



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 12 Number 1

SPRING ISSUE

May 2018

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Denise Lagundzin, Registrar



 Happy Spring everyone!

I am happy to report that we had 13 membership renewals this year. Please, if you change your address, email or telephone send me an email. There were 6 Creag Dhubh returned as people had moved. If anyone has not received their membership cards or copy of Creag Dhubh, please let me know asap and I will get them out to you.



and in the Army Reserve Branch. Myles has served in the Canadian military since 1979 in both full and part time capacities. To carry out his duties, he commutes 200 kilometers each day to Ottawa from his home in Kirkland, Quebec. His family was very happy to be on hand to assist in promoting him to his new rank.



Editor Emeritus **LCOL Mark Macpherson CD FSA Scot** was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland on St. Andrews Day 2017 and is permitted to use the postnominal FSA Scot denoting his Fellowship. Mark follows John House who was elected in 2016 and Gordon Macpherson who received recognition from the Society in 2017 for 60 years as an active Fellow. Congratulations Mark!



CMA welcomes **Mike Lagundzin**, our newest member from Walkerton, Ontario. Mike is the husband of CMA Registrar Denise Lagundzin, and they just recently moved into their new home which is keeping them busy. Mike is looking forward to meeting other CMA members at the Clan Gathering in September. He recently retired after working for 47 years in the

automotive industry as licenced mechanic (service technician).



This past November Quebec and Eastern Ontario Counsellor **Myles Macpherson CD, MBA**, was promoted from the rank of Major to Lieutenant-Colonel in the Canadian Armed Forces. Myles is serving in Ottawa as a staff officer overseeing the acquisition of advanced equipment for the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command. Myles has been working with Special

Forces for more than four years and expects to be there for another three years. Prior to his assignment at Special Forces, he worked at Army Headquarters, Ottawa in Force Development



The CMA also welcomes **Bruce McPherson** from Amherstburg, Ontario, where he lives with his wife, Kelly and two sons, William and James. Bruce's interest in Scottish history and genealogy started early in life while he was in high school and he has since spent a great deal of time researching his family tree. When not spending time with his family

or at work, he enjoys researching family history, reading or going for walks at local parks and conservation areas.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By Ed Smith



reetings Cousins: We are well into a new year. It is my hope everyone managed to survive the most tenacious winter we have encountered for a number of years. Most Snowbirds were not exempt from this weather either. Welcome home.

Last year was extremely busy for some of the Council; The Survey was received with varying responses.

However, many excellent suggestions were put forward.

Some are manageable, while others will take much development. Most require as always, funding and volunteers to organize.

The biggest issue apart from being spread from sea to sea; is really the lack of Participation by the Members.

You need to start with small local events. Simple things, Picnics, Lunch, pub night, attending Scottish and clan events,

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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 May issue: Jean McPherson Duffy, Denise Lagundzin, Janet McCredie, Dee McPherson, James G McPherson, 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
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Janet McCredie, Honorary Secretary
Denise Lagundzin, Registrar

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Major Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec and Eastern ON
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Webmaster: Ewan Macpherson PhD

Editor: John C House MOM, FSA Scot

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Inquiries and articles may be sent by email to Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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even marching as a group in a Highland Games, even a local event.

Perhaps celebrate Tartan day. Be sure to take photos.

There are some members that are already Attending Balls and charity events, not all members can justify the cost, or have the time.

There are Scottish events all across Canada, Get to know cousins, your clansmen and women. Should you want to get something going and you are not familiar with Clans folk nearby you. Give Your Area Regional Councilor or myself a call; we will along with our registrar help out in notifying the people in your area.

Highland Games Notifications are beginning to roll in. We usually are present in the Clan villages at several of the games in Ontario; and other provinces. Wherever you live make a point of getting out to at least one in your area. Wear your Tartan; make a showing for the Clan Macpherson Association. We need new members and volunteers to enable growth in the CMA Canada Branch

I want to thank those who have taken on the duties as Area Regional Councilor along with the Positions of Editor- John House, Registrar- Denise Lagundzin and Honorary Secretary Janet Macpherson

Janet along with her committee also have taken on the monumental task of Organizing the 2018 Gathering/AGM.

There is information on the event elsewhere in this issue of the Green Banner.



**US BRANCH
AGM AND GATHERING**
SHERATON PORTLAND AIRPORT HOTEL
8235 NE Airport Way Portland OR 97220
October 5-7, 2018

DEADLINE FOR SUMMER ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the Summer issue are due on the Editor's desk on July 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

69TH GATHERING—SEPTEMBER 28, 29 AND 30TH , 2018

By Janet McCredie



Jwan Macpherson (the Clan Piper) and I have been working to plan an interesting Gathering for 2018 that has kept to our Canadian Association's Clan Macpherson traditions. The Gathering will be held on September 28, 29 and 30th , 2018 in London at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn. It is easily accessed from the 401. We have rooms set aside for the clan and these need to be booked early. Call the Lamplighter line and identify yourself as a Macpherson Gathering participant for the special rates. Please forward your completed registration forms to Ken Gillis by September 6th, 2018.

The Gathering weekend of September 28 to 30, 2018 has been chosen to coincide with the American Branch Gathering the following weekend. We hope this allows ease of travel for visitors from the other branches.

We shall follow our tradition with an informal evening gathering on Friday night. We are hoping to add a trivia game component to our usual Scottish dancing and sing-song. Members of London RSCDS will be joining us to lead the dances. This, as well as our other sessions, will be in the Oak Lounge of the hotel.

The executive and Clan meetings will be held on Saturday morning in the Oak Lounge.

During your free time on Saturday afternoon there are many options. You may want to consider a place that has had a Macpherson connection in its history! There are likely many spots but, two of London's most prominent Museums have clan members in their history!

The London Museum of Ontario Archeology and the Lawson site on Attawandaran Road was originally called the Wilfrid Jury Museum. It houses artifacts from Wilfrid Jury's many archeological excavations as well as First Nations artifacts and history. It also has a recreated Neutral longhouse on site. The Macpherson connection occurred on Wilfrid's first major dig. It was at a Neutral village site in Clearville near Duart, Ontario. Throughout the excavation he stayed at the home of Dr. J. R. Macpherson. The doctor's oldest son Don assisted with the digging. The London Free Press covered the story and had a picture of young J. Donald Macpherson (a past Canadian Branch Chairman) on site with Wilfred. This picture was recently republished in Jennifer Grainger's "From the Vault", a retrospective of London Free Press photographs. The second clan connection is with the Banting House Museum in downtown London. It is a National Historic site and internationally known. It celebrates the history and achievements of Dr. Fredrick Banting and his discovery of insulin. One of his lab assistants at the time was Grace Macpherson. She was proud to be part of that exciting discovery.

Dr. Barbara C. Murison will be joining us to speak at the Highland dinner Saturday evening. She is a member of the history department at UWO and one of her specialties is the Scottish diaspora or Scots who have emigrated from Scotland! We look forward to her insights. Our dinner will be held in the Oak Lounge. The selections are noted on the registration form.

On Sunday the New St. James Presbyterian Church located at Oxford and Wellington Street North will be enthusiastically

69TH GATHERING



CANADIAN BRANCH - CLAN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION

September 28, 29, and 30, 2018
Best Western Lamplighter Inn
London, ON

welcoming the Canadian Branch's "Kirking in the Tartan" at their service. We shall gather for a group picture following the service.

The planning committee is pleased to have the clan gathering back in London and look forward to seeing everyone this fall! Please check the Canadian Branch website to complete your registration form!

<http://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/rally.html>

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

By John C. House



First of all I would like to acknowledge and express my appreciation for all the hard work Mark Macpherson has put into the Green Banner over the years. I am aware of his dedication and commitment and over time I hope to do justice to what he has achieved. I am also grateful to

him for the help and advice in getting this issue off the ground.

I am also indebted to my colleague Kevin Hartford for advice with the publishing software. I also thank Penny Abraham for proof reading the draft.

This is my first solo attempt at compiling the Green Banner, and I will admit that I approached it with trepidation. There have been some glitches that I hope to overcome for the next issue.

I will be in touch with the Regional Counsellors about getting information and updates on events in their respective areas. I look forward to the opportunity to build on this publication and encourage any readers to submit articles and stories for publication.

LETTER FROM CMA CHAIRMAN

By Jean Macpherson Duffy



Hello Cousins:

This will be my last letter to you as Chairman of the Clan Macpherson Association. I have had a busy three years as your Chairman. Although I did not travel to Canada during my tenure, I made many trips from California to Scotland.

When I could not make the trip, I utilized Skype to chair the meetings along with the great assistance of my Vice Chairman, Bill Macpherson of Glenfarg. He will take the reins at the Annual General Meeting on August 4th.

We are in the process of modernizing our Constitution and hope to have a draft ready for discussion at the April 7th Executive meeting in Newtonmore.

With the increased use of telecommunication, we hope to have the Creag Dhubh available electronically by next year. We are also looking at the cost to the Association of long living life members – those who paid many years ago and still receive the benefits of membership without any additional payment. Please let your Chairman, Ed Smith, know your thoughts on these issues.

Our Gathering in Badenoch this year will be using only the Duke of Gordon facilities without the addition of a marquee. Registration is already open and I urge you to register today if you will be attending the ball, ceilidh and piping gala over the weekend. Go to the Association website to register using PayPal.

During the past three years we have grown to eight branches! Our latest, the European Branch (sans the UK) is busy planning their first gathering in the autumn in Amsterdam. All will be welcomed. Watch for more news from our newest branch chairman, Will Tulling.

And finally, if you cannot travel, except by armchair, I encourage you to read a few of my favorite books about Scotland.

Our own John Barton penned “Exploring Badenoch- Clan Macpherson Country.” This gives you the history of our most interesting homeland.

In fiction, I have enjoyed the Peter May’s series that centers on the Isle of Harris. After reading this series, my brother and I actually explored many of the sites in the books.

Moving on to Shetland, I have been intrigued by the mysteries authored by Ann Cleaves. There are four books in this series and it also plays on television.

Finally, Adam Nicolson’s “Sea Room” tells of his life on three small outer Hebridean islands that he inherited from his father.

I hope to welcome you to our gathering this year in Scotland – remember to immediately register so that you will not be disappointed if we have to close due to the numbers we can accommodate.

Until then, with blessings,

Jean



TEA WITH CLUNY, REDUX, A SHORT STORY

By Dee McPherson



Five years ago, this American girl mustered up enough nerve to phone her Clan Chief, whom she’d never met, to say she would be traveling in the Blairgowrie area and could she and Jill stop by to meet him and say hello? He responded with “You’ll come for tea.” She and Jill came for tea, toured the castle with Hilary, saw

the old ship’s piano, said something about the wood being rich and beautiful, and then he asked her if she would like to play the piano. Would she? Well, yes! The mere touch of



Donna and Cluny, in the kitchen at Newton Castle

her fingers to the smooth ivories was magic to her, and she made that old piano sing! It was a delicious moment to be savored for many years. Come on, how many American girls have been asked to play the piano in a castle in Scotland?

This old piano, a Bechstein, full of character, has been to India and back a time or two on a ship, and some years ago was carried up the 16 steps of that circular staircase to its permanent home in the lounge of Newton Castle.

And now, just a few days ago, her Clan Chief learned that she’d be in the area again. He phoned up to say, “Come to tea, bring Adam, and please play my piano again.”



Donna standing beside the Bechstein piano

So she came again to the castle, brought her Australian friend, enjoyed tea and conversation and much laughter in the kitchen. After a bit, her Chief said, “Let’s go up to the piano. Will you play for us?” Yes, of course! The rich sounds of the Bechstein, employed once again, filled the room. It was a great morning: tea, talk, and a short concert. Thank you, Cluny and Hilary!

THE ANNUAL CULLODEN MEMORIAL AT KNOYDART, NOVA SCOTIA

By John C. House



In the morning of April 21st, 2018 Penny and I travelled to the small community of Knoydart, Nova Scotia to attend an annual event commemorating the Battle of Culloden, fought on April 16th, 1746 at Culloden Moor, near Inverness, Scotland. The gatherers assembled at a large stone cairn overlooking the North-

umberland Strait, on the northern shore of Nova Scotia. The cairn bears the following inscription:

“To the memory of Angus MacDonald, Hugh MacDonald, John MacPherson, soldiers of Prince Charlie. They fought for Scotland in the Clanranald Regiment at the Battle of Culloden in 1746. Born in Moidart, Scotland 1712-16. Came to Moidart, Nova Scotia 1790-91. Buried here 1802-10.

Let them tear our bleeding bosoms, let them drain our dearest veins, in our hearts is Charlie, Charlie while a drop of blood remains.”

As many readers will know, the Battle of Culloden was a de-



Culloden Memorial Cairn at Knoydart, Nova Scotia

fining event in Scottish history, when Jacobite rebels in support of Charles Edward Stewart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) were defeated by Government forces under the command of the Duke of Cumberland. In its aftermath, the Jacobites and their families endured harsh reprisals. Events of the coming decades led to the mass exodus of entire communities of Highlanders from Scotland to places across the globe in what has become known as the clearances.

Some of these people found their way to Nova Scotia, where they started a new life. Many arrived through the port at Pictou, Nova Scotia. Situated on the Northumberland Strait, many people settled along the adjacent coastline. Some of the place names they chose for their communities bear witness to their origins in western Scotland – names like Arisaig and Knoydart. Among these early settlers were old men who had fought and survived the battle at Culloden.

It was in their advanced years that these men travelled with their families across the Atlantic to this place where they would live out their remaining years. In those days this was a gruelling journey that many did not survive. Three of these veterans of Culloden did make it and were later buried in an old burying ground adjacent to the memorial cairn dedicated

to their memory at Knoydart.

When we arrived at Knoydart, many people were already assembled on the main road running through the community. They included people of various ages, including a large contingent of school children. Escorted by bagpipers, the gatherers



The “Water of Life” being splashed on the Cairn

marched their way along a trail until they reached the cairn. The ceremony included prayers, speeches (that gave context to the memorial), and the laying of wreaths.

As the “water of life” was splashed on four sides of the cairn, the smell of whisky hung in the air. Following the ceremony, the procession was piped back out to the road. Everyone was invited to the community centre at Lismore Hall for a reception and dinner.



Bagpiper at the Culloden Memorial

This memorial is the only one of its kind besides the cairn at Culloden Moor, and bears a striking resemblance to the one there. Originally constructed in 1938, this memorial at Knoydart experienced a revival in 1982 which led to its restoration and a revitalization of the site.

This place is important to all Scottish people and should be particularly significant to members of the CMA, as this monument is dedicated to three Scottish men, one of whom was an early MacPherson pioneer to Canada.

I recommend attending this annual event if you can, but it is equally a place to be visited at other times of the year as well.

MY "EASTERN CAPER" WITH JULIET 2017

By James G McPherson of Creemore



This flight started on July 21st at 9:15 AM on a gray morning at CNY3 (Collingwood Regional Airport) near the hazy shores of Georgian Bay. The Bay produces interesting weather in all seasons, and last summer in Southern Ontario it was particularly wet, dreary and humid until mid September. However, over the preceding winter months I had wished for and planned for a flying trip to our Maritime provinces. I had it on good authority that July was the best time for weather "Down East" and with other commitments filling my calendar in August it was either go now or (likely) go never. I went.

Six days later I was back, with airports in Quebec, New Brunswick, PEI, Nova Scotia in my logbook. What follows is a summary of those days and places.

The first leg was to Cornwall Regional (CYCC) close to where



James McPherson and Juliet C-108B

the borders of Ontario, Quebec and New York State intersect. Like all the airports I was to use on this Caper, I had seen this one only through the eyes of Google Earth. What started as a pleasant first leg quickly became "not fun" because 20 minutes out my primary GPS failed, just as the haze near Lake Simcoe began to make ground recognition a chore. I tried to fly and diagnose, checking power connections and after 5 fruitless minutes turned around and headed back towards home for an on the ground look.

With that turnaround, the device soon began to work perfectly! I considered, elected to turn again towards Cornwall, and within minutes again had a "No External Power" GPS and a decision to make. I decided to continue with the secondary GPS I carry, and if I could not figure out the problem at Cornwall, to abandon the trip (the secondary is an ancient Lawrence with an old unsupported data base). At Cornwall, with feet outside the airplane and a different point of view, I quickly found the problem, a loose grounding ring deep in the cigarette lighter plug-in. End of problem. Now, refuelled and refreshed, I could head east for real.

East of Cornwall requires thoughtful planning. The US border is hard at the right hand, the Montreal control area and many other satellite airport zones are to the left. The St. Lawrence valley was humid, almost foggy and the USAF base at Massena NY added colour to the charts. My plan was to fly just north of the US border until I was well across the top of Lake Cham-

plain, then cut towards CYSC at Sherbrooke PQ. This 1.4 hour hop just got better and better as the haze cleared and lovely Mount Orford passed beneath my left wing. Sherbrooke is a fine airport that functions well in French and English, but it had two surprises in store.

First that the whole ramp area was being repaved, including near the petrol pumps, so pulling DBJ though fresh wet tar was a necessary chore. The second surprise (from Nav Canada) was that despite what I saw at Sherbrooke, a long line of very severe thunderstorms was positioned between me and my next destination, Weyman Airpark near Fredericton NB. It was two in the afternoon on what was now a lovely day and I was being advised of bad weather ahead. I questioned, but I also listened and soon enough made the decision to wait.

Now Sherbrooke Airport really should be called East Angus airport as it is many miles from Sherbrooke and much closer to East Angus. No taxi service, but a helpful older (like me) airport hand was happy to converse in English and helped me get a B&B in East Angus, and eventually a ride to it with a guarantee of a return trip in the morning.

This was my positive introduction to flying in Quebec, which I suspect intimidates most of us unilingual pilots. However, I got a room, got a bed, got a meal (pas de poutine, merci) and next day a 6:30 AM lift from my host at the Auberge Brest back out to the airport. Then came the first surprise of that day.

The gates were solidly locked and the fences high, tight and unclimbable. There was Juliet just yards away, neatly tied down where I left her, but now locked gates barred the way, and nobody around. This type of trip teaches patience and



Juliet tied down at Gaspé Airport due to high winds

optimism, and by 8 AM the gates were opened, the terminal unlocked and breakfast was served in a bright Café. On my flight plan call I got good news that things were becoming VFR on my planned route over Maine to Fredericton.

Being a first timer, I was not certain as to how to get the US portion of the leg cleared, but the Nav Canada guy walked me through it nicely, and he issued me with my specific transponder code for the flight right during the briefing. A slick way to go. I filed and was airborne and soon very glad I had not attempted this leg the day before.

First, while "broken" was the official word, I found that shortly into the flight I was really flying "over the top" and second, "down there" the mountains of Maine rise to over 5500 feet. Flight following was obligatory and straightforward, most of it

MY "EASTERN CAPER" IN C-IDBJ JULY 21 TO 26, 2017

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from Boston Centre and most of the calls from 3 or 4 Canadian planes doing what I was, i.e., flying direct from Canada over some part of New England. This flying with cloud above and cloud below was new to me, and I confess relief when the St. John's river finally came into sight along with clearing conditions. And Weyman Airpark CCG3 was a welcome sight too though conditions were gusty and the runway narrow and buried deep between two rows of high pine trees.

However, a bit of circling and a careful approach lead to a decent landing witnessed by Dave Bradley, owner of the Airpark and fine flyer, host and gentleman.

The first surprise here was that Dave being there to greet me was a pure good luck fluke, as my texts from Sherbrooke telling of my pending arrival had all gone to a wrong number! My fault. Dave was a good sport, and laughed it off. While he went to get Mogas for me, I ate crackers and weighed the options:

Dave offered a free tie down, a ride into Fredericton and a place for my tent. Against this, the day was young and turning out to be spectacular, and Dave offered good advice on where



Jim flying Juliet over Prince Edward Island

and how to cross to Prince Edward Island where he goes regularly. After a couple of hours of flying talk, a bit of rest, some food and water, I decided to thank Dave and keep going. But if you get a chance to see Weyman Airpark and talk to Dave about its history, you are in for a treat!

The flight to PEI was just under two hours and was glorious. I crossed Northumberland Strait at the north-west end of The Island and flew across it and then turned right to follow the red sand beaches eastward. Amazing scenery all around and my planned destination of Summerside not far ahead. But, on the radio, no activity and no responses.

I had been told there "was nothing there" at Summerside and the prospect of another isolated and perhaps belt tightening night, plus clear weather and lots of time and fuel, made me decide to fly into Charlottetown CYYG instead. (Note: my info on Summerside was not accurate, there are good accommodations right at the airport...wished I had known).

I should make clear that DBJ and I tend to studiously avoid large airports, and Charlottetown is large with regular Air Canada and other arrivals. However, Dave had emphasized that it was a very friendly place for small planes. But my problem was that 5 miles out I could not sort out the orientation of the runways (I was tired) before making my advisory call on the mandatory frequency. I had not asked for Notams on Charlottetown as when I filed my flight plan it was to go to Summerside. Surprise... One runway should be long, the crossing



Flying north over New Brunswick, Baie des Chaleurs to the right

one short, but to my eyes there were equally long. What the H...?? The ultimate answer was that major construction, almost but not quite finished, had made both runways equally long. Anyway, the ground station operator (not really a controller, but Charlottetown Radio sounds like a controlled airport, and acts like a controlled airport even though it is not) was very understanding and confirmed I was heading to the right runway and walked me through the right exit and the GA fuel area and flying club with no hassle and genuine courtesy.

I was refuelled by an attendant who rushed off to his next customer, a Westjet that landed within minutes of DBJ. I tied her down, and took a taxi to town. Then I was met with the fact that Charlottetown on a July Saturday night is not an easy place to get a room.

In the words of my taxi driver, it was the height of "the killing season" in the tourist trade. He took me to about 7 places, most of which called others to help in my search, and literally at the end of the day I got a top floor suite in a fine B&B for a mere \$200. The sleep that followed was worth the money.

Next morning after a breakfast shared with guests from Ontario and China, it was back to CYYG and much more confident communication with Charlottetown Radio. Airborne by 11 AM, I re-crossed the straits towards Trenton NB then turned towards Port Hawkesbury CYPD Nova Scotia at the foot of Cape Breton Island.

That anchored a large triangular flight track far up Cape Breton to Margaree in weather so pristine I could see right to the far tip of the Island. I then flew over Baddeck, silently saluting McCurdy and the Silver Dart and turned again for landing at Port Hawkesbury.

CYPD is not your usual small airport. It is isolated, but nearby salmon fishing and golf bring many private jets, some patiently waiting the return of their owners.

I was refuelled in a most friendly fashion the landing fee was waived, and offered my choice of pilot rooms for planning the final leg of the day. At 3:15 PM local time I was on my way to Stanley Airpark CCW4 near Halifax, with Truro NS my chosen waypoint to deal with the Halifax Terminal area.

This was a fine flight in perfect conditions over stunning scenery of earth sea and sky, with on board snacks of soda crackers and water.

But the best part of the day still awaited, the anticipated welcome at historic Stanley, a private pilot's nirvana and my intended resting place for the next two nights. Or so I hoped.

To be continued

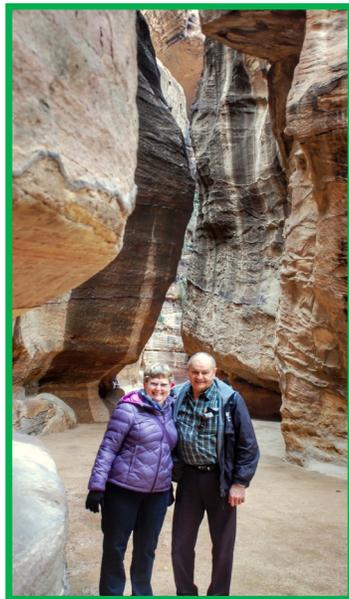
A VISIT TO THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

By Ken Gillis



A wish to visit was not the initial reason for our trip to Jordan. Ella and I have tried to visit Egypt several times over the past few years.

But world events conspired against us and every trip got canceled. When everything looked reasonably calm in the middle-east region it seemed to be a good time to try again. So off to our travel agent we went. The trips he showed us did everything we wanted to do but were a little shorter than the time we wanted to spend away. While we there I noticed a trip to Jordan in the book we were looking at. The trip was only six days, so adding it to our Egyptian trip gave us the time we wanted.



Ella and Ken at El Siq, Petra

We flew into Amman, Jordan. We arrived at our hotel at 9:30 PM, we had left our home at 6:00 PM the previous day, and were told that we would be meeting the other people on our tour at 8:00 AM and would begin our tour at that point.

We started our tour with a visit to Citadel Hill. The view from the hill was spectacular. One could see the city of Amman and about half way down, the Roman amphitheatre was very visible. There were ruins of several Roman temples and a few churches from later periods on top of the hill.

We left Citadel Hill and went to visit the Roman amphitheatre which is still being used

today for concerts and theatre productions. We had time to roam about the amphitheatre and were shown where to stand to say something that could be heard by someone sitting in the top row. The acoustics were amazing.

We left Amman and headed to Jerash. Jerash was a Roman city located north of Amman and is wonderfully preserved because for hundreds of years it was covered by sand. The site is extensive and is truly something to behold. We entered



View of Oval Plaza, Jerash

through Hadrian's Arch and traveled down the Cardo Maximus, a key Roman road, to the temples of Artemis and Zeus. We first viewed the Oval Plaza from a small hill. The plaza is very large and is encircled by columns. We later

walked through the plaza on its well preserved and very flat paving stones.

Now it was time for us to hit the road for Petra. Petra is about a three hour drive south of Amman. We arrived at our hotel in time to freshen up, then head into supper and then to bed.

The next morning we awoke to light rain and were concerned about our planned visit to the old city of Petra. Visiting the city requires a walk of about five miles from the visitors centre as motor vehicles are not permitted beyond it.

Fortunately the rain eased and eventually stopped.

Walking to and then down El

Siq was an awe inspiring experience as the walls that enclose it are from 91 to 182 metres high and as narrow as 3 metres. The walls are rose coloured sandstone with other colours accenting the scene.

El Siq ends and you are presented with a view of the Treasury, the jewel of Petra. The Treasury gets its name from a legend that bandits hid their loot in the urn at the top of the structure. The Treasury has nothing to do with money or treasure. It is the tomb of King Aretas IV and was constructed when Petra was at its height. The structure is carved out of the sandstone mountain.

Petra was a very rich city. It was located near trading routes from Mesopotamia to Egypt and grew wealthy through trade and suppling the trading caravans with shelter, food and water. Petra lies at the bottom of El Siq.

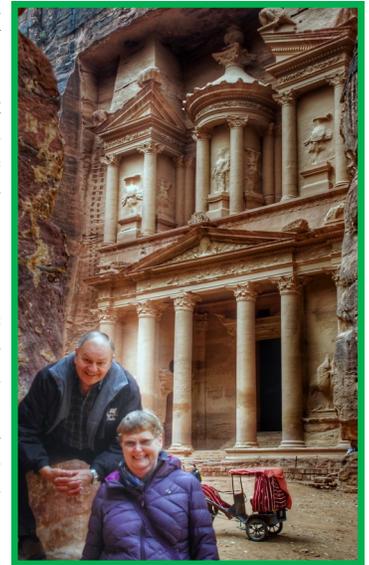
With a river flowing past the top end of El Siq, there was always the danger of flash flooding. The people of Petra developed a series of dams and cisterns to prevent the flooding and to conserve water for times of drought.

We went farther into the old city of Petra past many more tombs, a Roman amphitheatre, the Great Temple, which has an estimated size of 7000 square metres, before turning onto the colonnaded street and beginning our long walk back to the visitor centre and then our hotel.

The next morning we were supposed to visit Shobak, a twelfth century crusader castle, but heavy fog forced us to bypass it and head for Mount Nebo. Mount Nebo is the site where Moses stood and saw before him the Promised Land.

We were not able to see what Moses had because the fog still dogged our footsteps. We did see the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George with its amazing 6th century mosaic map depicting the entire Holy Land at Madaba.

Our time in Jordan was coming to an end and we left the next morning for Egypt. More on that in another issue.



Ella and Ken at the Treasury, Petra