



# THE GREEN BANNER

## NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 11 Number 4

GATHERING ISSUE

November 2017

### NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Denise Lagundzin, Registrar



Since the last issue of the Green Banner, we saw a successful Gathering and AGM in Brantford with a new member, Scott Macpherson of Essex and his spouse, participating for the first time.

We heard from Ewan Macpherson our Webmaster, that his father, Professor Alan G Macpherson, a long time life member celebrated his 90th Birthday. Our congratulations to Alan on entering his ninth decade.

On the membership front, We welcome three new annual members who joined since September. Two of whom found us online.



**Marlene Place** lives in Stoney Creek Ontario with her husband Jim who joined CMA in 2008. Jim's Grandmother Macpherson was born in Scotland. Marlene decided to join CMA this year to support Jim and his Macpherson interest. Marlene was a professional home support worker for several years which entailed assisting handicapped patients with their medical devices to allow them to remain in their homes. She found being a caregiver very rewarding work.

Marlene is a member of a local five pin bowling league and is active in veteran's affairs as a volunteer. She belongs to the Veterans Service League as an Associate Member which includes volunteering as a bar steward for them on occasion. She is also a

member of the Hamilton Light Infantry Veterans Club.

Marlene has visited Scotland a few times with Jim who was searching out his Macpherson roots. She always enjoys exploring different parts of Scotland.



**Ronald John Fox** lives in Toronto with his wife Lucia. While pursuing his maternal Macpherson history, he happened on the Clan website and decided to join CMA. Ron is a Professional Aeronautical Engineer who operates a business buying and selling airplanes. His hobby is collecting stamps which he has done since the age of eight. He is proud of his "old" Canada stamps in his collection.



**Dennis Macpherson** of Lunenburg Nova Scotia came across the Clan website while searching his roots, and decided to join CMA. His great-great grandfather Neil emigrated from Scotland to Nova Scotia in the early 1800's. Dennis is a Professional Engineer with his own consultancy, MacPherson Technical Services, with clients in the power, gas, oil, and mining industries across Canada. His main hobby is genealogy which he is actively pursuing with a visit to Scotland to seek out his ancestry.

Dennis enjoys a good read and is trying his hand at writing a novel. He spends some of his time with music and plays the guitar. We hope we will hear him one of these days at a ceilidh.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Well, here I am starting the second year of a three-year term!

The 68<sup>th</sup> Gathering is behind us and I was pleased that it went off well, as it was my first effort organizing a Branch Annual Gathering. I offer my heartfelt thanks to Bob and Sondra Archibald for their help with covering registration and hosting the afternoon tea after the Kirkin o' the Tartan. Janet McCredie our new Hon Secretary, is already looking into our 69<sup>th</sup> Gathering for next year.

Our membership survey saw great participation by our members and resulted a wealth of good ideas to improve how our Branch can better serve its members. Members indicated that more regional activities would be desirable so Council has

responded by setting up six new regions across Canada with Councilors in each, charged with implementing new ideas for the Branch. Council is reviewing the financial implications to use our funds to support the new regions.

As one of the interviewers for the survey, I personally found it very interesting to talk to our members and hear what they had to say,

I represented our Branch at the United States Branch Gathering and AGM in Dallas this fall, following our Gathering in Brantford. This was my first time as Canadian Chairman and it was nice to meet new clan cousins and renew former acquaintances. I also found it interesting how the US Branch Council manages their affairs.

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## TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



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

We have \$8,556 in our current account and \$11,131 in our Life Membership Fund. We are showing a profit of \$1,091 year to date at the end of September.

The amount of profit on the year is somewhat misleading as I did not have the final bills from the Brantford Gathering. Since I closed the books for September, I have received the final bills for the Gathering as well as a series of other bills for equipment purchases and other small items. The result is that we are at about a break even position year to date. The Brantford Gathering had a modest loss of less than \$100. The Gathering was not well attended, which was most unfortunate for those of you who did not attend, because you missed an excellent Gathering, at a good venue, with delicious food and agreeable companions. I congratulate Ed Smith on an excellent job of organizing the event and managing the costs.

I do not believe there will be any other large expenses for the balance of this year.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank to following for their excellent contributions and support to the November issue: John Barton (Scotland), Danna Fitton, Ken Gillis, John C House, Janet Macpherson, Myles G Macpherson, Robert T Macpherson, James G McPherson, James M Small, E. Roderick Smith, and Ed Smith.

## 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  
Janet McCredie, Honorary Secretary  
Denise Lagundzin, Registrar

**Immediate Past Chairman:**

William Macpherson PEng

**Regional Councillors:**

John C House, Eastern Canada  
Major Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec and Eastern ON  
Janet Macpherson, Central Ontario  
E Roderick Smith, Ontario West  
Robert T Macpherson, Western Canada

**Webmaster:** Ewan Macpherson PhD

**Editor:** John C House MOM, FSA (Scot).

**Editor Emeritus:** Mark F Macpherson CD

Inquiries and articles may be sent by email to [Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org) or by post to 318 Stanfield Avenue, Dartmouth NS, N0P 2K0

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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I was pleased to note that our Council for 2018 is starting out with very few vacancies. I am looking forward to working with the new officers and Regional Councilors that were elected, and anticipate a good year ahead. I was a little disappointed that we have not found a Vice Chairmen yet, so I will be working with the Nominating Committee to fill this very important vacancy this coming year.

Yours Aye, Ed Smith CD.

## WE REMEMBER



**Hugh Edward Macpherson** joined CMA as a life member in 1983. He passed away on August 24 at the age of 89. Hugh attended Branch Gatherings and generously contributed to the Life Member Fund to help to get it started.

He also donated funds to the Clan Museum in Newtonmore.

Hugh was born in London, Ontario and grew up in Stratford. He graduated from Queen's University Kingston in 1951 with a degree in Civil Engineering, and later furthered his education in Business Administration at The University of Western Ontario.

As an engineering student, he spent his summers working for King Paving Company Ltd. Following graduation, he started his career at Imperial Oil, then returned to King Paving. In 1983, he purchased the company now called KPM Industries Ltd. and was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at the time of his retirement.

Hugh was well respected for the leadership he provided, his unassuming generosity, and many contributions to his community such as: Queen's University Bursary Fund for Engineering Students, Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital, and other medical facilities.

Hugh was an active member of the United Church, and a longstanding member and director of The Burlington Golf and Country Club.

## DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the March issue are due on the Editor's desk on February 15 2018. 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](mailto:Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org)

## NEW COUNCIL FOR 2018

The Branch Council for 2018 was elected at the Annual General Meeting. All positions were filled with the exception of the Vice Chairman and the Regional Councilor for British Columbia. The Nominating Committee under its new Chair will be searching diligently to fill these two positions as soon as possible.

### Ex Officio

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

### Officers

Chairman	Edward Smith CD
Vice Chairman	Vacant
Hon. Secretary	Janet McCredie
Hon. Treasurer	Ken Gillis
Registrar	Denise Lagundzin

### Regional Councillors

Eastern Canada	John C House MOM
Quebec and Eastern Ontario	Myles G Macpherson CD
Central Ontario	Janet Anne MacPherson
Western Canada	Robert T Macpherson
British Columbia	Vacant

### Appointments for 2018 made by Council

Editor	John C House MOM
Webmaster	Ewan A Macpherson PhD
Social Media Coordinator	Vacant
Chairman Nominating Committee	William Macpherson PEng.

## APPRECIATION

The Canadian Branch wishes to thank the members of Council, who stepped down this year, for their loyal service and support.

**Chantal McPherson** who was the Registrar for 5 years and last year, the Honorary Secretary.

**Helen Macpherson-Potts** Provincial Councillor British Columbia for 3 years.

**Donald E Pearson** Provincial Councillor Alberta for the past 8 years.

**Bruce Gillis QC** Provincial Councillor Nova Scotia for the past 6 years.

## FIRST-TIME BRANCH OFFICERS



**Janet McCredie** (née Macpherson), Hon Secretary, joined CMA as a life member in 1986. She had a 31-year career in elementary education, first as a teacher for 17 years and then as a principal in London Ontario. After retiring she was called back to run a French immersion program at the elementary level, which she finds interesting indeed, as she feels that the French Language is not her strongest suite. Janet has been collecting quilts as a hobby and is now embarking on designing and sewing them herself in her "spare" time.

Janet is looking forward to taking on the role of Branch Secretary and volunteered to be convener for the 2018 Branch Gathering, She has started work on the Gathering already and expects to announce the plan for it early in 2018 so we can all mark our calendars.



**Denise Lagundzin**, Registrar, lives with her husband Mike in Whitby Ontario. She joined CMA in 2017 and enthusiastically responded to a request by Ed Smith to accept the nomination to Council as Registrar for the coming year. Denise worked for Autotrader® for 17 years in administrative positions,

which provided her with unique experience applicable to being our Registrar.

Denise enjoys cooking and has taken on the hobby of trying at least one new recipe a week. Her second hobby is photography which will also be useful in CMA, as we always need images from our events for the Green Banner. Denise volunteers as a guide at The Lynde House Museum & Visitor Centre operated by the Whitby Historical Society.

Her connection to Clan Macpherson is through her maternal great-grandmother Margaret Macpherson. Denise visited Scotland this fall to follow her roots. Denise and Mike have three beautiful daughters, four grandsons and two granddaughters



Branch Council 2018 present at AGM  
 Mark Macpherson Former Chair, Rod Smith Regional Councillor, Denise Lagundzin Registrar, Ken Gills Hon Treasurer, Gordon Mcpherson Honorary Chairman, Ed Smith Chairman, Janet McCredie Hon Secretary, Ewan Macpherson Webmaster, Bob Archibald Former Chair.  
 Missing: Regional Councillors, John House , Myles Macpherson, Janet Macpherson, Robert T Macpherson

## MEET THE NEW REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

### Regional Councillor Eastern Canada



John C House MOM, FSA Scot joined CMA in 2012. He served as Provincial Councilor Newfoundland and Labrador from 2013 to 2016. John grew up in a southwestern Newfoundland community called the Highlands, where his maternal forbearers included Macphersons that had emigrated via Cape Breton from western Scotland during the early nineteenth century.

John was a member of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary for more than 30 years, and retired as a Superintendent. He then moved to Halifax with his wife Penny to take a position in the Nova Scotia Ombudsman's Office.

John studied at Memorial University and completed a Master of Science Degree in Investigative Psychology at the University of Surrey in England. In 2014 he graduated with a Master of Letters from the University of the Highlands and Islands. His topic was the Viking Age in Scotland. He is continuing graduate studies in Scottish history.

In 2009, John was invested as a Member of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces (MOM) in recognition of his contributions to policing across his career. In 2016 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

### Regional Councillor Quebec and Eastern Ontario



Major Myles G Macpherson CD lives in Kirkland QC with his wife Linda Zema, who is a life member and his daughter Arielle who is an annual member. Myles joined CMA as a life member in 2001 and in 2009 he was elected to Council as Provincial Councilor for Quebec.

He has attended Clan Gatherings in Badenoch as well as several Gatherings in Canada.

Myles is a graduate of Concordia University and holds Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Business Administration degrees. He presently serves with the Canadian Armed Forces as a staff officer in Ottawa.

He is a federally licensed amateur radio operator, but his principal hobby is model railroading for which he is building an extensive N scale setup in his basement.

### Regional Councillor Central Ontario



Janet MacPherson of Toronto Ontario joined CMA in 2002 when Mary-Margaret Gillies, a long-time member with whom she was working at the time, convinced her to become a member. She was impressed when she visited Scotland to attend the Clan Macpherson Gathering in Badenoch shortly after joining CMA.

Janet grew up in Moncton NB, and graduated first from Mt. Allison University, then Emmanuel College of Victoria Univer-

sity at the University of Toronto. Janet was commissioned in the United Church of Canada in 1969 and was a missionary in Japan. After returning to Canada she worked at the United Church's national office and the Canadian Council of Churches until she retired. She continues her connection with church volunteer work. That keeps her busy!

### Regional Councillor Ontario West



Rod Smith joined the CMA in 1998 and served on Council from 2000 to 2014. He was born in North Bay and was raised in Waterloo, Ontario. He is a graduate of both Waterloo and Laurier Universities with a degree in Environmental Studies and a master's degree in pastoral counselling and family therapy. He followed a career in building science engineering and building restoration with major consulting firms.

Rod has been involved with Scouts for decades as a trainer and district commissioner. He continues his avocation in scouting today. He is active with the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders, a heritage unit that supports young people who come to learn and play the pipes and drums during the summer while reenacting 18<sup>th</sup> century military drill for the public. Rod joined the Order of St Lazarus in 2005, a charitable organization dedicated to the relief of human suffering. He is the Treasurer for the Western Ontario Commandery of this Order of Chivalry.

### Regional Councillor Western Canada



Robert Thomas (Bob) Macpherson who lives in Cochrane, Alberta, joined CMA in 2014. He was born in Drumheller and raised in Hanna, Alberta. Bob is a fourth generation Canadian Scot whose great-great-grandfather came to Elgin County, Ontario in the mid 1800's from the Tarbert area of Kintyre, Scotland. He has many distant relatives in the St. Thomas area of Ontario.

Bob has a keen interest in and a love of his Scottish heritage. He and his wife, Sylvia, have been to Scotland four times so far and attended the Clan Gathering in 2015 with plans of attending again in 2018. Bob and Sylvia have hosted a Burns' night for over thirty years. Bob also had the honour of giving a Toast to the Lassies and delivering the Immortal Memory at some of the Grande Prairie Burns' suppers.

Bob spent his career as a teacher in Grande Prairie before retiring to Cochrane Alberta to be close to the three children and two grandchildren living in Calgary.

After attending many Highland games and Burns' suppers in Grande Prairie, Bob started attending games in Calgary and Canmore the last few years and is looking forward to increasing our presence there to drum up interest in CMA in the west, starting in Alberta.

## FITTON FAMILY GOES TO SCOTLAND

By Danna Fitton



Scotland truly is for all ages and stages. We were very fortunate to be able to spend the last two weeks of July in Scotland with our children, Simon, and Courtney with her partner Adam Fair, and our grandchildren, Etta, one and Elliot, four. I know you might be questioning our sanity, but we all agreed that the trip exceeded all of our expectations. You can't get better than that.

We rented a flat in Edinburgh for five days, which allowed us to catch up with former CMA Chairs Sandy and Catherine Macpherson, as well as spend an evening with Shelagh and husband Alastair Noble. Mid-week we visited Sandy and Catherine's son, Bruce, and his wife Michelle at their wonderful "old" home outside Peebles in the Borders region. The rest of the time, we explored Edinburgh, often meeting up in parks to listen to music, let the children play and have a beer from a local tent. Climbing Arthur's Seat was popular with all including the four year old. Gran (me), had to keep Etta busy on the nearby green space. Darn! Elliot was in search of castles and was thrilled when his father bought him a plastic sword in a scabbard while visiting Edinburgh Castle. Somehow his mother discovered as she climbed Arthur's Seat, that she was still carrying Elliot's sword – and Elliot was still at the bottom of the hill with Daddy and probably wondering what happened to his sword. I guess she felt that she needed to lead the charge.



Arthur's Seat near Holyrood Palace

The balance of our trip was spent at "Netherwood", a wonderful house in Newtonmore, once owned by Sandy's aunt. It was very interesting being there out of Gathering time. There are many things to do from that location such as, bicycling, hiking many trails, visiting Dalwhinnie Distillery, Rhuthven Barracks

and the Folk Museum . We did them all, and the children loved being out and about. We visited pubs and cafés, and did take-out from the Glen Hotel to share in our own dining room on our last night together.

Visiting the Clan Macpherson Museum with our family was special. Ruiseart the curator, found the cromach donated by my father, Dan Gillies of Wheatley. Each of us had a turn carrying it as we explored the museum. Young Elliot was intrigued by the sword which also had been donated by his Great Poppa. The coat of arms of Uncle John Gillies a former Chair of the Canadian Branch, was on the wall of the Heraldry room, which is an amazing collection of colours and designs.

Of course, the highlight of this week was going to Blairgowrie near Perth, to have lunch with Cluny and Hilary at Newton Castle. They were in good health, wonderful spirits and the rain stopped as soon as we arrived. It was such a pleasure for us to be with them again, and we were happy to be able to introduce Adam and the children to our Chief..



Lunch at Newton Castle  
Left to right: Hilary Lady Birnam, Cluny, Simon, Ron, Danna, and Courtney

I heartily recommend a family trip such as this- some time together, some time apart. There seemed to be something for everyone. Our children are already indicating that they want to go back, perhaps to explore Adam's Ross roots, to check out the islands and the North. If Ron and I are lucky, they might invite us to come along!

*Danna Fitton (né Gillies) lives in Scarborough Ontario and has been involved with the Clan Macpherson Association for over thirty years, inspired by her father, Dan Gillies of Wheatley, who was a very active member, Danna and her extended family often joined him at gatherings in Scotland and Canada to enjoy time together and to celebrate our Clan heritage.*

*Danna was a teacher in Toronto and had the pleasure of teaching not only adolescents, but also adults who came back to school to finish their education or to get Canadian credentials and experience in a Canadian workplace.*

*Danna is active in a community choir called Shout Sister, and has always been involved in her community and church organizations. She and her husband Ron are getting ready to move into a condo and are looking forward to new adventures –once the work of downsizing is complete.*

# THE COLONEL, THE LAIRD, AND MY FAMILY

Rev. James Macpherson Small



All Peoples throughout history have wanted to record their history – whether in song, story, memory, or writing in some form or other. The Scots are definitely a People ... with a long history. It is good to reflect on our history, with its various vagaries. But that is a lengthy possibility, so I am breaking into my history by beginning with Lt. Col. Donald Macpherson who commanded the Kingston Garrison during the War of 1812 and was my great-great-grandfather.



*Lt Col Donald Macpherson  
Circa 1800*

Lt. Col. Donald was born in Laggan in 1755, joined the army, and pursued a military career when he came to Canada. He married Elspeth Macpherson in Scotland, and they had a son Allan, who was baptized in the Parish of Laggan in 1785.

In 1809 my great-great-grandfather Allan came to Canada from Badenoch at the age of 22, eventually settling in Napanee to the west of Kingston where he became a leading

businessman who invested in the government grist mill. His other interests included a distillery, a saw mill which was an integral part of his lumber business, and he also established the first newspaper in Napanee.

As a leading member of his community he took on government appointments and was the first postmaster in Napanee, and a Justice of the Peace. He was also appointed a Crown Lands and Immigration agent. Allan had an interest in education like many Scots and built, at his own expense, the first school house in the village.



*Allan Macpherson "The Laird" circa 1858*

Topping all this off – he built his new home on the other side of the Napanee river from the village. Allan's house was considered to be the most imposing building of its kind in Napanee by the locals. Because of this he became known as "the Laird".



*Macpherson House, Napanee today*

I grew up hearing of my

great-great-grandfather's practice of "grub-staking" (financially supporting) people who went to work in the wooded unknown north in what is now the well-settled County of Lennox and Addington in Ontario.

Allan and Mary had 4 sons – Richard, Donald, Alexander, and James; and three daughters – Henrietta, Emma Jessie, and Willina [who died young]. Their son Richard my great-grandfather, married Emma Jackson, and in time they had a daughter Mary [known as Minnie]. Minnie married my grandfather, Henry Beaumont Small – a medical doctor and surgeon in Ottawa.



*Richard and Emma Macpherson  
Circa 1865*

Henry and Minnie had three children; Dorothy, and her sister Marjorie [known to us as Aunt Mac] who did not marry, but kept the house and home of the Doctor after Minnie died, and a son Richard my father, who married Mary Elizabeth Martin.



*Mary (Minnie) Macpherson—Small  
circa 1878*

In the fullness of time, Richard and Mary had two sons, my brother, Richard Martin Beaumont Small, and I – James Macpherson Small who married Joan Frances Blackwell. Joan and I were blessed with two sons Keith Macpherson Small and Gordon Richard James Small. Gordon who lives in St Hubert QC now has a

young son Mathieu. So the family continues. . .



*James Small with sons Gordon on left and Keith on right*

# MCPHERSON'S SCHOOL, BRANT COUNTY

By James G McPherson of Creemore



August 6<sup>th</sup> of this Canada 150<sup>th</sup> year marked the first ever reunion of McPherson's School, a little yellow brick school house that stands at the corner of Scenic Drive and McPherson School Road about one mile north of Blue Lake in the County of Brant, Ontario, Canada.

The event attracted, in my words at the time, "all who went to the school, wish they had gone to the school, or are just plain curious as to what life was like attending a classic one room rural school". The event featured, in honour of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, a re-dedication of the school's bell which exactly 50 years prior was mounted on a solid granite stone marked by a Canada Centennial plaque with the words "Site of McPherson's School, SS#10, 1870-1961, Dedicated Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> 1967".



McPherson's School SS 10

Happily, against all expectations at that time, the school building is not only standing, it is lovingly cared for by the present owners Suzanne Seward and Paul Stouffer. They graciously allowed the school and school yard to be open to all. While the interior is completely re-done as a modern comfortable country home, the warm brick outside

walls stand tall and the front have been meticulously restored to its original configuration. The bricks bear the names (and for those less daring, only the initials) of most former students, and are still there to be seen, fingered and the circumstances of their being carved by nail or jackknife were recalled or imagined. Many of the names recorded of McPherson children who attended from two adjacent farms, one of which is still owned by McPhersons who first settled in this bit of Brant (as emigrants from Batavia, Genesee County, New York State) in the early 1820's.

This building bespeaks Canada, being built 3 years after Confederation at a cost of \$816 on land given by Daniel McPherson at the corner of his farm. Classes ceased in 1961 as better roads and greater mobility led to a new era of consolidation.

But happily again, not only is the school standing, but so are many of its graduates from the 1930's onward. By grapevine and social media, word of the Reunion spread and 89 attendees from Canada, State of Washington, Minnesota and Illinois gathered to recall, perhaps for the last time, the times when the school bubbled with laughter or was silenced by the crack of the strap! But good times by far prevailed, despite no phone, no running water, no internet and very little money.

The Brantford Expositor newspaper captured the mood when it reported that the Reunion had "all the earmarks of a warm family homecoming". Written remarks from Audrey Wann (né McPherson) of Tucson AZ who at 96 declined to attend "because she had another road trip", relating her memories of being disciplined in the woodshed. Recollections of Dr. Duncan McPherson of Vancouver regarding summer target practice at the bell with his 22 "when nobody was around" added to the humour of the day. Mayor Ron Eddy of Brant spoke and noted the importance to our history of having such public structures preserved by finding new uses for them, as they are irreplaceable reminders.

The old school bell, newly painted and polished and showcased by fresh landscaping, was unveiled by Alan and Flora McPherson of Calgary (great-great grandchildren of Daniel), and Margaret (né McPherson) Scheske and her daughter Jenna who reside in the adjacent "McPherson" farmhouse. They were assisted by Dolores Gallagher, the oldest former pupil present. A Clan Macpherson tartan blanket served admirably for this occasion as a cover. I asked all present "to join me in rededicating this bell... this ringing symbol of our school, our community and ourselves". As the blanket was pulled aside "O Canada" was sung and a happy day drew to a close.



Following the rededication of the school bell, I asked my granddaughter Flora McPherson to ring the bell with a small hammer to make sure the bell rang true. It did, and brought back a final memory for all who were present

# 68TH ANNUAL GATHERING

By Mark Macpherson



About 24 members and guests congregated for the Chairman's Reception and ceilidh hosted by Ed Smith at the Best Western Brantford on Friday evening September 15. Our congenial host had arranged for the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Hamilton ON Branch Dance Demonstration Team to present a demonstration of Scottish Country Dancing with members of the audience joining in at the request of the dancers. All enjoyed the reels and Strathspeys. Ed brought out his Scottish song list and everyone joined in a great sing-song along with a few talented individual performances. A snack of cold cuts and salads was laid on with an open bar which was enjoyed immensely.



*Hamilton Dance Group giving a demonstration of Scottish country dancing*

Once the exciting business of the Annual General Meeting was out of the way on Saturday morning, members dispersed for the afternoon to take in the interesting sites around Brantford, to do some local shopping, or just relax and let the world pass by.

Ewan our Webmaster and Piper, visited the Bell homestead and reported:

“Visited the Alexander Graham Bell homestead. The young man giving tours was very knowledgeable. I had been looking forward to this having recently read Charlotte Gray's biography of Bell and also Dr. Cluny's account of meeting Bell on a train and learning the story of the “Lost Portrait”. Great to see the Bells' first North American home and many of their original possessions”

June and Mark went to the Canadian Military Heritage Museum and enjoyed the visit. There is more on this visit in a separate article.

The formal highland dinner which is always a feature of our Gathering was excellent, with most members complimenting the quality of the food, particularly the haggis. Bill Macpherson former Chair and Robbie Burns devotee, gave the address to the haggis with his usual flair. Ewan who had piped in the

head table and the haggis, after dinner gave a fine demonstration of his art.



*Professor James Fraser addressing the dinner*

Then an innovation this year, at least something we haven't seen for a while, we had a guest speaker on a Scottish subject, as requested by many members who had responded to the membership survey earlier this year. The keynote speaker was Dr. James Fraser of the University of Guelph who addressed the problems of researching Scottish history which is based on a mainly oral tradition where facts and myths tend to be mixed up.

Ewan introduced and read Dr. Cluny Macpherson's recollection of a chance encounter with Alexander Graham Bell on a train headed to Montreal, where Cluny was to begin his medical studies, aged 17. Bell's father was friendly with the St. John's Macphersons in his youth, and Bell had also visited them when Cluny was a child. Bell recounted the story (entirely unknown to Cluny) of the “Lost Portrait” of Cluny's great-grandfather. The portrait had been lost at sea, but was later discovered by chance by Cluny's grandfather hanging in a cottage on the west coast of Ireland. For Dr. Cluny's full account, see <http://collections.mun.ca/cdm/search/collection/cluny> (Notebook 2, page 32).

Bill presented the story of Cluny's Cage where our Chief hid out following the battle of Culloden.

These after-dinner talks were generally well-received. Some members suggested that a sound system would have made it easier to understand all that the speakers were presenting.



*Ed having the guest speaker make the first draw to start the parade of lucky winners with Dee Engle looking on.*

*Continued on page 9*

## YOUR OPINION COUNTED

By Mark Macpherson



Well we did it! We talked to every member who wished to participate in our landmark survey, the purpose of which was to find out how to find new members and keep those who had joined. A questionnaire was designed and tested. Then members were called by other members who had volunteered to do telephone interviews. Participants also had the option of completing the survey on their own and returning the questionnaire by email. In the end 61% of our members completed the survey, which is an excellent response. A total of 244 suggestions were offered to improve recruiting, retention, the events offered by the Branch, and communications with our members.

When asked why they joined, most members not surprisingly, checked affiliation with Clan Macpherson, interest in clan history, or following their roots. A significant number felt the message put out by CMA was not clear, and many felt the use of social media such as Facebook should be harnessed to enhance the image of CMA. We have been looking for someone to serve on Council to do just that! We are still looking.

When asked about the organization of the Governing Council of the Branch, a significant minority felt they did not know much about it, but the majority felt it was important to the Branch. You will note in this issue of the Green Banner we have taken great pains to inform everybody of the organization and composition of Council.

One of the key issues raised in the survey was that members in general were not able to attend the events offered by the Branch, and that more regional and possibly family-oriented events were necessary. The Council has reorganized the Branch into six regions to address these issues. We are examining the possibility of family-friendly summer events as well.

We have to develop our message and prepare material that our existing members can use to bring in new people. We know there are many out there with the name Macpherson, or of the allied family names, who don't know about the CMA. These people may be interested in joining if they have the same motivation as those of us who are already members. We just have to find them and talk to them.

You can find the complete report of the survey on our private page on the Clan website at <https://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/membersdocs/membersonly2017.html>

Maitre d'hôtel: 'Are you here for a special occasion?'  
Campbell: 'Aye, we won the third prize in the annual Robert Burns Contest, a haggis dinner for two.'

Maitre d'hôtel: 'What were the other prizes?'  
Campbell: The second prize was a single haggis dinner, and, if you won the first prize, you didnae have to eat the haggis.'

## 68TH ANNUAL GATHERING

Continued from page 8

Everyone enjoyed the prize draw managed by Ed who made sure of fairness by having the previous winner draw the next ticket. There were happy winners and less happy losers as usual. Ewan reported lately that he is still enjoying his prize "dram by dram"!

On Sunday those of us that could, got up and met at the Central Presbyterian Church in downtown Brantford to be piped in by Ewan. We were greeted by Worship Leader Anne Miller who was officiating, and then we joined the congregation. Ed, Ken Gillis, and Rod Smith did us proud with their readings of the scriptures. It was an impressive church, making for an enjoyable occasion.



At the Central Presbyterian Church  
Back row: Rod Smith, Bob Archibald (Port Hope) Ken Gillis (obscured), Mrs. Duncan McPherson, Duncan Scott McPherson, Mark Macpherson  
Front row: Kim Griffiths, Robert W Archibald, Marlene Archibald (Port Hope), Ed Smith, Dee Engle, Ella Gillis, June Macpherson, Ewan Macpherson

In the afternoon, Bob and Sondra Archibald hosted an outdoor luncheon at their beautiful home in Brantford. We were blessed with a nice sunny day, so the fellowship was great and the food and wine magnificent. Everyone is looking forward to next year when we will be celebrating our 69<sup>th</sup> Gathering.



Enjoying fellowship at the luncheon  
Our genial host, Robert W Archibald, Bob Archibald (Port Hope) Ken Gillis, and Ed Smith

# TARTANS! TARTANS! TARTANS!

By John Barton

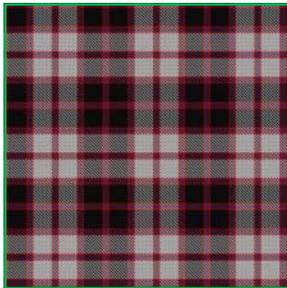


Tartan as we know it today is not thought to have existed in Scotland before the 16th century. From that time, there are numerous references to striped or checkered plaids, but it is not until the late 17th or early 18th century that any kind of uniformity in tartan is thought to have occurred. Even then, those tartans appear to have been “territorial” and were not necessarily associated with any particular family.

As Highland regiments in the British army multiplied, their tartan uniforms were differentiated, and this may have given birth to the idea of differentiating the tartan that might be worn by each clan.

Depending upon how “different tartan” is defined, it has been estimated that there are now about 3,500 to 7,000 different tartans, with around 150 new designs being created every year. The official Scottish Register of Tartans was established in 2009, The Register is maintained and administrated by the National Archives of Scotland, a statutory body based in Edinburgh. The Scottish Register of Tartans is not selective, and records no less than thirty-one “Macpherson” tartans!

## The Hunting Macpherson



The “Hunting Macpherson” is instantly recognizable. In the Clan Museum at Newtonmore, there is a magnificent life-size painting of Ewen Macpherson (“Old Cluny”) who succeeded his father as Chief in 1817 and who died in 1885. Old Cluny is wearing a kilt and plaid of the Hunting tartan. In the painting,

the sett of the tartan is unusually large. More recently, a smaller sett of the Hunting tartan has been generally preferred. Early records show two forms of the Hunting tartan – with a grey background or a white background. It is open to suggestion that the grey version may be the original, reflecting the natural colour of the wool without bleaching.

## The White or Dress Macpherson



This tartan may be of similar antiquity to the Hunting. In its early form, it had three white strips, and usually there were also two parallel purple strips. This tartan was known as the *breacan glas* (the pied wagtail) reflecting its largely black and white colouring. The

figure depicted by R R McIan and published in his *The Clans of the Scottish Highlands* (1845) is shown as wearing this tartan; and it was a silk scarf of the same tartan which Robert Louis Stevenson wore as a child in the 1850s). Old Cluny acknowledged the antiquity of this version, but preferred the variation in which the second of the three lines appears in yellow. This is now the preferred version and the kilt in this tartan is usually worn with formal dress.

## The Red Macpherson



There are no early paintings showing the Red Macpherson, and there is no evidence that it was worn prior to the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. However, it has been included in most collections since that time, albeit with varying hues within the same colour pattern. More recently, there has been an increase

in the popularity of the “weathered” or “muted” colours: but such colours have not resulted in a separate registration.

The Registers also contain another less familiar “Red Macpherson” of recent origin. On looking closely, the pattern follows the design of the White Macpherson, but with a red background!

## Other Macpherson Tartans



Examples of modern dance tartans

What of the many other “Macpherson” tartans on the established Scottish Register of Tartans? A great number are designated as “dance” tartans. Typical of the tartans to be seen in the dance competitions at Highland Games, they are all very colourful and appear to be based on the white dress tartan. However, outside of the dance scene, they are rarely worn. A few “family” tartans have also been registered in recent times – for example, the Glentruim tartan, designed by Lochcarron for the late Ewen Macpherson of Glentruim. Its dominant colour is green, and it is proudly worn by members of that family.

## What is the “Correct” Tartan ?

The selecting of a tartan of a new kilt or other garment is a matter of personal choice. For those wishing to a degree of conformity, one may wish to choose from among the generally accepted tartans. However, the design of many of the tartans has evolved over the centuries. It is always open to members of the Clan to innovate and it will be the test of time to decide whether any such variations will come to be accepted in the future.

## ALAN G MAPHERSON TURNS 90

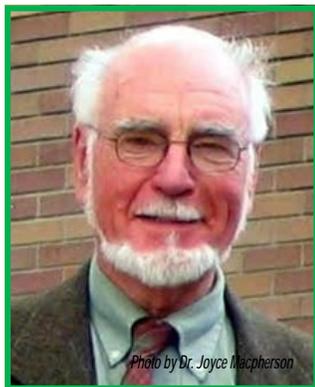
By Ewan A Macpherson PhD



My father, our clan historian and Seanachaidh, Professor Alan G. Macpherson PhD celebrated his 90th birthday on Thursday 28th September 2017.

Alan is the author several books relating to Clan Macpherson including, *A Day's March to Ruin* [a documentary narrative of the Badenoch Men in the 'Forty-Five and biography of Col. Ewan Macpherson of Cluny, 1706-1764] and *The Posterity of The Three Brethren - a Short History of the Clan Macpherson*. Copies of Alan's books are available from the Clan Museum.

Alan is interested in the relationship of DNA to genealogy and mounted a research project on this within the Clan a few years ago. Countless members of the Clan Association are grateful to Alan for his time and knowledge willingly given regarding their genealogy and other historical matters for over 60 years. The layout of the Clan Museum, particularly the pre-Victorian period, is largely due to Alan's guidance and direction.



Alan G Macpherson 2005

Alan and his wife of many years Joyce, now reside in London Ontario. Declining health in recent years has prevented him from pursuing his Clan and other academic research, but he is pleased that his contributions over the years have been appreciated by Clan Macpherson.

*This article is based on material posted to Facebook by Ewan S L Macpherson*

## BRANCH CONSTITUTION

Constitutions are not normally considered an exciting part of life unless you are a lawyer or like to read erudite text.

However in the interest of consistency and good governance it is important to have the objectives and rules governing an organization written down for reference by those who are charged by the membership with managing its operation. Last year the Council tabled an update to the Canadian Branch Constitution and asked for comments from our membership at large, and approval from the CMA Council in Scotland. The amendments were subsequently adopted at the Annual General meeting in Brantford this year. The final approved and adopted Constitution may be found at the Canadian Branch member's private space on the Clan website at <https://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/membersdocs/membersonly2017.html>

Have a good read!

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

By Mark F Macpherson



After eleven volumes of the Green Banner and ten years of publication it is time to pass the Editor torch to an up and coming competent new person. I have enjoyed immensely my term as Editor and I am pleased that our newsletter has gone from one page at the beginning of 2007

with the Editor doing most of the writing, to an average of 12 pages with many contributors, not only from the Canadian Branch, but also from our other branches around the world. This support is invaluable for an interesting newsletter.

I realized that I was getting a little long in the tooth and it was time to hang up my skates. I welcome John House as our new Editor for the Green Banner. John's life experience as a senior police official and his keen interest in learning new things through formal and informal studies, makes him an ideal person to take on this role. I know he will be afforded the support I received over the years from our Association to produce a first-rate product for the Canadian Branch.

We have two new contributors for the November issue in Danna Fitton and Reverend James Small, who submitted two excellent family-oriented stories. Our flying Macpherson, James G McPherson, told us about the reunion at McPherson's School at which he passed his elementary years. John Barton gave us a short introduction into Macpherson tartans, a topic that should interest all of us, as it is important to our identity as Scots and Clansmen.

## MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM

By June Macpherson



With Saturday afternoon free at the Gathering, and many choices as to what to do, Mark and I decided to visit the Canadian Military Heritage Museum in Brantford. I knew Mark would enjoy it but I wasn't too sure I would. However the museum

had been established by and is run completely by volunteers. As a dedicated volunteer myself I was really astonished and impressed by what they had accomplished.

The museum was contained in a very large building the size of two football fields. It covered Canadian military history from the 1700's to the present day and we were very lucky to have a most knowledgeable volunteer to guide us through the museum. Mark and I have visited the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa which, of course, had millions of dollars lavished on it and indeed it is very memorable, but what these volunteers had achieved without government assistance was equally impressive.



Continued on Page 12

## MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM

Continued from Page 11



A former Canadian Army signal officer visiting the World War II era signal office exhibit.

As one progressed from very early maps depicting battles that took place in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, to a mock-up of a dugout in World War I, and a signal office in World War II, it was easy to see the loving care which had been devoted to making this a truly interesting place to visit. There were weapons on display for each period, from old muskets to a 19th century Gatling gun, an early form of machine gun, to a

collection of field artillery pieces and vehicles from the second world war.

As a librarian at our local community library in Hemmingford, I was interested in the collection of military books that had been donated by the public.

On a more personal note, one saw many plaques noting the names



The Gatling gun. It had several barrels, fired in succession, turned by a hand crank. On the modern version called a mini-gun, used on helicopter gun ships, the barrels are turned by an electric motor.

of service men from the area who had died in battle. These plaques had been rescued from area churches, which had been put to other uses. This museum is a fitting place to honor our Canadian soldiers.



## EASTERN CANADA REGION

By John C House MOM, FSA Scot. Councillor



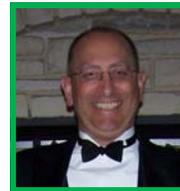
I am honoured to accept the position as Councillor for Eastern Canada and Editor of the Green Banner. I hope to be able to continue the high standard that Mark has achieved with this publication. I look forward to his continuing involvement in the future.

I am aware that there are many Macphersons residing in eastern Canada. I am considering different ways that we can encourage increased interest in the Clan Macpherson Association in the region. I hope we in the Eastern Canada Region can get together for a local event. I will be contacting you in the future to discuss our options.

Eastern Canada Region includes the three maritime provinces and Newfoundland-Labrador.

## QUEBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO

By Myles G Macpherson CD., Regional Councillor



I am certain that we have all been enjoying life over this past summer and hopefully not working too hard. The Canadian Branch was reorganized at the AGM this year to replace Provincial Councillors with Regional Councillors. Although this doesn't change much for our Region, in order to get more activity I will be looking for help to contact all of the members in the region and assist me to organize a local event. The two main centres in which I will be looking for help are Montreal and Ottawa. Suggestions are welcome.

I am looking forward to some interesting Scottish activities coming up over the coming months. If any Clan Macpherson folk would like to join me, this would be a great opportunity to get to know one another better and meet at an event held in our area. Please contact me at my home phone 514-693-9920 and we will work out the details to meet up:

- 11 Nov - There is always a military parade in downtown Montreal. I plan to visit the parade and go to a pub nearby after the ceremonies;
- Burn's Night Dinner – I plan to attend the St Andrew's Society event on 25 Jan 2018; and
- Maxville Highland Games and Montreal Highland Games – these two events will take place on the weekend of 3-5 August 2018.

I hope to hear from you soon.

The Quebec and Eastern Ontario Region includes the Province of Quebec and eastern Ontario to Colborne and the Ottawa Valley.

## WESTERN CANADA REGION

By Robert T MacPherson Councillor



As the new Regional Councillor for Western Canada, I thought I'd better get busy with some news. I would like to first thank the outgoing Alberta Provincial Councillor, Don Pearson of Calgary, for his efforts over the last few years.

I hope to be able to stir up some more interest out here in the west for our Clan. It is a challenge, to be sure. I would also thank the Clan Macpherson Association for its confidence in me to represent our Clan in the prairies.

I attended the Canmore Highland Games on September 3 and found them to be one of the best they have put on. This was very re-assuring as the announcement in December 2016 was that the existing Scottish Festival Society would no longer be putting on the games due to a lack of volunteers to help organize the games. Then in late spring a local Canmore developer Frank Kernick, stepped up and offered major sponsorship as well as administrative and volunteer support to the games through the new Malcolm Scottish Society. Frank was named Honorary Chieftain for the day for his efforts.



*Piping competition at Canmore*

King Malcolm III of Scotland was also known as Malcolm Canmore (Canmore meaning 'big head' or 'chief' – not head size!). The town was named for him so it is very fitting that these great highland games are held here nestled in the Rocky Mountains of Alberta.

Alberta also has Highland Games in Calgary, Red Deer, Edmonton, Grande Prairie and Okotoks, so you can see that there is lots of interest in Scottish culture in Alberta. Hopefully, I will put in an appearance with our clan tent at some of these events in 2018 and encourage interest in our Association as well.

*The Western Canada Region comprises the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.*



## CENTRAL ONTARIO REGION

By Janet Ann MacPherson Councillor



As the new Councilor for Central Ontario which is the core of the Canadian Branch and is also the largest region with 50 members, I was honored to be asked to take on this position on the Branch Council. I must confess that I am a little apprehensive at the responsibility I have taken on for Clan Macpherson.

To make Central Ontario a successful Region for CMA, I will need help from the members especially those who have experience in organizing activities and events. On reading the report for the recent member survey undertaken by Council during the past year I see that the members want more events in the regions beyond just the Annual Gathering. Also there were many good ideas offered by the members who responded to the survey.

I hope to contact all of the members in the Region to determine what sort of activities will be supported. To do this I will be asking some members to help me make the contacts and organize the events. If we work together we will be successful and the Association will work better for all of us.

*The Central Ontario Region consists of the Greater Toronto area and the province from Cobourg in the east to Hamilton Niagara in the west and north to Georgian Bay.*

## ONTARIO WEST REGION

By E Roderick Smith Councillor



As the newly elected Councillor for Ontario West, I am hoping that we can have a few events during the year apart from the annual Branch Gathering, where CMA members in the area can enjoy each other's company. I am planning to organize a clan picnic at Bingeman Park in Kitchener.

Bingeman's has an excellent water park as well picnic and camping areas; so that CMA members may want to bring children and grandchildren as may be the case. The park can be seen at [www.bingemans.com](http://www.bingemans.com), comments and suggestions are welcome.

There is also the possibility of a dinner /theatre evening at the Dunfield Theatre in Cambridge (Galt) which is an excellent facility with a number of respectable places to eat nearby. The theatre can be seen at [www.draytonentertainment.com](http://www.draytonentertainment.com). I would invite those interested to get in touch with me. I look forward to contacting and meeting as many CMA members in our area in the not-to-distant future.

*Ontario West Region includes Hamilton Niagara, Western Ontario, and Northwestern Ontario.*