \$586. Again, another good purchase as it is important that we as a clan present a professional appearance. The final major item is the cost of mailing Creag Dhubh. We recover the cost of mailing by what we raise from the sale of annual memberships. We have had a major decline in the number of annual memberships. We still sold enough memberships to cover the mailing costs however I remitted 12 memberships early which left only 14 memberships to cover the costs of mailing. Meaning that we are short approximately \$245. I do not believe there will be any other large expenses for the balance of this year.

Our AGM was quite successful and made a small surplus. I congratulate Jacqueline Murdoch on a job well done.

## THE GREEN BANNER

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

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

**Officers:**

Ed Smith CD, Chairman  
Ken Gillis, Honorary Treasurer  
Chantal McPherson, Honorary Secretary

**Immediate Past Chairman:**

William Macpherson PEng

**Provincial Councillors:**

John C House MOM, Newfoundland and Labrador  
Bruce Gillis QC, Nova Scotia  
Major Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec  
Donald Pearson, Alberta  
Helen Macpherson-Potts British Columbia

**Editor:** Mark F Macpherson CD

**Associate Editor:** John C House MOM

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

## COUNCIL FOR 2017

The Branch Council for the coming year was elected by acclamation at the Annual General Meeting held on October 3, 2016.

The Council for 2017 is as follows:

Chairman	Ed Smith CD.
Vice Chairman	Deferred.
Hon Treasurer	Ken Gillis
Hon Secretary	Chantal McPherson
Registrar	Vacant.
Councillor, Newfoundland and Labrador	John C House MOM.
Councillor, Nova Scotia	Bruce Gillis QC.
Councillor, Quebec	Major Myles G Macpherson CD.
Councillor, Alberta	Donald E Pearson
Councillor, British Columbia	Helen Macpherson Potts

### Annual Appointments:

Editor	LCol Mark F Macpherson CD
Web Master	Ewan A Macpherson PhD

### Ex-Officio:

Honorary Chairman	RGM Macpherson CM, KStJ.
Immediate Past Chairman	William Macpherson PEng

Former Chairmen Ex Officio:

John C Gillies

LCol Mark F Macpherson CD.

Robert J Archibald

Douglas MacPherson

Stuart G MacPherson

There are five vacancies on Council: Vice-Chairman, Registrar, Councillors for New Brunswick/PEI, Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. The Council agreed to defer filling the position of Vice-Chairman until 2018. The Registrar role will be covered by other Councillors until a replacement is found.



Members of Council 2017 present at AGM

Robert J Archibald Former Chair, Ken Gillis Hon Treasurer, John C Gillies Former Chair, Mark Macpherson Editor, Bill Macpherson Immediate Past Chair, Chantal McPherson Hon Secretary, Ed Smith Chairman, Gordon Macpherson Honorary Chairman

# RODERICK GORDON MURDOCH MACPHERSON CM, KSTJ, FRHSC, FRSA, FSA (SCOT).

By Mark F Macpherson



Gordon Macpherson, our eighth Chairman who served from 1979 to 1983, and is currently Honorary Chairman of the Canadian Branch, was born in 1926 in New Westminster BC where his father was a Presbyterian minister. From his early years Gordon was interested in

drawing and things artistic. In 1936 at the tender age of ten, when his father got the call, Gordon “decided” to move to Toronto. Eventually he entered Jarvis Collegiate then the oldest secondary school in Upper Canada, which he attended from 1940–45 while World War II was raging.

The school, like many others in Canada at this time, had an army cadet corps in which Gordon served and enjoyed immensely. In 1945 he was attracted by the lure of the sea and transferred to the Sea Cadets serving until 1948. In 1952 he was commissioned as a Sub-Lieutenant in the Naval Reserve. As



Sub-Lt. RGM Macpherson 1952

qualification courses would require time away from home. and he was newly married with a challenging job, in 1959 Gordon retired from the Navy.

Gordon joined CMA as a founding member of the Canadian Branch in 1949 with the encouragement of his father who had an interest in his Macpherson background and was also joining the Association. Gordon served as Branch Honorary Secretary-Treasurer from 1957 to 1961 and Honorary Secretary from 1962 to 1974 before being elected to Branch Vice-Chairman in 1975. He was elected International Chairman of CMA in 1991 with responsibilities for the CMA worldwide. At the end of his tour as CMA Chairman in 1993 he assumed the role of Vice-President of the Association, a role he retains today.

Throughout his secondary education period, Gordon’s primary hobby continued to be drawing and painting. When he was 18 he became interested in heraldic



Gordon with a caber at the Stouffville Gathering in 1960

Photo by Audrey Collins

art and began a lifetime of study and practice of heraldry developing his powerful and unique style of heraldic art. He recalls an aunt, who was a university librarian who found books on heraldry that he could borrow to further his studies in his avocation.

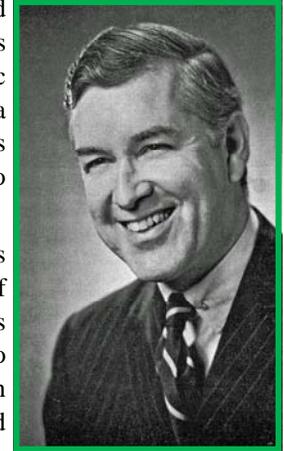
Gordon was accepted to prestigious Trinity College of the University of Toronto, but before he could start his freshman year, he received an offer to enter the finance industry working in a trust company, where he remained for five years,

In 1954 Gordon married Nancy Chart in Guelph and they moved to London Ontario where Gordon was now working with an investment firm. They raised two children, Pam who lives in Burlington near Gordon and Nancy, with her husband Kirk McPherson, and Alexander, who lives in New Westminster BC. Nancy and both children are life members of CMA.

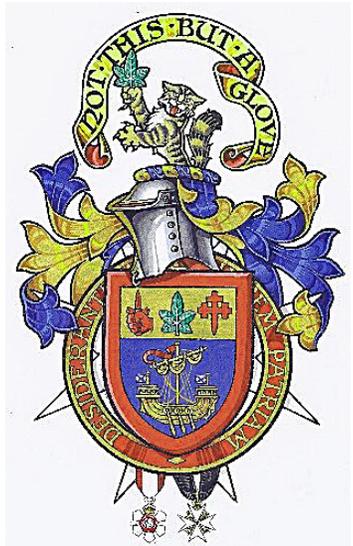
Gordon continued to advance in his career, surviving several rationalizations and amalgamations in the investment industry, finally retiring as a Vice-President of Dominion Securities in 1986.

In retirement from business after a successful career, Gordon concentrated on his hobby of heraldry and heraldic art, where he was already well-known for his encyclopedic knowledge of this field and his outstanding paintings for grants of armorial bearings to fellow clansmen and others. Gordon was also responsible for drawing several finely crafted bookplates for many armigers for whom he had designed and produced the art for their coats of arms. Examples of Gordon’s work may be seen in the *Posterity of the Three Brethren* by Dr. Alan G Macpherson. In 1978 CMA recognized his contributions to Clan Macpherson through heraldry by naming him “Clansman of the Year”.

Gordon was a founding member of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada (RHSC) and was elected a Fellow (FRHSC) in 1976 at a ceremony presided by Pauline McGibbon, then Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. Gordon continues to be an active member of RHSC as



Clansman of the year 1978



Arms of Roderick Gordon Murdoch Macpherson  
Note medals for the Order of Canada and Knight of the Order of St John suspended below the shield

Continued on Page 4

# RODERICK GORDON MURDOCH MACPHERSON CM, KSTJ, FRHSC, FRSA, FSA (SCOT).

*Continued from page 3*

an artist and in their College of Fellows. In 1988 on the creation of the Canadian Heraldic Authority (CHA) Gordon was called upon to paint many patents for them. For this he was appointed Niagara Herald Extraordinary recognizing his outstanding talent in heraldic art. In this role he is called upon to prepare patents for many Canadian applicants for coats of arms, including fellow clansmen. Notably Gordon has painted 76 shields for Macpherson armigers at his own expense which he donated to the Museum for display on the Heraldry Wall. In 2016 in recognition of Gordon's contributions to the museum over the years, the room was renamed "The Gordon Macpherson Niagara Herald Extraordinary Room".



*Badge of Niagara Herald Extraordinary. The wavy vertical lines connote the Niagara River*

Gordon was asked in 1974 by the Venerable Order of St John to assist in their heraldry and to paint shields from their armigers' coats of arms for display on the heraldry wall in St John's House in Ottawa. Gordon was invested in the Order and in time he was appointed Genealogist succeeding John Matheson who was responsible for the maple leaf Canadian flag. For his contributions Gordon was promoted to the rank of Knight in the Order of St John (KStJ).

Gordon's personal heraldic achievements began when his father matriculated his own arms at Lyon Court in 1955 including Gordon's cadet coat of arms. On the death of his father, Gordon rematriculated his arms at Lyon Court in 1969. In November 2000 Gordon's coat of arms was registered by the Canadian Heraldic Authority. When he was appointed Niagara Herald Extraordinary in 1999, he was assigned a badge of office by CHA. The design connotes in part, the Niagara River and Niagara Falls.

In 2008 Gordon was made a Member of the Order of Canada, the highest award a Canadian civilian can receive for service to the country, in recognition of his outstanding achievements and contributions to the field of heraldry. On learning of this honour, Gordon typically stated that he couldn't understand why he had received it for simply pursuing his hobby!



*Gordon at home 2007  
Note the shield from his arms mounted on the fireplace flanked by cadet arms for his family*

During his life Gordon has received many honours and awards related to his work in the field of heraldry. Of interest to clansmen are: Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA) sponsored by Colonel Rivers Macpherson in 1957 and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (FSA (Scot)) sponsored by Dr. Cluny Macpherson in 1957.



## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

*By Mark F Macpherson*



This is the fourth issue in the tenth year of publishing the current version of the Branch newsletter. Over the years I have received some positive feedback and suggestions, usually from the same people. I think it is time for more members to express their opinion on your newsletter. I really don't know if many of you even read it.

I would appreciate very much if all members who are reading the Green Banner come forward with their impressions both positive and negative, so we can do a better job for you. As a marketing person my natural instinct is to send you a questionnaire but I don't think this is necessary as I am confident you will send me your opinions freely based on a few simple questions: Do you like the Green Banner? What can we do to make it better for you? What topics would you like to see? I will be

disappointed if I don't hear from many members.

This issue finds two first-time contributors: Scott Gillis of St John's NL sent in an interesting story of Scottish immigration to Newfoundland and Labrador. Stewart Macpherson got his father to tell a super story of their family history in piping. I also appreciated the story Bob and Sondra Archibald submitted on their trip to the Outer Hebrides this summer, and I hope you did too.

The report on the Branch Gathering involved five of our stalwart contributors providing a variety of impressions of this event from different points of view. We also tried to use as many images as possible to illustrate the stories.

I have started to receive contributions for the March issue. Let's have some more first-time contributors!

## FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

By Bill Macpherson



Last year I was given the tremendous honour of being nominated and appointed as a Trustee for the Clan Macpherson Museum. Many of our branch members will attest to the pride that we all share in having this enviable home for displaying a fine collection of artefacts

and other objects, all of significance to the Macpherson Clan, past and present, at home and abroad. If you have the opportunity, it is a must see for anyone with an interest in their Scottish roots and in particular to members of our extended clan family. Whet your appetite by visiting the museum on-line, either through the Association web pages or at [www.clanmacphersonmuseum.org.uk](http://www.clanmacphersonmuseum.org.uk), you will not be disappointed.

As a newbie to the team that manages the museum it has been an eye opener for me to witness the hard work and dedication of the volunteer group that commit so much time and enthusiasm preserving our heritage and promoting our fine museum. First opened in 1952 it has continued to improve, expand and grow in stature and is now recognised as a 4-Star Museum by 'Visit Scotland' and is accredited with Museum Galleries Scotland and the Arts Council England. Trustees and members of the Museum Advisory Committee do not receive remuneration and since no public funding is provided to cover operating costs (including repairs; maintenance; utilities; equipment; supplies and curator compensation) balancing the books is a constant challenge.

Admission to the museum is free, although donations from visitors are welcome through collection boxes. Donations made to the Sheila, Lady Cluny Endowment Fund are used to pay for curatorial services and to cover costs for special exhibitions. Another revenue source comes from the Guardian's (details are available on the website) and uses investment income from that fund to help offset major expenses. It is the regular ongoing maintenance costs that are the biggest concern and many much needed tasks such as painting, window replacement, roof and parking lot repair get delayed due to lack of funds.

On behalf of the museum team I would like to introduce or remind readers of an ideal way to give support and that is to become a Friend.

The Friends of the Clan Macpherson Museum program is an opportunity to help to contribute towards the day to day costs (e.g. heating oil, building maintenance) in order to ensure we keep the museum open. Annual membership is available in three forms, Individual, Joint or Corporate with Individual membership costing the Canadian equivalent of 40 UK Pounds per year. Details on how to become a Friend and membership privileges can be found on the Association and Museum websites. I encourage you to seriously consider becoming a member and to contact me if you have any questions or help in getting started.

## CMA CHAIR REPORT

By Jean Macpherson-Duffy



The season is definitely changing here in northern California. In fact, today we had the first sprinkles bringing the hint that winter is around the corner!

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, I will head to Scotland for our Autumn Executive meeting. We will be dissecting the Platinum Dhubh and sharing all the great memories of that wonderful August event.

Because the marquee was such a success, and with the encouragement of all, we have applied for a smaller grant from the government which might allow us to lease a smaller marquee for next year.

We will also be considering the application for a new European Branch. Several members who live outside the UK have prepared a constitution that will be discussed.

However, the biggest source of excitement is the invitation from the Edinburgh Tattoo to Cluny. We have been invited to partake in the in the theme of global Scotland for the 2017 tattoo. Cluny very wisely selected the Tuesday after our 2017 Gathering for our appearance at the Tattoo. This time works perfectly with our ball on August 4<sup>th</sup>, the AGM and march on the 5<sup>th</sup>, church and picnic on the 6<sup>th</sup>, clan walk on the 7<sup>th</sup> and then to Edinburgh for the Tattoo on the 8<sup>th</sup>. What a full and delightful schedule.

As part of the programme the Tattoo and the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs have joined together to involve Scottish Clans and Families. Clan Chiefs will attend the show across the August run and invite clan members to attend on their night wearing their tartan; and the 'Macpherson' night is the Tuesday following the Gathering. As part of the show the Tattoo will look to bring to life the past and present story of the Scottish Clans and Families. Their importance as part of Scotland's national heritage and future identity will be on display.

## 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 can contribute a story, outline,  
or idea, contact Ed Smith at

[Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org)

# SCOTTISH IMMIGRATION & SETTLEMENT IN NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

By Scott Gillis



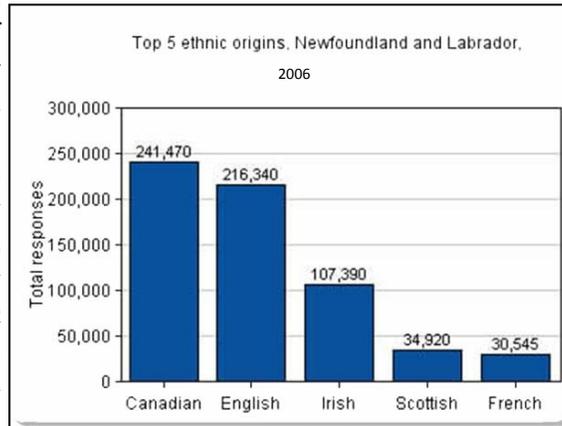
Unlike Nova Scotia and to a lesser degree some other provinces, Scottish culture and heritage are likely not the first things that to come to mind when you think of Newfoundland and Labrador. The number of Scots that settled here is relatively small and the history of their presence here perhaps

less well known. However, as in all parts of this great country they have left their mark and continue to impact the social and cultural fabric. Despite some early efforts in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and some mercantile involvement in the 18<sup>th</sup> century no notable influx of Scots occurred until the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the arrival of a small but influential wave of English speaking, Presbyterian, Lowland Scots to the political and mercantile centre of St. John's. What spurred their interest in the Province at this particular time was a dramatic increase in the value of cod and the associated economic opportunities. At first many came to fill the roles of temporary agents to run the local operations for their overseas owners and then move home after a few years of apprenticeship. However, with the passage of time more of these temporary residents began to look at the broader range of opportunities and invest locally. *Newfoundland and Labrador Heritage* contends that, "Although vastly outnumbered by settlers of English and Irish descent, Scottish immigrants were often among the most influential members of society and contributed much to the development of Newfoundland and Labrador's politics, economy, and culture." Many of the leading political reformers and leaders of the time such as William Carson, and George Crosbie (who arrived via New Brunswick) were from amongst this group and their descendants hold influence to this day. But all of these arrivals were consistent in their preference to remain close to the colony's political and commercial centre.

Another wave of Scots arrived shortly after the first migration got underway from a totally different direction and background. These, for the most part at least, were second and third generation families who were the descendants of Highland Scots that had originally settled on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia. The availability of arable land in the Codroy Valley and St. George's Bay areas of Newfoundland's west coast was inviting to these Gaelic speaking Roman Catholic farmers whose numbers were expanding to the point of having exhausted available farmland in Cape Breton. They opened up an area on the island of Newfoundland that had

been largely neglected due to both the dominance of the fishery as a basis of economic activity and to the inclusion of this area as part of the French Shore – a political arrangement that had provided France with access to this region of the island for seasonal fishing activities through the 1763 Treaty of Paris. This migration lasted approximately 20 years as large families moved across the Cabot Strait and settled into farming vegetables and livestock such as sheep and cattle. By 1857

over 400 settlers had cleared approximately 550 acres of land. Place names in the area clearly reflect their influence with communities such as St. Andrews, Searston, Highlands, McKays, and Heatherton to name a few. Their descendants can still be found in the area although many of have made the migration to St. John's where employment opportunities have drawn many of the rural youth of the province.



The third noteworthy area of Scottish

migration and influence in the province was Labrador. The motivation here was the fur trade and, as in many areas of the country, the Hudson's Bay Company was the engine that controlled the trade. Scots were famous as employees of the HBC and played a major role in opening up the interior as well as the northern and western extremities of the continent. In the case of Labrador, although European settlement was very limited, where it did occur Scots were there. Among these was Sir Donald Smith who established the company's Labrador headquarters in 1852 at North West River – just a few miles north of where the Goose Bay air base was established during the Second World War. Smith lived in Labrador for 21 years before becoming Lord Strathcona in 1897. Even prior to Smith, Highlander John McLean in 1838 became the first white man to cross overland from Ungava Bay to Esquimaux Bay (now Hamilton Inlet or Lake Melville) which facilitated fur-trading on the Labrador peninsula. In August of the next year he made a journey to the Hamilton River during which he discovered one of the world's most beautiful and powerful waterfalls now known as Churchill Falls. Between the founding of the North West River post in 1836 and the company's withdrawal from the area in 1942, nearly 30 forts and trading posts were established by the HBC in the Labrador region, many if not all of which would have been staffed by Scots during their years of operation. As is not uncommon in the annals of the Hudson Bay Company, many of these men would have intermarried into the local native population and their bloodlines would have been established in the region as evidenced by surnames still common in many of the Labrador communities..

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## AUTUMN CANVAS

By Stuart G. McPherson



Stuart taking photos near the Ox Tongue River rapids

Around the year 2000, I was going up to Algonquin Park one fall weekend with some friends when the autumn colour was at its peak. We decided to have a look at the Ox Tongue River rapids, just outside the west boundary of the Park. As I had reduced my other activities such as coaching and umpiring sports, I was getting into photography in a big way. Many of my images have won awards and as a matter of fact the one I am sharing with you, taken while at the Ox Tongue River, I am proud to say, won several awards.



Autumn Canvas, the award winning picture taken at the Ox Tongue River

In closing I would like to say my enthusiasm for photography continues. Over the years in addition to being out and about taking scenic and wild life pictures, I have also taken well over 2000 indoor studio table top images. Possibly I will share some of these in future issues of the Green Banner.

Stuart G McPherson was the 11<sup>th</sup> Chairman of the Canadian Branch. He emigrated from the UK in 1956 to take up a position as a Photographic Lithographer. In 1998 after further studies, he became a professional photographer and was published in several magazines, winning many awards for his work. Stuart attends Branch events when he is able.

## SCOTTISH IMMIGRATION & SETTLEMENT IN NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

Continued from page 6



Jack Charles Gillis, the author's grandson born 15 June, 2014 taken shortly before his 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday earlier this year and representing the most recent generation of the clan to call Newfoundland and Labrador home.

Sources:

<http://www.heritage.nf.ca/articles/society/scottish.php>

[www.heritage.nf.ca](http://www.heritage.nf.ca)

<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/>

Geoffrey Scott Gillis joined CMA in 2012 as a life member. In 1985 He, along with his late mother Mary and other members of the family which included Bruce the current Provincial Councillor for Nova Scotia, attended the Gathering in Badenoch that summer which sparked his early interest.

Scott graduated from the Nova Scotia Land Survey Institute in 1980 and took a position working in Remote Sensing and Aerial Photography. This led to expertise in ice management, working on oil rigs off the coast of Labrador, the Beaufort Sea, and the Scotian shelf. He eventually returned to aerial photography taking assignments throughout Atlantic Canada with Geomatic Technologies Inc. He then became involved in the development of off-shore oil fields and hydro-electric power sites in the areas of change management, interface management, and project completions.

Scott lives in St John's Newfoundland with his wife Jose, son, and two daughters, where he is a consultant with Nalcor on the Lower Churchill Project.

A Scotsman gets a cab to take him and his girlfriend home. She's so beautiful he can barely keep his eyes on the meter

# A FAMILY HISTORY OF PIPING

By Stewart Macpherson



My eldest son Caleb has been playing the bagpipes for the better part of two years. This is a story about the pipers in our family as told by my father.

My name is Donald Macpherson and as requested by my son Stewart, I have prepared this story about part of our family's connection with Clan Macpherson. It was prompted by some recent piping developments in the family to which I will return later. I would like to state the information here is accurate, as I realize some family histories become expanded and exaggerated over time.

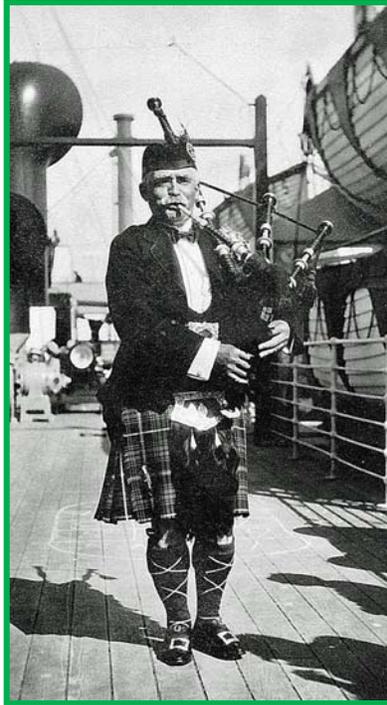
World Championship. In 1925 John sailed on the Athenia to the USA via Nova Scotia where he won the US championship. Malcolm's youngest son Angus was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 1969 for services to piping, by the Queen at Balmoral in Scotland.

My early childhood was spent in a house called Dochana-saidh in Newtonmore near the fish shop, until my father sold the property. It is now known as The Clan Macpherson Museum where some of Malcolm's other sons' piping competition medals are on display.

Now returning to the reason for this article, even though my father, my son Stewart, and I displayed very little in musical



Malcolm Macpherson "Calum piobair" circa 1889



John Macpherson piping on the ship taking him to the US Championship in 1925



Caleb Macpherson in his great-great-grandfather John's kilt 2016

It may be of some help to explain that my great grandfather was Malcolm Macpherson "Calum piobair", Piper to Chief of Clan Chattan. He was born at Snizort and baptised at Anishader on the Isle of Skye in 1833. He left Skye for Greenock and eventually moved to Laggan where he stayed in a cottage on the river Spey. What most people do not realize is that Malcolm played with the drones on his right shoulder rather than the left as was considered normal. He was an outstanding piper and was asked not to compete locally as he would always be the winner. He played in the Paris Exposition in 1889 in what was designated the Piobaireachd World Championship, which he won.

Malcolm had six sons, five of whom played the pipes. The oldest was John (Jockan), a fishmonger by trade, who had a shop on the high street in Newtonmore. John won the Oban gold medal in 1889 the same year his father Malcolm won the

ability, my grandson Caleb John Macpherson, who is presently aged 13, seems to have inherited this talent and is currently playing for The Ryan Russell Memorial band in Toronto.

I will end this presentation here even though there is much more to tell, as my great, great, great, great grandfather was James Macpherson, Piper to Clunay of the '45, but that is another story.

*Stewart Macpherson joined CMA in June of this year. He was born in Chelmsford, England just east of London. At the age of four his family immigrated to Canada and he grew up in Oshawa, Ontario. Soon after completing college, graduating as a Cartographic/Geographic Information System (GIS) Mapping Specialist, he first moved to Williams Lake, British Columbia for a year and then settled down in Calgary, Alberta for 16 years, working for Nexen Inc. as a GIS Specialist.*

*Stewart and his wife Kelly have two sons Liam (age 10) and Caleb (age 13). In 2010, they relocated back to Ontario and living once again in Oshawa to be closer their families. Stewart is presently employed with Morrison Hershfield as a Senior GIS Analyst, Environment Services.*

# OVER TO THE OUTER HEBRIDES

By Sondra and Bob Archibald



After the rousing excitement of Platinum Dhubh and the fury of wind and rain trying to lift the tent away, we sought a little peace and quiet—what could be better than the Outer Hebrides? One of the few areas of Scotland we had not previously visited. After a slightly choppy ferry crossing we landed at Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis. The stark, almost treeless landscape, dotted with small villages and isolated houses along with the peat bogs, was surprisingly beautiful. We had prepared by reading a couple of Peter May's novels which captured the atmosphere very well but were relieved that we didn't encounter any of the gruesome murder victims of which he is fond. Out on the Butt of Lewis, with nothing but Atlantic between us and North America, we thought of those who emigrated from this area, bleak as it can be but nonetheless home, for other parts of the world, often equipped with little but hope.

As we moved south toward Harris, trees began to appear a little more plentiful. We looked forward to seeing the famous local fabric growing on the Harris Tweed bushes but were surprised to learn that it is actually woven from the wool of local sheep—who knew? Whatever its provenance, we were delighted to acquire some beautiful examples of the craft.

We moved on through North and South Uist, Benbecula, and Eriskay, enjoying the quiet lochs and magnificent seascapes, again interspersed with villages and homesteads; an amazing variety of scenery in a small area.



*Stornoway, the gateway to the Isle of Lewis*

Finally, Barra, with a few more tourists attracted by its sandy beaches and great hiking and camping areas. We departed on the ferry to Oban, happy with our brief stay on these wonderful isles. The almost constant wind, rain and mist seemed so appropriate to the scene that we wouldn't have wanted anything different.

We passed through Inverary on our way to the Isle of Bute in



*The Outer Hebrides*

the Firth of Clyde. Rothesay, with its seafront mansions and crowds of weekend visitors from the mainland, and the prosperous farms of rural Bute presented quite a contrast to the outer isles. We ended our Scottish visit in Glasgow with two days of glorious sunshine and a fun outing on the old paddle steamer *Waverley*—a great finale to our stay in Scotland.



*A beach on Barra*



*The flag of the Outer Hebrides*

## 67TH BRANCH GATHERING

The Gathering this year was a success. Thirty members and guests came together at the Delta hotel in Scarborough to enjoy a very nice Gathering organized by Jacqueline Murdoch. On this occasion, the usual ceilidh on Friday evening was replaced by an optional "Meet and Greet" at the members' expense in an experiment to reduce the registration fee for the Gathering. The normal meetings and highland dinner



Branch members and guests at the highland dinner

### Meet and Greet

By Ed Smith



The first function of a Canadian Branch AGM for some years has been the "Meet and Greet" on the Friday evening. Those attending gather and catch up with on their comings and goings for the past year. All this over a beverage of choice, along with a few snacks in the hotel bar.

After a time in the bar, at least two dozen of our group of cousins enjoyed dinner together held in a room provided by the hotel. There was ample time for socializing while we waited for the cooks to prepare our orders. The food was tasty and not too expensive. It was nice to be reunited with folk I had not seen for some time.



Some of the members at the Meet and Greet

After dinner we were invited by Bill to gather in his suite to have a more comfortable area where we could share experiences such as visiting Scotland and the Platinum Dhubh this summer and enjoy a wee dram.



**JOB HUNTING IN SCOTLAND**  
 'Are you looking for work Jock?'  
 'Not necessarily - but I'd like a job.'



Continued on page 11

were held on Saturday along with an excellent tour of the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry organized by Mary Margaret Gillies at her church. On Sunday we returned to St Andrews Presbyterian Church for our traditional church service. Following are the impressions of different members of the events that took place at the Gathering during the weekend:

### Annual General Meeting

By Robert w Archibald



Following is a summary of some of the highlights of the meeting:

It was agreed to adopt PayPal or a similar payment system, for the convenience of members.

Ed Smith, the incoming Chairman will appoint a committee to study retention and also to suggest ideas for recruiting new members.

The position of Vice-chairman is deferred until next year and will be filled at that time.



Members studying the reports for the Annual General Meeting

The location of the 2017 Gathering is to be decided and a Con-venor for this event selected.

Chairman Ed is seeking more input from members for Project 150, the upcoming Canada Sesquicentennial display at the Clan Museum.

## Annual General Meeting

*Continued from page 10*

After many years of sterling service, Bob and Marlene Archibald will no longer be able to attend highland games on behalf of CMA. Volunteers will be sought to represent the Clan at various games next year.

Revisions to the Branch Constitution adopted by Council will be circulated to the members and voted on at the 2017 AGM. Members should review these when received and send any comments to Ed Smith prior to the meeting

## The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry

*By Jacqueline Murdoch*



On Saturday afternoon we went to St. Andrew's Church to view the Scottish Diaspora Tapestries, thanks to Mary Margaret Gillies who was on the church team that brought the tapestries to Canada.

There were 305 individual tapestry panels from 33 countries, the largest contributions being from Australia and Canada, each telling an individual story of a particular family's journey to another country. This exhibit delivered far more than I expected.

The tour started with a delightful history of the Scarborough area by Rev. Duncan Cameron who has Clan Macpherson roots. He shared with us the rich Scottish history of Scarborough and the initial habitation of the land that I call home.



*Maple Leaf Forever tapestry panel*

One of my favourite tapestries was "The Maple Leaf Forever" which celebrated the foundation of the Dominion of Canada in 1867, led by Glasgow-born Sir John A. Macdonald Canada's

first Prime Minister. This tapestry panel also celebrates another Scot, Alexander Muir, who wrote "Maple Leaf Forever", a song to commemorate federation, and an unofficial anthem of the fledgling country.

The artistry, colours, styles and stitches were often different for each country. The Italian tapestry "The Most Scottish Town in Italy" mirrors the colours of a Tuscan landscape while showing how the town of Barga blended Scottish and Italian cultures. The colours of the Indian and Sri Lankan tapestries were vibrant and vivid and so clear that you could almost feel like you could step into the tapestry and celebrate Robbie Burns Night not only with haggis, but with ladoos and lassie.

Each tapestry panel is a blend of two cultures often telling the story of the hardship, innovation, industry, music or love, to build a new life in a new land.



*The organizers of the Gathering  
Jacqueline Murdoch and Mary Margaret Gillies  
In front of some of the 305 tapestry panels on display*

## The Highland Dinner

*By Bill Macpherson*



It was great to have Clan Piper and Branch Webmaster Ewan Macpherson at the Gathering this year. Ewan piped in the head table and the haggis party. Later on he entertained us with a selection of well-known tunes. A Highland Dinner is just not the same without the sound of pipes played so well.

Pastor Duncan Cameron of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, hosts for the Diaspora Tapestry Exhibition, reminded us of the many blessings we shared as we gave thanks before sitting to eat a scrumptious meal.

The Raffle, thanks to the generosity of our members, had many prizes. Little Nathalie Hall, daughter of Kevin & Tia, energetically assisted the draw and helped to present the lucky winners their prizes.

*Continued on page 12*

## The Highland Dinner

Continued from page 11



*The festive season will be merry in Hemmingford this year due to the wine collection June Macpherson amassed with lucky tickets.*

We were also very fortunate to have another fund raising opportunity. Ewan, presented some items from his father's collection for a silent auction. Allan G. Macpherson is the Clan Historian. Those fortunate enough to win the highest bids went home with an item to treasure.



*Passing of the Cromag.  
The symbol of office for the Chairman*

My final duty as Chairman was to present the Cromag to our new Chairman Ed Smith. Ed has been a hard worker and excellent ambassador since joining the Branch and I wish him every success in the years to come. I was very humbled and pleased when Ed presented me with a beautiful engraved decanter and glasses as reminder of my years as Branch Chairman.

No gathering of Macphersons would be complete without a sing-a-long and Ed made sure it happened as he led the group in a selection of Scottish favourites. An ideal way to end a very enjoyable evening

## DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the March issue are due on the Editors desk on February 15. 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 Church Service

from a Piper's View

By Ewan A Macpherson



We gathered in the Sunday morning sunshine outside St Andrew's, and close to 11am moved into the church hall, where the Diaspora Tapestry was still on display. Pastor Duncan Cameron came to find me and we walked to the back of the sanctuary to plan the best route for piping in the Macphersons to their assigned seats. He helpfully gave me a nod when the organist had finished her introductory piece, I struck up and in we went, getting seated without mishap!



*Rev. Cameron giving instructions before the service on the story of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar.*

Bill was invited to give the reading, and as usual captivated us with his oratory.

Participation in hymn singing was greatly aided by the projection of the words on a screen behind the choir. Pastor Cameron gave an interesting sermon on "Decisions" based

Close to the end of the service, I realized that we had not coordinated exit piping with the organist, so we filed out with the congregation into the sunshine again to the sounds of her playing. After some fond farewells (and on my part a quick change into civvies for the drive home), we parted while looking forward to next year's Gathering.



*CMA group gathered at St Andrews Presbyterian Church before the service on a sunny Sunday morning in Scarborough*

## CARRYING CANADIAN GREETINGS TO THE US GATHERING

By June Macpherson



Mark and I arrived on a Thursday at the American Gathering in Herndon, Virginia, near the Dulles Airport, a very busy place. Our GPS let us down as we had to circle the airport twice (paying tolls each time) before finding our way to the hotel.

Once there we immediately went to the Macpherson Hospitality Room where we were met many old friends. We were not the only Canadians to attend as Marlene and Bob Archibald (Port Hope) and Sondra and Bob Archibald (Brantford) also joined the festivities.



Canadian members at the US Gathering  
Robert W Archibald, Sondra Archibald, Marlene Archibald, Robert J Archibald,  
June Macpherson, Mark Macpherson

There were many meetings scheduled for Friday. At the AGM, Mark read greetings from our Chairman Bill, who was not able to attend the US Gathering this year. There was a reception and informal dinner in the evening that allowed us to become reacquainted with those Americans we had met at other Gatherings or in Scotland. After this dinner there was a whiskey tasting session and an auction to raise funds for the Clan Museum.

The organizing committee had arranged for a breakfast buffet on Saturday and for dancing classes in the afternoon. A surprise awaited us at the highland dinner that evening as Rod Clarke was an honored guest. He reminisced about joining the Clan Association in 1947 and of meeting with Cluny. In years past Rod was also a member and supporter of the Canadian Branch of the Association. A most unusual Address to the Haggis was given by US Vice-Chair Xerxes Harrington, with tongue in cheek, and much laughter from the guests. After dinner there was Scottish dancing but it wasn't long before we left the dancing to younger and more energetic individuals.

Kirking O' The Tartan took place early Sunday morning to allow those who had plane or train reservations to meet their deadline. US Treasurer Bruce Sterba piped in the eight flag bearers, including Mark carrying the Macpherson red tartan flag, which added a colorful touch to the proceedings. A pray-

er written specifically for the Kirkin O' The Tartan was said by all and the service ended with the singing of Amazing Grace. A most appropriate ending to a wonderful gathering.



Kirkin o' the Tartan.  
Mark is carrying the Red trian. Kathy Sperba of the US Branch is following with the Dress Tartan

## QUEBEC

By Myles G Macpherson CD., Provincial Councillor



I regret that I missed our Gathering in Toronto in September, but duty called and I had to work on my military project as it nears completion after two years.

In Quebec we are looking forward to winter and the busy season ahead. I am sure

that many of you are also hard at work on the other issues that occupy us. Montreal will be hosting the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry between Nov and Dec 2016 as it travels around the world. For more information on this go to:

<http://www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org/>.

The St Andrew's Society of Montreal is holding dancing lessons leading up to the St Andrew's Ball on 2 Dec 2016. Coming in the New Year are the annual Burns dinner on 20 Jan 2017 and the annual WhiskeyFete 17 Feb 2017. The City of Montreal will be celebrating its 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary during 2017. There are many cultural events planned (not all of them Celtic in nature). If you are thinking of coming to this part of the country next year you can find more information concerning events in and around Montreal at the following web site:

<http://www.375mtl.com/en/programming/>

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Helen Macpherson Potts, Provincial Councillor



As the Councillor for British Columbia, I thought it might be fun to check out our local Celtic Club so on October 22 Brian and I, as well as a couple of friends decided to attend one of their gatherings. The Celtic Club, comprised of members from Wales, Ireland and Scotland, was established almost 40 years ago by a group of newly arrived Celts to the area who wanted to keep their culture alive and also make new connections in Prince George. The club meets once a month in a local restaurant and has an open mic where people can share songs, stories, jokes and poems. At certain times, the Club will focus entirely on one of the county's heritage such as a Robby Burns night in January to celebrate with its Scottish members. We all thoroughly enjoyed our evening and are looking forward to the next gathering!

## ALBERTA

By Donald E Pearson



On September 3<sup>rd</sup> Linda and I represented Clan Macpherson at the Calgary games, arriving to frozen ice on the tables at our tent and setting up in the cold. As the day progressed, things started to warm up and a few people came by, including Bob and Syla Macpherson our newest Alberta members. Sales in Calgary were slow, likely due to the economic conditions here. All in all the day was pleasant and bright although a little chilly. We had a great view of the parade



Linda in our booth at Canmore braving the chill

The following day we set up at Canmore. And we thought Calgary was cold! You could not ask for a more beautiful place though to have the games. You actually feel like you are in Scotland in the winter. Our lips were so frozen we could not answer questions. (Thank you Clan Bruce for letting us and Clan Wallace warm up under your Tartan Blanket.) But all's well that ends well. There were lots of people at these games and the Pipe Bands were spectacular.

The weather got warmer as the day went on and a wee dram from Clan Wallace also helped. We sold three badges to the indigenous Onespot family who had a Macpherson connection and they gave us a donation. We met the coordinator for the Red Deer and Edmonton games that we plan to attend next year. Until then Creag Dhubh!

## NOVA SCOTIA

By Bruce Gillis QC., Provincial Councillor



The excitement for your Nova Scotia Councillor has been more about personal than Clan activities recently.

Our home, known as the Burnbrae Estate in Paradise NS, has been on the market for some time. Debbie and I realized that much as we have loved it over the past 28 years as our family home, where our children were raised, with twenty-three rooms, 80 acres, and over an acre of lawns to mow, it needed too much effort to maintain at our stage in life.

We have a confirmed purchase of the property and are buying a "downsizer" with only thirteen rooms not far away in the Paradise area.



Goodbye to Burnbrae Estate, our home for 28 years

Burnbrae has played host to many clan members over the years, including a wonderful weekend with Cluny and Hillary a few years ago. We will miss the memories we leave there, but look forward to our new place and are anticipating opportunities to entertain clansmen there.

I look forward to supporting CMA more actively once we are settled in our new home.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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