



# THE GREEN BANNER

## NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 8 Number 4

November 2014

### NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Chantal McPherson, Registrar



We are pleased to welcome new annual Members for 2015. Some of you will have met my enthusiastic brother Gordon McPherson at our recent Gathering in Ottawa, accompanied by my lovely niece Madison McPherson. Unfortunately my sister-in-law Karen could not attend due to a bad cold. We hope you feel better and look forward to sharing time with you at future events. From P.E.I. we also welcome Arthur Campbell whose mother was a MacPherson. We hope you enjoy many years of pleasure in your relationship with the CMA.

It is time to start thinking about renewing for 2015. Annual dues are due in January. Let's see if we can have 100% of our annual members renewing for next year by the end of January. It is also a good time if you are an annual member, to think about transferring to Life Member status. If you plan to be with us for a while this is a good investment. If you check the renewal form included with this mailing, you will find the life member dues are a one-time \$400 which can be spread over a period of time, if you place your request for this on me at,

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

Before I forget, members with children and grandchildren should also consider signing them up for Christmas which is coming on fast! Application forms are available from me or at <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/membership.html> which is the Canadian Branch page—Join CMA tab.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



All greetings from Mississauga to all members of CMA Canadian Branch and to our newsletter readers across the globe. I am typing this message sat at the dining room table and it seems that this has been my usual spot this 'Thanksgiving' weekend briefly exchanging dinner plate for laptop. Irene and I have been fortunate to have enjoyed excellent food and to spend time with immediate family and close friends for which we are thankful. It is also an appropriate time to reflect and be thankful for our extended CMA family.

We spent an enjoyable few days with John & Iris Macpherson (Montrose), Association Chairman & Secretary, before and after our Ottawa Gathering and managed to fit in a BBQ dinner inviting David & Sally McPherson to join us as they were visiting from Australia on a vacation timed to participate with the Canadian rally. With Donna visiting from the USA we had a truly international dimension for our 65th event. My thanks are sent out to them and to all those that participated in this year's Gathering with a special thanks to Vice Chair Jacqueline (and her team: Piper Hugh, Fear-an-tigh Ed, Musician Donna & Raffle Organizer Rebekkah) for organizing such a fun filled and interesting program of events.

The affection for our Chief in Canada is undiminished and the highlight of our weekend was a recorded message that Jacqueline played as part of our banquet program. At our AGM on Saturday a motion of fealty, and esteem for Cluny, was proposed and unanimously accepted by all present. Thankful indeed!

We were fortunate to have four former Branch Chairmen in attendance (Stuart McPherson, Bob Archibald, Mark Macpherson & John Gillies). Gordon (Burlington) sent his apologies but he and Nancy were with us in thought. We are thankful to all former Chairs for their past leadership and continued support.

To those that look after the affairs of the Branch so wonderfully (Editor Mark, Registrar Chantal, Treasurer Ken, Secretary Bob, Offa Fund Bob, Webmaster Ewan) and our councillors across the country our grateful thanks also

**Yours Aye, Bill Macpherson, Mississauga**

## TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The Canadian Branch is in good shape financially as of the end of September.

We have about \$6,600 in our current account and \$11,010 in our Life Membership Fund.

I will be remitting the membership fees received after June 25 to Clan Macpherson Association in later November. This, I believe is our only outstanding disbursement.

The annual gathering was very successful. The final accounting has not yet been completed, but it looks like we may have a small loss on it this year.

The Canadian Branch support to Bill Macpherson and Jacqueline Murdoch in the Creag Dhubb Hill Run for the Clan museum was outstanding. We raised \$975.35 which was converted into 505 British pounds and forwarded to museum

## COME HOME TO BADENOCH 2015

All members of Clan Macpherson are invited to the Annual Gathering taking place in Newtonmore and Kingussie the first weekend of August 2015.

To obtain the best rates for flights to Scotland and for local accommodations, one should reserve now.

This is a great family event and shouldn't be missed!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Johnmacpherson1@aol.com

## THE GREEN BANNER

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

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

### Officers:

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

### Immediate Past Chairman:

John C Gillies

### Provincial Councillors:

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

Inquiries and articles may be addressed to Mark F Macpherson, Editor, by email; markmacpherson009@sympatico.ca or by post to PO Box 1005, Hemmingford QC, J0L 1H0

## COUNCIL 2014-2015

The following were elected by acclamation at the Annual General Meeting in September 2014 for a term of one year:

Chairman	William Macpherson PEng
Vice Chairman	Jacqueline Murdoch
Honorary Secretary	Robert W Archibald PhD
Honorary Treasurer	Ken Gillis
Registrar	Chantal McPherson
Councillor Newfoundland	John C House
Councillor Nova Scotia	Bruce Gillis QC
Councillor Quebec	Major Myles G Macpherson CD
Councillor Ontario	Ed Smith CD
Councillor Alberta	Donald E Pearson
Councillor British Columbia	Helen Macpherson-Potts

The following are ex-officio appointments:

Honorary Chairman	RGM Macpherson CM, KStJ
Immediate Past Chairman	John C Gillies

Former Chairmen:

LCol Mark F Macpherson CD  
Robert J Archibald  
Douglas MacPherson  
W. Ian McPherson  
Stuart G MacPherson  
Neil F. McPherson

The following have accepted annual appointments:

Editor	LCol Mark F Macpherson CD
Branch Webmaster	Ewan A Macpherson PhD

There are three vacancies on the Council:

Councillors for, New Brunswick/PEI, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.



Members of Council at the meeting in September 2014.  
Back row left to right ; Ed Smith Councillor for Ontario, Chantal McPherson Registrar, Mark Macpherson Editor, Robert J Archibald Former Chairman. (ex officio)  
Front row; John Gillies Immediate Past Chairman, William Macpherson Chairman, Jacqueline Murdoch Vice Chairman, Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer, Robert W Archibald Honorary Secretary

Photo by John Macpherson

## SOME ADVENTURES OF SCOUTER ROD

By Rod Smith



Rod on the left with another scouter, both in "utility" kilts, at the camp in New

Photo by Rod Smith

This July, Scouter Rod Smith (former Councillor for Ontario), of 27<sup>th</sup> Cambridge Scout Troop, along with fellow scouters, took twelve scouts camping in upstate New York as guests of an American troop. Five boys completed the 'mile swim' in less than two hours while another four stayed on top of the water and completed their sailing merit badge. The high ropes course was also challenging for both leaders and youth; especially the zip line. Here, one slides down a long cable attached by pulley and harness at about 50 Km/h. ending up caught in a net at the downhill end. Other activities included kayaking, canoeing, and crafts. A good time was had by all. Our next adventure is a trip to Bermuda in March of 2015.

Many members of the CMA have been in Scouts and Guides in the past. While the movement in Canada is not at the scale it once was, many groups continue to thrive where volunteer leaders are able to run a compelling program. As an aside, tartan neckerchiefs are often seen along with the occasional kilt among many Scout groups across the country.

I have been involved in Scouting as a Scouter (leader) since 1987. I was a section leader at all age levels for 20 years and then served as an assistant district commissioner and then as commissioner for our area. During this time I attended to two national Jamborees and one international Jamboree in Holland in 1995. I acted as chaplain for the 100th anniversary jamboree at Tamaracouta near Montreal, which involved presiding at a church service for 18,000 scouts. I was awarded the Scouting Medal of Good Service for my work over the years. I now spend most of my scouting time as a trainer and helping to organize national and international expeditions for my local troop.

## DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE

Please submit your notes and captioned photos before **FEBRUARY 15, 2015.**

Your editor appreciates that all contributors have submitted their drafts on or well before the deadline the last few issues and hope this will be the norm.

I hope as well that more new contributors come the fore for the March issue. You can all participate—Don't be shy!

## WE REMEMBER

We regret the sad news of the passing of two members:

Suzanne McPherson of Milton, ON

Joanne Macpherson of Regina, SK.

Our sympathies go out to their families and friends.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

By Mark F Macpherson



This is a new department in which I hope to familiarize members with the role of the Branch Editor and the preparation of our newsletter four times each year. I have been associated with the current version of the Green Banner for the past seven years. There were fine newsletters prior to this time,

which was reported in an article in the March 2013 issue of the Green Banner. Seven years ago when June was combined Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar, she decided to put out a year-end newsletter taking on the job of Editor. As I had some experience with electronic publishing, I volunteered to help using Adobe Pagemaker, a piece of professional software I happened to own. Thus I joined the editorial staff of the Green Banner. I have enjoyed putting together the Green banner for 28 issues since 2007.

I have found this experience quite rewarding, particularly as many members contribute articles and photographs to each issue making the work of Editor very easy indeed. Although I have an interest in writing and have made contributions to various technical journals over the years, I find as Editor of the Green banner my English skills have improved significantly. Being the Editor is a creative function involving helping others with their writing and producing a good-looking layout for our newsletter – at least that is my objective!

In this issue, aside from this new department, nearly all of the actual writing is done by other members who wish to communicate with the rest of us and share their experiences and stories. Although this may appear more difficult than the "modern" way of posting to social media such as Facebook, I know there is much more satisfaction in preparing an article for print, and I have done both.

At this time, I won't go into the details of the material you will find in this issue, but I will point out that we have several contributors who have submitted interesting articles for your reading pleasure. I am indebted to them.

## OUR FIRST VISIT TO CANADA

By David J. McPherson, Australian Branch



Sally and I live in Templestowe, Melbourne, Australia and had the pleasure of attending the Canadian Branch Gathering this year. We had previously met some Canadian members at the Highland Games in Newtonmore, Scotland during the 2013 CMA Gathering and resolved to visit Canada.

This was our first ever visit to Canada so we booked a 15-day guided tour of Toronto, Niagara Falls, Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City and took the Ocean train from Montreal to Halifax, before returning to Toronto and travelling to Ottawa for the Clan Macpherson gathering. We are indebted to Jacqueline Murdoch, Branch Vice-Chair, for her guidance and arranging meetings with Canadian Clan Members during our tour in Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.



David walking through a reel with Jacqueline Murdoch at the ceilidh. Bob Archibald and Ed Smith on the right.

I addressed the highland dinner on Saturday night and informed the members of recent happenings in Australia and of the global benefits of being a member of CMA as a worldwide Association. I am the Facebook Co-ordinator for Oceania and Asia,

which includes Australia and New Zealand, and spoke of the need to include more of the younger members in the material content for our Facebook page. I noted that through the senior schools in Australia, there was now a growing interest in Scottish culture and in wearing tartan. This has come about through the bonding and fellowship of joining the numerous pipes and drums bands being promoted at senior schools. At a recent highland gathering up in Bundanoon near Sydney, three of the sixteen bands participating wore the Macpherson Red Tartan. When the massed bands display took place, approximately 70% of the band members were in their teens. This may be a good source of new youthful membership up to 25 years old. Perhaps we should consider joining them up free of cost.

I was impressed with how well the Canadian Branch was organised and offered my congratulations to Chairman Bill Macpherson and Vice Chair Jacqueline Murdoch. I was also impressed with how welcome Sally and I had been made to feel and was very touched by the friendliness of Canadians, both within CMA and people I met on the tour.



June, Sally, and David at Hemmingford

I must thank several members of the Canadian Branch for their hospitality: Mary Margaret Gillies hosted a dinner at her home in Scarborough. Mark and June Macpherson picked us up in Montreal and showed us rural Quebec on the way to their home at Hemmingford on the United States border where we were entertained and had lunch at a local restaurant. Chairman Bill and Irene Macpherson hosted a wonderful and memorable barbecue at their home in Mississauga. Jacqueline Murdoch put us up at her home in Scarborough for three nights and hosted a splendid dinner on the night before we went up to Ottawa for the Gathering. Jim and Marlene McPherson attended this dinner and were so gracious to take us by car to Ottawa.

It was a pity that due to tight scheduling, we could not take up the kind invitation of Bruce and Debbie Gillies to visit their home at Paradise Nova Scotia in the Annapolis Valley.

I was glad I made the commitment to travel to Canada and attend the 65th Canadian Gathering. I got so much out of building relationships with CMA cousins from around the globe, that I may attend the joint Canada/USA Gathering in Chicago next year.

I have been receiving the "Green Banner" electronically for the last 6 to 9 months since I planned to come to Canada. I will now look forward with interest to reading it, as we became acquainted with many more cousins during our visit.

From David and Sally McPherson - a big thank you to all our Clan Macpherson cousins in Canada for making our holiday such a wonderful memory.

*David McPherson has been a member of the Australian Branch for 14 years. He is a retired international banker with many years experience in South-east Asia. He took on the role of Regional Facebook Coordinator in 2010 and is very interested in promoting CMA in his region. Sally hails from Sumatra in Indonesia and they have one son David, who is an active member of the Association.*

*David would be only too pleased to look after anyone from Canada who is coming to Australia. He left his full address and contact details with Jacqueline Murdoch so if anybody has plans to visit Australia, Jacqueline can put you in touch.*

## MAXVILLE GAMES 2014



Peter Fish

Unfortunately, this year Bob and Marlene Archibald could not work the Glengarry Games at Maxville Ontario into their schedule, and neither could local Canadian members. Peter Fish, a very dedicated member from the US Branch who has attended these games consistently over the years, graciously consented to represent the Canadian Branch and to report on what happened. We must thank Peter for his contribution and loyalty to the Clan. Peter was the Commissioner for the Northeast US in 2005 and was involved in representing CMA at highland games in New York State.



Saltire Girls at Maxville in 2011

Peter reports that we had good representation for the March of the Clans with the two young ladies in flag of Scotland spandex outfits, who have showed up for the past few years, being there once again to the delight of the crowd of local photographers (One of these days we will have to sign them up in CMA. (Ed.)) Other Macphersons joined our contingent and carried the tartan flags and the Saltire, plus the banner announcing our presence which is carried by two people. This year a kilted Macpherson from New York State also joined us for the parade. The weather was great and all enjoyed themselves

Peter stated that following the March of the Clans, he was talking “non-stop” to the many visitors at the Macpherson stand. There were some clans people visiting such as, two couples from Cape Breton, Smiths, Gows, and Macphersons. Four CMA applications were provided on request. Although none signed up this occasion – we shall see! Peter also handed out a US Branch application to a couple from Buffalo NY.

We are indebted to Peter for his service and his report.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your Editor wishes to thank the following for their excellent contributions to the November issue: Robert J Archibald, Ken Gillis, Bill Macpherson (Mississauga), John Macpherson (Montrose Scotland), Chantal McPherson, Dee McPherson-(USA), David McPherson, Australia, Jacqueline Murdoch, Rod Smith.

On Behalf of Bob Archibald, I also wish to acknowledge the assistance and research from Scotland provided by Bill Macpherson of Glenfarg, and John Barton for “A Walk in Badenoch”. They verified a number of facts involved in this story, citing from *Glimpses of Church and Social Life in the Highlands* by Alexander Macpherson FSA (Scot) and web sources.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

By Rod Smith



For a week this August I traveled with my daughter Erin up to Whitehorse in the Yukon as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. We were engaged for week building a house for Habitat Yukon, a local branch of the national organization that builds affordable housing for people of modest means.

The Habitat team, made up of faculty, staff, and alumni from the University of Waterloo, led by Erin and her colleague Michelle Burlock, kept busy with various construction tasks. I spent most of the week installing siding and the railings for the deck on a house. Less experienced volunteers are typically paired as “apprentices” with those having more experience in construction. My “apprentice” was Ralon Nazareth from Renison College, University of Waterloo

Habitat operates nationwide and involves municipal, regional,



The new house project for Habitat Yukon

and provincial governments, developers, suppliers, and volunteers, to put together housing for people who might not otherwise be able to buy at market price. Habitat started over 30 years ago in Manitoba and has spread across Canada and the US. Erin has worked as an Assistant Registrar at the University for several years and was involved with the Habitat team from her office for most of that time. She has travelled to Europe and Central America on several fly-in builds as they are called. The Yukon trip was the first fly-in build opportunity to take place within Canada, so Erin and associates wanted to be part of it.

When not working at the site, the Habitat team, eleven in all, toured a number of local attractions including the Tahkini Hot Springs, a game preserve, and local museums. One museum included an impressive display of woolly mammoths and other creatures found in the Yukon, uncovered as a result of the mining industry. In some of the local history museums it was apparent that many members of Clan Macpherson played a part in the development of the Yukon as evident from the proliferation of our Clan names to be found throughout the territory.

## A WALK IN BADENOCH

By Robert J Archibald



At the Gathering in Badenoch this summer on Monday August 4<sup>th</sup>, several clan folk left the Duke of Gordon Hotel for a three mile walk to Lynchat, north east of Kingussie. We walked along the Gynach burn which flows through Kingussie into the Spey, passed by a subdivision, a large stand of pines, the golf course, several farms, fields of heather, ridges with terrific views, a small burn with stepping stones for crossing and finally into a pasture that held an ancient cave, or souterrain, from the French for underground.



Crossing the small burn. Ken Gillis in foreground. Ella Gillis being assisted by John Barton, the walk organizer, on her right and Bill Macpherson of Glenfarg on her left.

Photo by Robert J Archibald

Known locally as “Raitts Cave” it dates to the later Iron Age (around AD 100-400). It is a stone built underground structure with two chambers, in a crescent shape. It was discovered and first excavated in 1835. It is said to be built along the lines of Maes Howe, an ancient Neolithic chambered tomb in the Orkneys. Raitts Cave has large stone slabs forming the roof and the entire structure is covered with earth. It was probably used originally for storing food between hunts and harvests.

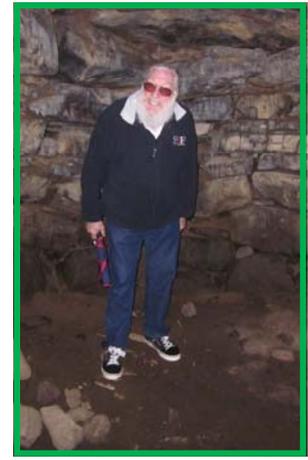
There are several local legends regarding this cave but the one related to me during this walk describes a slaughter of members of the Clan McNiven over some grazing rights. Apparently the Clan Macpherson had some cattle seized by the McNivens for allowing their cattle to graze on McNiven lands. The Macphersons sent the chief’s daughter to retrieve these cattle, which she did, but returned with her petticoats missing and the bull’s tongue had been cut out. A fierce battle ensued and the McNivens received the short end of the stick and those that were not killed sought refuge here in these caves.

A short time later their hiding place was discovered and the Macphersons returned to kill the remaining McNivens.



Bob looking in one of two entrances to the cave

Photo by Robert J Archibald



Bruce Sterba, US Branch, inside the cave

Photo by Robert J Archibald

The rest of the walk was all downhill and filled with the sound of the pipes. A piper living in the area had chosen to practice his piping when we were on our walk which made for a pleasant experience. A horse also came across a field on a hot trot to greet us as we passed by. I guess we had been the only exciting thing that had happened in the neighbourhood that day.

At this point it was only a short distance to the place where we had initially parked our vehicles and a short drive to Kingussie to have lunch, thus ending the walk.

## 2015 JOINT USA AND CANADIAN GATHERING

By Jacqueline Murdoch, Canadian Co-convenor



Twice each decade the American and Canadian Branches get together for a Joint Gathering. In 2015, the USA Branch will be hosting the Joint Gathering in Itasca, Illinois on October 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>. We hope all Canadian members will join us at the Eaglewood Resort and Spa, a lovely resort 35

miles from downtown Chicago. Itasca is about a 9-hour drive from Toronto, or a 20-minute drive from O’Hare International.

The Eaglewood Resort and Spa is on 106-acres of beautiful land, which will be ripe with the colours of autumn. There is a golf course and spa on site, and has a fitness center and indoor pool. The resort is offering Clan Macpherson members room rates at \$105 per night (standard double rooms) not only for the weekend of the Gathering, but also for additional nights before or after, should you wish to extend your stay.



The resort is accepting reservations under “Clan Macpherson” so don’t hesitate to call and reserve at 1-877-285-6150 or visit the resort website at [www.eaglewoodresort.com](http://www.eaglewoodresort.com).

If you would like more information, don’t hesitate to email Canadian Co-convenor at [jacquelinemurdoch@rogers.com](mailto:jacquelinemurdoch@rogers.com).

# 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GATHERING

By Bill Macpherson, Jacqueline Murdoch, Ed Smith, and Mark Macpherson



The weather in the National Capital during the weekend of 19-21 September was very encouraging for the 43 members who attended the Gathering this year. The Westin Hotel, which is centrally located and connected to a large shopping centre in the middle of Ottawa within view of the Parliament Buildings, was a comfortable ideal location with excellent facilities for the Gathering. There was a lot of excitement in Ottawa that weekend as two regiments of the Canadian Army that were first raised in 1914, were celebrating their centennials. Those CMA members who had rooms on the west side of the hotel could view the proceedings taking place at the National War Memorial nearby or even walk over to see them close up. The Canadian Army also staged a half-marathon on Sunday in which our athletic Vice-Chair, Jacqueline took part.

On Friday the sumptuous buffet was enjoyed by 38 members and guests in the main restaurant of the hotel which was reserved for CMA that evening. Following a short address by Bill our Chairman, the ceilidh got underway with Ed Smith as the “Fear-an-Tighe” (Master of Ceremonies). Donna (Dee) McPherson-Rucks played the keyboard through the dinner with selections from her latest CD. Unfortunately she did not sing as there was no sound system available.

John of Montrose the CMA Chair, who had come over from Scotland for our Gathering with Iris his wife, who is CMA Secretary, told an interesting story followed by a song, demonstrating the true ceilidh tradition. We had a couple of non-member musicians brought in for the occasion, Diana Heiferty playing violin and Miles Bell on the guitar, who energetically rendered several traditional Celtic tunes. Hugh Macpherson, Clan Piper was in attendance with his wife Susan. Hugh played several numbers to the delight of all present, in spite his heavy schedule with the military celebrations going on this weekend. Ed Smith sang The “Northern Lights of Aberdeen”, in a fine tenor without accompaniment. Members of the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society of Ottawa demonstrated some reels, a jig, and a Strathspey. They invited the audience up to take part. Several of our members took up the challenge and after some instructional walk-throughs, performed quite creditably.



*Diana Heiferty playing violin and Miles Bell on the guitar,*

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*Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society of Ottawa*

*Photo by Ed Smith*

After forming eights the dancing continued until around 11 o'clock, at which time the ceilidh closed so members could arise in good shape to attend the meetings scheduled for Saturday.

On Saturday the Branch Council met to review the upcoming reports to the Annual General Meeting and to cover issues raised at the AGM in Scotland this summer. One developing project of interest to the members of the Canadian Branch is our continuing support to the preservation of the Scottish wildcats at the wildlife park in Scotland. There was also some discussion of the role of women in the Clan March to the games in Newtonmore each summer.

The Annual General Meeting saw 26 members in attendance including John and Iris as Guests from Scotland and Donna McPherson-Rucks representing the US Branch, although she is also a life member of our Branch.

*Continued on page 8*

## 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GATHERING

*Continued from page 7*

John Macpherson CMA Chair, brought greetings from Cluny who regretted that he was unable to attend. Donna, who is co-convenor on the US side with Jacqueline Murdoch for the 2015 Joint Canadian-US Gathering, gave a plug for this event that occurs every five years.

The reports from the members of Council indicate that the Branch was in good financial shape and was progressing slowly toward increasing the membership in spite of losses due to attrition and deaths last year. A vote of thanks was rendered to Bob and Marlene Archibald for continuing to represent the Branch and the Clan at Highland Games in Ontario last year. It was noted that for the first time in many years that our Honorary Chairman, Gordon Macpherson was unable to attend the Gathering. We hope that things will work out for him and Nancy for next year at Chicago. Following adjournment of the meeting, members repaired to the hospitality suite for a libation prior to lunch and the visit to the Canadian War Museum.

The current Canadian War Museum opened in 2000 and covers all facets of Canada's military past and includes over 2500 objects from art, artifacts, vehicles, to audio-visual displays and hands-on activities. The tour organized for the Gathering was a perfect tie from our Anglo-Scottish roots to our Canadian present.

The tour, attended by 19 members, was organized and hosted by a wonderful veteran, Robbie Robertson, who is a friend of Clan Piper Hugh. It began at the headstone for the Unknown Soldier, which is directly illuminated by the sun each Remembrance Day, and continued through the Museum. Mr Robertson worked hard for about two months to bring to the CMA a private and specially scripted tour highlighting the achievements, actions and accomplishments of Scots serving in the Canadian Forces including Canadians of Scottish descent and Macphersons serving in the military from the Kings Royal Regiment in the 1700's right up to modern wars and conflicts.

During the tour, Hugh played the pipes to accompany special mention of Macpherson accomplishments pertaining to the various exhibits.

It was a marvelous event, thanks to the work of Jacqueline Murdoch, the Gathering convener, and to Hugh Macpherson for his sterling efforts and for obtaining the excellent services of Mr. Robertson.

The traditional Highland Dinner, attended by 47 members, opened with the head table being piped in by Hugh. The Selkirk Grace was offered by John Macpherson (Montrose) followed by the loyal toast presented by W. (Bill) Macpherson. Other toasts followed such as:

The President of the United States by Donna Rucks, the Association by W. (Bill) Macpherson and to the "Chief" by John Gillies.



*Bill addressing the haggis while piper Hugh stands by*

The haggis was piped in and the Address to the Haggis was professionally presented by Bill after which a portion was served to each place at the dinner. It was tasty indeed! The dinner with a choice of seared salmon or roast beef, was well-prepared and enjoyed by all.



*Bob and Sondra Archibald enjoying a wee taste of haggis*

The raffle, amply supplied with prizes by members, was operated by Rebekkah Rogers and Nicholas Lord, two of our younger members, who called the winning numbers and distributed the prizes. As usual some of our members went home with happy faces and others somewhat reflective.

The after dinner entertainment was headlined by Dee McPherson singing some numbers from her current CD including her original "Waltz for Canadians" based on a poem published in the last issue of the Green Banner.

*Continued on page 11*

## A FORTNIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

By Dee McPherson



Do you remember the "Night at the Museum" movie? The exhibits came alive after the Museum closed, Teddy Roosevelt rode his horse up and down the halls, the Easter Island Moai talked, and the Albert Einstein Bobble Heads became famous!

I'm a songwriter, and I believe in miracles, magic, and moments. Our Macpherson history is full of this kind of stuff, and you can find it at the Museum!

Read on for the fortnight of history: ancient, current, and newly-in-the-making! Many of my Scots friends told me old tales, spelled out words, and patiently demonstrated the concepts and stories so that I could pass them clearly on to you. It is my hope that you will get interested, come alive, and visit the Museum when you join us next year at the 2015 CMA Gathering in Scotland!. You will find some examples below:



Clan Museum at Newtonmore

A story told by Mary and Norman McPherson from Aberdeen has it that Malvine, daughter of James Macpherson of Ossian fame, was walking in the purple heather when she received the sad news that her true love was killed in battle. She began crying, and grieving so piteously, that when her tears reached the purple heather, they turned the heather white. To this day 'tis a special thing to find a patch of white heather amongst the purple. White heather is always provided to each registrant at the Gathering in Scotland.

A story of the sgian dhubh (pronounced skee-en-doo) and translated as the "black knife" was related to me by Norman: In the old days this short knife was normally hidden from view (black) and carried in the armpit under the armor plate so a man could quickly pull it out cross-body and throw it to bring down the prey. The prey could be either food or enemy. The Scots are known for their hospitality so if invited to stay at a house, one knew he would be safe. It was a show of good faith to take out the sgian dhubh and put in a visible place such as the top of the hose.

We have the mysterious oil painting of Eliza Gordon Macpherson who was born in 1785 in Canada. The artist, Sir John Watson Gordon, painted it circa 1820. In 2000, the painting was discovered in Cluny Castle in poor condition, where it had languished undiscovered for over 100 years. It was given to the Museum and the canvas was restored to its original beauty in 2011.



The painting of Eliza Macpherson hanging in the museum

Photo by Dee McPherson

There is the interesting account of Duncan of the Kiln, 19th Chief who was born in around 1747, in a kiln not far from the blackened ruins of Cluny House, the only son of Ewen and Janet of Cluny of the '45. His military service extended for 30 years. At the age of 17, he held a commission of captain in the British Army. In 1775, he accepted a commission in the 71st Regiment of Foot (Fraser's Highlanders)

and fought for the British in the American War of Independence. He distinguished himself in the Battle of Boston Creek as commander of its 1st battalion.

Here is some new history: There was a "Name the Wildcat in the Drumochter Room" contest during the Ceilidh at the Gathering this year. Some of the names suggested were; Moggy, Hamish, Mr. Squish, Catriona, and a few naughty ones that we cannot mention here. I am happy to report that the winning name of the wildcat was CLUNY!



Photo by Dee McPherson

I stayed four weeks in Newtonmore this summer, visiting the Museum often, listening to the stories, recording them to retell to you, and taking photos for posting on our Facebook page to give you a visual story. I hope you've enjoyed this "Fortnight At The Museum"!

## 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

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

## CMA CHAIRMAN REPORT

By John Macpherson of Montrose



When Iris & I returned from a lovely time in North America on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. we had already decided to wait until we arrived back home before finalizing the arrangements our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary. Nothing large, just a family get together and meal in Montrose on

the 10<sup>th</sup> Oct. I received an Email from Mark asking for an early submission for GB so I am working on this as well as one or two reports which have similar deadlines. We have to thank Canadian Chairman Bill & Irene for looking after us for three nights and taking us sightseeing in Mississauga which is amazingly large in spite of being one of the lesser known cities to us.

We later travelled to Ottawa by car and it was a very pleasant experience seeing the rolling Canadian countryside. The Westin Hotel was well appointed was a very suitable venue for the Canadian gathering offering wonderful views of the lovely city of Ottawa.

After settling in on Friday, our first appointments were the registration, meet & greet, bar & buffet. This was very acceptable after our long journey. Once the ceilidh got under way, I hope my early rendition did not spoil the evening for everybody. The Ottawa Country dancers were very good and I know Iris enjoyed being able to take part with other members in a few of the set & fun dances. I unfortunately do not dance as much now but, chatting to members who, like myself were not up on the floor compensated very well. Fear-an-Tighe, Ed Smith did a really good job keeping things going all evening and there was quite a good crowd at the end of the evening.

On Saturday, the meetings were conducted with a friendly atmosphere and a few important decisions were passed by the council. At the AGM I read out Cluny's greeting letter which I'm sure was appreciated in the wake of his decision not to travel such long distances anymore.

Iris & I enjoyed our visit to the War Museum and realised how little we knew about it, and just how much there was to take in. While we were there, the unfortunate fall by Jim Macpherson was worrying, but full marks to Jacqueline Murdoch for her care and attention to Jim while waiting for help from outside.

We were relieved and delighted to see Jim later on at the highland dinner after his return from hospital. It was a nice evening with an excellent meal and good performers. During the evening a short greeting from Cluny in video was screened and very much appreciated by those present.

On Sunday, the streets of Ottawa were difficult to negotiate due

to barriers set up for the half marathon that was taking place. Some of the Clan members were unable to find a way to attend the church because of this. We found the service at St Andrews Presbyterian Church unusual as no announcements were made. Readings by Chairman Bill and I were consecutive as were all the other activities during the service. It was slightly nerve wracking getting the timing right but I hope the congregation approved. Returning to the Westin Hotel from the church took 50

minutes by taxi for less than a mile journey.

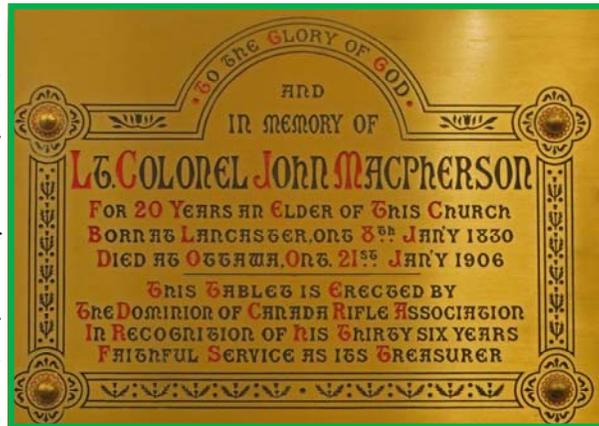
On Monday Chairman Bill & Irene took us to Oakville where we had a lovely lunch with former Association Chairman Gordon & Nancy Macpherson. The last time we met them was in Ottawa in 2000 so it really was a great pleasure seeing them looking well and in great spirits.

The following day Bill delivered Iris & me to the Airport at Toronto for the next leg of our trip which

was to Dallas. We really enjoyed Canada, the scenery was almost magical with the leaves turning lovely shades of red. This will be my last visit as Association Chairman, but of course hopefully we will attend future gatherings in Canada.

We had a nice time at the USA gathering and everything went really well in a friendly atmosphere. The Banquet night was very enjoyable but a surprise was in store for Iris, as she was asked to toast the Queen due to Mark & June not being able to attend and she did this admirably. I had a similar experience when Mike Miller who took the Sunday Service asked me to do a reading as we entered the Chapel. The Kirkin of the Tartan was well executed and quite emotional to watch and later we said all our goodbyes to friends old and new with many pictures being taken before we finally parted.

Returning home Iris & I have been busy with reports other than for the Green Banner, as minutes & agendas must be prepared for the Scottish branch AGM. Then we have the Museum & Executive meetings on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, when the forward planning will begin for the next Gathering in Badenoch in 2015. More members than ever attend our annual Gatherings now, and we have no reason to think otherwise as we have already received inquiries about 2015. So plan to come to Scotland next summer!



An interesting plaque on the inside of St. Andrews Church

Photo By John Macpherson

### MORE JAC AND BILL WENT UP THE HILL

**STOP PRESS!**

A late report on the fund raising for the Museum: Additional Heather level donors, Mary Fleming and Mary Margaret Gillies. Funds raised, in Scotland £315, in Canada £505. Total **£820**. Our Branch can be proud of this achievement!

# 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GATHERING

*Continued from page 8*

Hugh Macpherson gave a recital on his bagpipe to compliment that fine work at the ceilidh on Friday evening. An excellent local dance group from the Catherine Robinson School of Dancers presented highland flings, a hornpipe, and some Scottish country dances.

Attendance on Sunday at the church service was lower than expected this year because of the Army Half-Marathon in downtown Ottawa.

A few members who set off for church had to give up because they circled for a long time trying to get through the various cordons. Bill and Irene took a taxi and it required 25 minutes to cover the few blocks from the hotel and they had to get permission from the police on duty in the street to cross the marathon route.

Twelve members actually made the service where John Macpherson CMA Chair, and Bill read the scripture lessons.

We are indeed indebted to Jacqueline Murdoch as convener with Ed Smith, and Rod Smith, for the work they put in making this Gathering a success as we look forward to next year in Chicago.

# ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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## GATHERING PHOTO ALBUM



*Cara Waters' very first taste of haggis*

*Photo by Mark*



*Nathalie Hall doing her thing at the Ceilidh*

*Photo by Mark*



*Bill and Jacqueline, hard working Councillors*

*Photo by Mark*



*Piping in the haggis*

*Photo by Mark*



*Bill, Stuart, John, and Nick Lord at the reception*

*Photo by John Macpherson*

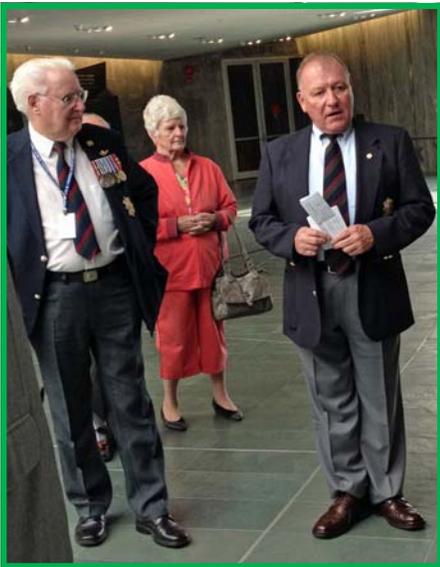
# GATHERING PHOTO ALBUM



Lunch in Oakville; left side, John, Bill, and Nancy, right side, Gordon, Iris, and Irene  
 Photo by John Macpherson



Our members doing the reel at the ceilidh  
 Photo by Mark



Hugh introducing Robbie Robertson who guided our members through the War Museum

Photo by Jaqueline Murdoch



Vimy Ridge exhibit at the War Museum

Photo by Jaqueline Murdoch



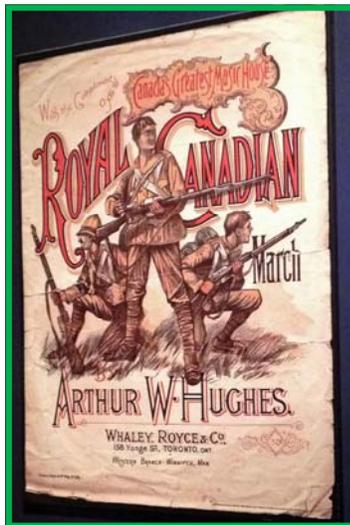
Slàinte Mhath!

Photo by Mark



Chantal enjoying the ceilidh

Photo by Mark



Poster advertising patriotic music in War Museum

Photo by Jaqueline Murdoch



Sally and Mark in discussion at the reception

Photo by David McPherson