



# THE GREEN BANNER

## NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 4 Number 1

February 2010

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce two new life members: Thomas Gray Gillis and his spouse Dorena Ann. Thom and Dorena live in Halifax and he was a member in the past. His brother Bruce invited him to rejoin us this year. I am sure we will all welcome them when we meet Thom and Dorena at the Nova Scotia Rally.

It is with pleasure that we note that an annual member, Jacqueline Murdoch, has become a life member. Also Jacqueline's children, David and Jamie Nichole Rogers have become junior members and her daughter, Rebekkah Rogers has become an annual member. Although a recent addition to our Branch, Jacqueline has become an important and supportive member of our Executive.

#### Mea Culpa:

In the November issue of the Green Banner I incorrectly spelled Arlene's last name. Please note the correct spelling is Arlene McPherson. My apologies to Arlene for the error.

June Macpherson

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Another year has passed in the life of the Branch. The main activity of your Executive and especially John Gillies in his role of point man are the preparations for the joint Canada-USA rally in Cape Breton this fall. John, and Stuart, the representative for the US Branch are working hard to make this a memorable and worthwhile occasion. You will certainly hear more about this as time goes on. Right now, circle your 2010 calendar for the weekend of 13 – 17 October and then come to Cape Breton in the fall. Remember a joint rally only occurs every five years.

The AGM in October this year will be interesting as we expect some changes at the top. This is my third year as your Chairman and I am sure that the Nominating Committee will see that I move on and a younger dynamic person takes on the Cromag. I will miss the hustle and bustle, but new blood and new ideas are always welcome and necessary. Rest assured I will continue to support the CMA in any way that I can.

Our challenge as a Branch remains to find new members for the CMA in Canada. We have excellent representation in Ontario and this continues to grow. All other provinces have great potential and we just have to find ways of tapping it. In terms of the overall International Association, we did quite well in increasing our membership in the last couple of years. However the potential is so great in our country that I am a little disappointed we didn't do even better. I wish to thank all of the members who encouraged new clans folk to join us last year. I enjoin more of you to do the same in 2010.

As the rally is taking place in Nova Scotia for the first time in several years it is an opportunity for members in Eastern Canada, particularly the Atlantic Provinces, to encourage Macphersons and our cousins to come to our rally, have a good time, and join the CMA.

One more thing before I close this message to you, if you are an annual member you should note that dues are now \$30, as mentioned in the last issue of the Green Banner. This is still inexpensive so I look forward to seeing all of your names on the membership list in 2010. Dues are now due!

Mark F Macpherson

### RENEWAL OF DUES FOR ANNUAL MEMBERS

It is the time of year when once again we must remind members to send in their annual membership. The annual dues cover the cost of the Clan Annual, *Creagh Dhubbh*, which keeps us in touch with the International Association in Scotland as well as branches throughout the world. The Canadian Branch publishes the newsletter, *Green Banner*, three or four times a year to keep the membership abreast of the activities within our country. For members who receive the *Green Banner* by mail you will find a renewal form enclosed; for those who receive it by email you will find an attachment. An early reply would be appreciated as it makes the work of the Treasurer much easier.

## WE REMEMBER

We have just been informed of the passing of Paul M. MacPherson, a life member, of St. Sauveur, Quebec. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Ghislaine MacPherson.

## J. DONALD MacPHERSON

By RGM Macpherson

We record, with regret, the death of J. Donald MacPherson of Oakville, Ontario, on January 5th 2010, a few weeks short of his 90th birthday.

Donald was born in Duart, Ontario in 1920 and was a long-standing member of the Canadian Branch of the Clan Association who did much over the years to foster the progress of the branch. He was predeceased by his wife, Betty, and together they were a gracious host and hostess to many overseas clansfolk who visited Canada.

Donald was an enthusiastic supporter of the Clan Association. He was Canadian Branch Chairman from 1972 - 1977 and International Chairman from 1979 - 1982.

He will be greatly missed by his fellow clansmen both here and overseas. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his son, Douglas, his daughter, Cluny, and all the members of the family. Donald's eldest son, Peter, died earlier this year.

## THE GREEN BANNER

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

### Officers:

LCol Mark F Macpherson CD, Chairman  
John C Gillies, Vice Chairman  
June L Macpherson, Secretary-Treasurer

### Directors at Large:

Rod Smith  
Jean Whitten  
Bill Macpherson  
Jacqueline Murdoch  
Lois Urquart-Musselman

### Provincial Directors:

Arnold Macpherson, New Brunswick  
Maj. Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec  
Dr. Brian Macpherson, Manitoba  
Jean Macpherson, Saskatchewan  
Donald E Pearson, Alberta  
Robert Sinclair MacPherson, BC

Inquiries and articles may be addressed to June Macpherson, email: [markmacpherson@sympatico.ca](mailto:markmacpherson@sympatico.ca) or by post to PO Box 528 Hemmingford QC, J0L 1H0

## RALLY IN NOVA SCOTIA

### OCTOBER 13-17

By June Macpherson

**G**IAD MILE FAILTE! That is the welcome you will receive when you attend the rally in Nova scotia. Our Vice-Chairman, John Gillies, has planned an absolutely wonderful week-end at the Inverary Resort in Baddeck, Nova Scotia. The resort dates back to the 1850's and its charm is still evident today. Enjoy relaxing at the Spa or the Fitness Centre, indoor pool or sauna. Visit the Village of Baddeck with its unique shops, art galleries or the nearby Alexander Graham Bell Museum. The world famous Cabot Trail is not far from the resort and provides a wonderful drive.

Our Chief, Cluny, will be attending, along with the International Chairman, Shelagh Macpherson-Noble, as well as many of our American cousins. For those who arrive early John has arranged a Lobster Dinner on the Friday and, of course, the banquet on Saturday. He is also looking into the possibility of excursions for those who wish it. If you have the time why not plan an extended holiday in the area with a side trip to Prince Edward Island and perhaps a golf package at St. Andrew's by the Sea.

For further information go the our website [www.clanmacpherson.ca](http://www.clanmacpherson.ca) and click on Canadian AGM.

## THE INTERNATIONAL GAVEL

By Bob Archibald

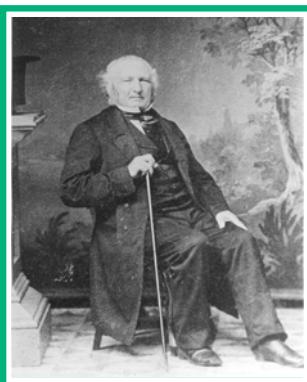
During the AGM in the Kirk Hall in Quebec City this fall, Shelagh the International Chairman, mentioned in a conversation with me she would have to get a gavel as she was impressed by the one being wielded by our Chairman. Although I couldn't commit to getting her one at that time, I did find the time later on to make her one. I asked her to accept this gift on behalf of the Canadian Branch when I sent it along. Since then Shelagh has acknowledged the Canadian gavel with pleasure.



The gavel is made of walnut in the shape of a stonemason's mallet. The sounding block is also walnut. I pointed out in my communication with Shelagh that it has eight equal sides, representing the eight branches of the CMA . The storage box is eastern white cedar and all pieces have an oiled finished. The gavel and sounding block have been waxed and the tartan lining needs no explanation.

## ALLAN MACPHERSON OF NAPANEE

By Mark Macpherson



One of the attractions in the City of Napanee about 50 km west of Kingston Ontario, is Allan Macpherson House. The house built in 1826 is currently operated as a museum by the Lennox and Addington Historical Society. The following provides a little background on Allan and his house:

At the time that Allan Macpherson sailed for Canada from Badenoch in 1807, he was 22 years old. In 1808, Allan Macpherson arrived in Kingston, Upper Canada while his father Lieutenant Colonel Donald Macpherson, later commander of the Kingston Garrison in 1812, was still serving in Quebec under General Lowther Pennington. Allan resolved to make good fortune in the new world and brought with him a letter attesting to his good character signed by John Matheson, the minister at Laggan.

Allan Macpherson rented the Government- bought gristmill from Richard Cartwright in 1812. The mill was seven stories high, used four runs of grindstones and could manufacture flour from 1,000 bushels of wheat daily. The business career that followed was to lay the foundation for the industrial future of the village on the Napanee River.

Within a few years this enterprising young man bought the mill and built a general store at the foot of Adelphi Street. In the store he kept the first post-office and he became the first postmaster in Napanee. He soon published the first newspaper from the second level of his store. He owned and operated a distillery and sawmill near the base of the falls creating a profitable lumber business.

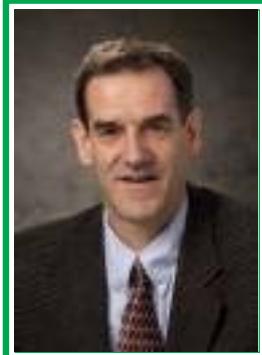
In 1818 he married Mary Fisher the daughter of a judge who was a United Empire Loyalist in Adolphustown nearby. They were married 53 years and had seven children

As well as stimulating the economy of the small village around the mill, he provided the first public building, which served as a school and church. Working with Bishop Strachan, he helped to plan the first Anglican Church built in Napanee.

Allan Macpherson was variously known as Mac, King of Napanee, or the Laird. He was influential in the politics of the time having friends in the Family Compact as the ruling clique in Upper Canada was known. Allan continued to be the centre of most activities in the community and his work was much appreciated. He died in 1875 at the age of 90.

Source; W. S. Herrington KC., *History of the County of Lennox and Addington*, MacMillan Publishing Co.1913, with acknowledgements to Lisa Bird of the Lennox and Addington Historical Society

## WILLIAM (BILL) MACPHERSON EXECUTIVE



Bill Macpherson, who was elected to the Executive at the AGM in 2009, was born in Glasgow, Scotland and came to Canada with wife Irene, a schoolteacher, and oldest son Andrew in 1984 to start his new career with aero engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney.

In Glasgow Bill studied engineering, completed his apprenticeship with Weir Pumps Ltd. and worked as a Jig & Tool Designer with that company for 12 years.

Since joining Pratt & Whitney Bill has held many positions in the Research & Development groups and also completed the requirements for Professional Engineering Licensure at the University of Toronto. He is currently a Senior Project Engineer working on the companies large turbofan engine programs.

Bill and Irene now reside in Mississauga, Ontario and had 2 more children born in Canada, Calum and youngest son Stuart. Calum sadly passed away in 2008. Although born with a physical disability Calum lived a very full and active life bringing much joy and pride to the family and to everyone that knew him. Calum was held in such high regard that an annual award has been named after him at the College he attended.

Bill played soccer until he turned 50 and until last year was a registered referee. He still likes to jog to keep fit and in his spare time likes to carry out genealogical research. Bill is also a participant in the Macpherson DNA project.

Bill and Irene became CMA members after coming to Canada and are fortunate to have attended 3 Clan Rallies in Scotland in the last 10 years. Bill looks forward to active participation on the Canadian Branch Executive to attending with Irene many Branch and International Rallies in the future.

## CLUNY RECOGNIZED AS A HERO

By Mark Macpherson

In the December 19 issue of *The Economist*, in the Bagehot column, the five "heros" of New Labour era were selected as outstanding contributors to governance during the past twelve and one half years. To paraphrase the criteria for selection: "...to qualify for this pantheon, a hero's virtues must not be clouded, or be cancelled by grave mistakes or misdemeanours."

Sir William Macpherson was noted in part "- is Bagehot's chosen hero. An unmetropolitan high court judge, he chaired an inquiry into the Stephen Lawrence case, in which the police bungled their investigation of the racist murder of a black teenager. ... he changed the way Britain thinks about race for the better and forever."

Source *The Economist*; December 19 2009 to January 1 2010; page 100