

# **The Green Banner**

**The Newsletter for the Canadian Branch  
Clan Macpherson Association**

**Fall 2001 Issue 1**



# The Executive of the Canadian Branch

## Clan Macpherson Association

**The Chief of The Clan Macpherson and The Honorary President  
The Honorable Sir William Macpherson of Cluny & Blairgowrie, TD**

### Executive Committee

#### **Chairman**

**J. Douglas W. MacPherson**  
1295 Cumnock Crescent, Oakville, ON L6J 2N6. Phone: 905 844-9432  
Email: [dmacpher@panasonic.ca](mailto:dmacpher@panasonic.ca)

#### **Vice Chairman**

**E. Roderick Smith**  
117 Morningdale Crescent, Waterloo, ON N2V 1E5. Phone: 519 240-4940  
Email: [ersmith@courtland-eng.com](mailto:ersmith@courtland-eng.com)

#### **The Honorary Secretary**

**Mary Margaret Gillies**  
32 Dallyn Crescent, Scarborough, ON M1K 4V9. Phone: 416 266-3615  
Email: [mgillies@city.toronto.on.ca](mailto:mgillies@city.toronto.on.ca)

#### **The Honorary Treasurer**

**Susan McPherson**  
144 Wakefield Road, Milton, ON L9T 2L9. Phone: 905 878-4309

### Council-at-Large

#### **Past Chairmen**

**Andrew MacPherson**  
**Ian McPherson**  
**Stewart McPherson**  
**Neil McPherson**  
**Gordon Macpherson**  
**Donald MacPherson**

Grimsby, ON  
Etobicoke, ON  
Beamsville, ON  
Oakville, ON  
Burlington, ON  
Oakville, ON

#### **Ex-officio Members**

**Robert Archibald**  
**Jean Whitten**  
**Col. Mark Macpherson**  
**Alec Jack McPherson**

Port Hope, ON  
Oakville, ON  
Hemmingford, PQ  
Langley, BC



## Chairman's Corner

**“Cead Mile Failte!”**

I'd like to extend “a warm welcome” to all members of the Canadian Branch as we re-launch the Green Banner, the Branch newsletter.

My involvement in the Clan Association extends most of my life. I attended my first Branch rally in 1955 and have held a position on the Branch executive for over decade, including the Editor of the Green Banner. Unfortunately, as I gave up the editorship, the newsletter ceased being published.

I was disappointed that no interest was shown in maintaining the newsletter but not surprised. As Editor, the biggest obstacle and challenge facing me involved finding news about the Clan in Canada. When I had assumed the position, I made it clear that I wanted a newsletter to serve the interests of the Canadian Branch, Clan Macpherson Association. I stressed that I saw no purpose in a “cut and paste” job just to bring any article about Scottish tradition. There are numerous magazines from Scotland and Canada that already focus on that aspect.

I envisioned the Green Banner to speak to the needs of the Canadian Branch. In other words, I wanted a newsletter that provided news about Canadian Macphersons and Associated Clan Families and their history and roots. I looked at the newsletter as a major vehicle to bring us, the Canadian Branch, together. Our international ties with other Branches were already being and continue to be addressed by the Creag Dhubh



**Lady Cluny & Canadian Branch  
Chairman Douglas MacPherson  
at the Ottawa Rally**

Frank MacLean, Chairman of Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC), told me, “No branch of an association can hope to survive without a strong newsletter.”

As we re-launch the Green Banner, I feel that it is the responsibility of all members to contribute not just the editor. The viability and success of the Branch within the Clan Macpherson Association rests upon a captivating newsletter that speaks of our Clan traditions and people in Canada. I therefore urge you all to share your news with us through the Green Banner. If you have any news about family past or present, please forward it to one of the members of the Executive Committee.

*Douglas MacPherson*  
Chairman

## Upcoming Events

**The Canadian Branch of Clan Macpherson Association cordially invites all  
Macphersons and Septs to attend our Annual Rally**

**Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

Holiday Inn  
Trenton, Ontario

**Events:**

Friday evening	Chairman's Reception (Cash Bar)
Saturday morning	Annual General Meeting
Saturday afternoon	Dedication of the Stones Ceremony RCAF Museum
Saturday evening	Reception (Cash Bar) & Banquet
Sunday morning	St. George's Church

**Summer, 2002** A charter is being arranged for members of the Canadian Branch to attend Association Rally in Scotland marking the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clan Museum in Newtonmore on August 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2002. If interested, please contact Vice Chairman Rod Smith.

**Sept. 20-22, 2002** Canada Branch Rally, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

### **“Cead Mile Failte!” to the following new members:**

- John D. Millyard of Willowdale, ON
- J. Diane Rotz of Maple, ON
- Ford A. Schweitzer of Mississauga, ON

### **Passages**

The Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association extends our deepest condolences to the families of the following members who passed away this year:

- Allen Lees of North York, Ontario
- Col. Bruce Douglas Macpherson of Harrow, Ontario

**“Rest eternal grant t unto them, O Lord, and may Thy light perpetually shine upon them. Amen”**

## Canadians & Americans Meet in Ottawa for Joint-Branch Rally

Canadians and Americans from all across North America met in Ottawa to attend the joint Canada-U.S. branch rally hosted by the Canadian Branch on the weekend of September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2000.

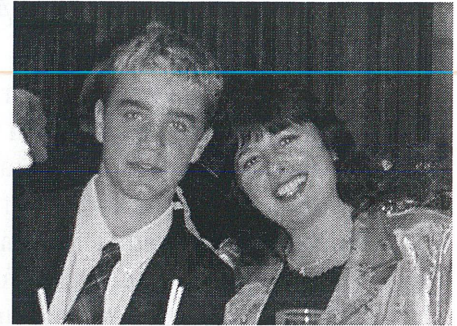
The Delta Hotel in downtown Ottawa, the centre for the Rally, became a sea of Macpherson tartans and kilts where 150 Clan's folk had gathered for the weekend. For other guests at the hotel, the sight of so many kilted Clansmen grew to be a tourist attraction in itself.

Clan Chief Sir William Macpherson of Cluny & Blairgowrie and Lady Cluny kicked off the Gathering by hosting the Chief's Reception on the Friday evening. During the Reception, the official piper Graeme Lemoine played a number of Scottish tunes. Complementing his playing was the duet performed by our members Pipe Major Hugh Macpherson of Ottawa and Bruce Gillis of Paradise, NS, who played the drums

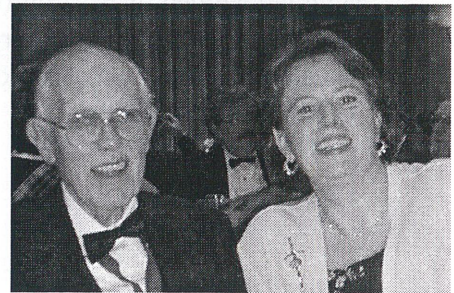
Saturday morning, each branch met separately to conduct their own Annual General Meeting. For our Chief Sir William, it meant trying to be in two different places at one time, as he had to address both branches. That afternoon, Macphersons, still attired in their kilts, climbed aboard a tourist bus for a rain-soaked excursion of the capital.

Graeme summoned the Clan for the banquet on Saturday night by the sound of the pipes echoing throughout the hotel. As "Fer 'n Tighe" for the evening Rod Clarke of Alexandria, VA called upon all those assembled for the banquet to rise as the Chief and Lady Cluny were piped in. Following dinner, Hugh and Bruce performed a medley of Scottish tunes with pipe and drum.

The weekend closed in traditional fashion with a service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.



**Christopher MacPherson-Zawadski  
& Ellen (MacPherson) Illic at the  
Banquet.**



**Former International & Canadian  
Chairman Donald MacPherson  
with his niece Janet McCredie at  
the Rally.**

In addition to our Chief and Lady Cluny, other special guests included International Chairman Larry Lees and Lillas McPherson of Cedarville, MI; International Vice-Chairman Catherine and Sandy Macpherson of Edinburgh, Scotland; past International Chairman Chieftain Alaistair and Penny Macpherson of Pitmain; Scottish Chairman John and Iris MacPherson of Montrose, Scotland; American Chairman Donald and Dodie McPherson of Rosewell, GA.

Special guests from Canada included Chairman Douglas MacPherson of Oakville; past Chairman Andrew and Audrey MacPherson of Grimsby; former Canadian chairmen Donald and Betty MacPherson of Oakville, Neil and Myrna McPherson of Oakville, Gordon and Nancy Macpherson of Burlington; Ian and Janey McPherson of Toronto; Jean MacPherson of Halifax; Susan McPherson of Milton; and Joanne MacPherson of Regina, chartered member of the Canadian Branch.

## **“An Evening Together”**

Members of the Canadian Branch from the Toronto area gathered for evening “to mix and mingle” at the Hamilton Club in Hamilton, Ontario on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The evening started with a cocktail reception as our fellow clan’s people kept arriving. Following an hour and a half of mingling, mixing and socializing, we proceeded into the dining room to gather for dinner. Former Canadian and International Chairman Gordon Macpherson concluded the formal part of the evening with a fabulous and well-received talk on the Macpherson tartan.

Among those in attendance from the Branch were Neil and Myrna McPherson of Oakville, Gordon and Nancy Macpherson of Burlington, Ford Schweitzer of Mississauga, Maureen Magee of Burlington, Marek and Cluny Zawadzki of Toronto, Ron and Dana Fitton of Toronto, Mary Margaret Gillies of Toronto, Rod and Dawn Smith of Waterloo, Douglas MacPherson of Oakville, Susan McPherson of Milton, Bob and Marlene Archibald of Port Hope.

## **A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN BRANCH**

The late Col. E.R. Rivers-Macpherson, OBE, a retired British Army officer, established the groundwork for the Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association. He came to Canada in 1947 with a Charter from the Chairman of the newly formed Clan Association in Scotland, Mr. Tom Macpherson, M.P., to establish a branch of the Association in the Dominion. To build up a branch, Col. Rivers-Macpherson began an earnest nationwide recruiting drive directed to all clansmen listed in the telephone directories of the major cities.

The result was that the formation of the Canadian Branch a year later in March 1948 with the Hon. Ewen Alexander McPherson, the Chief Justice of Manitoba, as the first Chairman and Col. Rivers-Macpherson as Hon. Secretary. The first Annual Meeting was held at the Hon. Secretary's home in Ottawa.

During the past 49 years, annual gatherings have been held in Ottawa; Montreal; Toronto; Stouffville, Ontario; Niagara Falls; Kettleby, Ontario; Baddeck, Nova Scotia; Hamilton, Ontario; Antigonish, Nova Scotia; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Georgetown, Ontario; Kingston, Ontario; Kitchener, Ontario; Ottawa, Ontario. In addition, the Canadian Branch has hosted three very successful joint rallies with the United States Branch at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario in 1980 and 1990 and at Ottawa in 2000.

The Canadian Branch has continued to grow under the successive leadership of the following Chairmen:

- Dr. Cluny Macpherson CMG, of St. John's, Newfoundland
- Col. E.R. Rivers-Macpherson OBE of Ottawa
- Lloyd C. MacPherson KCLJ, St. Andrew's College, Aurora, Ontario
- Hume Macpherson, Stouffville, Ontario
- Hon. Mr. Justice A. Alex. Cattanach , Ottawa, Ontario
- J. Donald MacPherson, Oakville, Ontario
- R. Gordon M. Macpherson, Burlington, Ontario
- Wallace C. MacPherson, Halifax, NS;
- Neil F. McPherson, Oakville, Ontario
- Stuart G. MacPherson, Burlington, Ontario
- J. Oliver McPherson, Milton, Ontario
- W. Ian McPherson, Etobicoke, Ontario
- Andrew K.P. MacPherson of Grimbsy, Ontario.

The current Executive Committee consists of Chairman Douglas MacPherson, Oakville, Ontario; Vice-Chairman Rod Smith, Waterloo, Ontario; the Hon. Secretary Mary Margaret Gillies, Toronto, Ontario; and the Hon. Treasurer, Susan McPherson, Milton, Ontario.

### **CONTRIBUTION TO THE CLAN MACPHERSON**

The Canadian Branch has taken on an active role in promoting Scottish history, traditions and culture, particularly as they relate to the Clan Macpherson. The Branch has always been a strong

supporter of the International Clan Association, especially in our major financial contributions to the maintenance and expansion of the Clan House & Museum in Newtonmore, Scotland.

One of its the most notable achievement of our Branch was the publication in 1966 of "The Posterity of the Three Brethren". This detailed history of the Clan Macpherson was written by Prof. Alan G. Macpherson of Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland, with our former Chairman the late Lloyd MacPherson as editor. This book has met with such success over the past 30 years that currently four editions being published.

In 1996, the Canadian Branch honoured the Clan Macpherson Association with a presentation of the official Coat of Arms with Banner for the Association to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Banner is now carried in the Grand March during our International Rally in Scotland.

As well, the Branch paid tribute to our Chief Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by presenting him with his own personal bonnet badge. The badge incorporates the Chief's Cat from his own Coat of Arms plus the three eagle feathers designating a clan chief. Thirty years earlier, a similar presentation was made to our former Chief Brigadier General Alan Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie.

A Branch highlight occurred in 1972 when our Chief Sir William and Lady Macpherson made their first trip to North America to represent the Clan as official hosts of the memorable Scottish World Festival held at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. At that time, the Branch presented Sir William with a banner depicting his own Coat of Arms, which is also carried in the Grand March.

The Canadian Branch played an extremely instrumental role in the formation of the current U.S. Branch. As a result of membership decline in 1966, the U.S. Branch was consolidated under the leadership of the Canadian Branch. Our Branch assumed the responsibility to keep the Clan Association alive in North American. As a result, the Canadian Branch became known as the North American Branch. In 1972, working with our American members, the Canadian Branch helped re-establish the U.S. Branch.

The modern Clan Societies have allowed people of Scottish ancestry to retain and adapt their culture and traditions. Consequently, all Macphersons and Associated Families have found that membership in the Clan Association a worthwhile investment linking past to present.

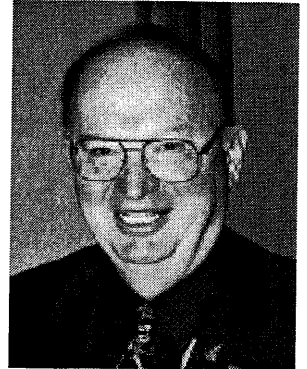


# Clan in The News

## Hall of Fame Award...A Special Tribute for Outstanding Service

Credit Union Central of Canada honoured Dr. Ian MacPherson from British Columbia with the Hall of Fame Award at Quebec City in May 2000.

Dr. MacPherson has, over the past twenty years, promoted understanding and advancement of credit unions and co-operatives through his several books and articles exploring their unique history. He has authored histories of the International Credit Union Movement and WOCCU, BC Central and the British Columbia credit union movement, the Co-operative Union of Canada, Co-operative Trust Company of Canada, and A. Rod Glen, a British Columbia credit union and co-operative pioneer.



In addition to his research and writing interests, Dr. MacPherson has assumed several positions of leadership, as a volunteer with the movement. He has served on eight Boards of Directors, including those of Credit Union Central of British Columbia, Credit Union Central of Canada, and Pacific Coast Saving Credit Union, serving as Chairperson of four of these Boards.

In addition, he was the founding president of the Canadian Co-operative Association and served for three years on the Board of Governors of the Co-operative College of Canada. He has represented Canadian co-operatives and their 12 million members at meetings of the International Co-operative Alliance, and he chaired the committee that reviewed and prepared a re-statement of the co-operative principles for their Congress held in 1995.

## The Duncan MacPherson Award

The Duncan MacPherson Award was established in 1994, in memory of The Toronto Star's Duncan MacPherson, one of Canada's greatest editorial cartoonists. Sponsored by the Association of Canadian Editorial Cartoonists, The Toronto Sun, The Toronto Star, and Southam Inc., it was originally designed to recognize new talent and was adjudicated by a panel of Canadian editorial cartoonists.

Currently the award is being re-examined by both the MacPherson family and the ACEC, in the interests of determining a more efficient system of administration.



## Ebola ruled out as mystery illness

(Canada Press-February 9, 2001)

HAMILTON -- A 32-year-old Congolese woman suspected of having the deadly Ebola virus has tested negative for the horrifying disease, Health Canada said February 7, 2001.

"We have excluded all the significant diseases that are potentially transmissible that would cause public concern," said Dr. Douglas MacPherson, an infectious disease specialist at Health Canada, told a packed news conference in this southern Ontario city.

Any and all viral hemorrhagic fevers, which are spread through human secretions such as blood, semen, saliva and mucous have been ruled out as possible causes of the woman's symptoms, said the health official.

Victims of hemorrhagic fevers like Ebola die from shock after days of fever, vomiting, and heavy bleeding.

Ebola, which is often fatal, is the best known of these illnesses. More than 170 people died in a recent outbreak in Uganda.

Doctors have refused to specify what symptoms the woman was suffering from, except to say that she was not bleeding from her eyes or ears, which is typical of late stage Ebola.

## Cluny Macpherson (CANADA)

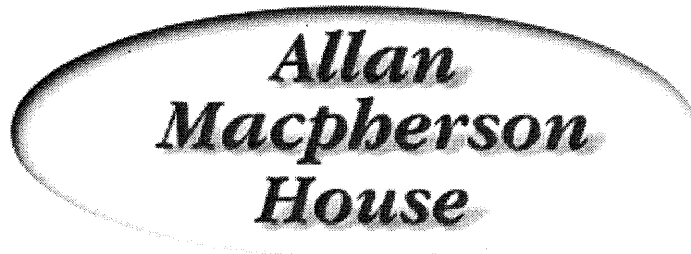
This past spring, Public Gaming Research Institute presented Cluny Macpherson, Atlantic Lottery Corporation President, with the Institute's highest honor, the Lottery Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2000. The Award was established in 1993 and named for its first recipient, Major Peter J. O'Connell, the award singles out top lottery executives with outstanding qualities and achievements similar to the implacable integrity O'Connell demonstrated in 20 years as director of the Rhode Island Lottery.

Cluny Macpherson started with the Atlantic Lottery Corporation in 1978 and is now the senior North American Lottery CEO and has surpassed O'Connell's record as continuous executive director of a lottery organization. Macpherson runs the lottery operations for the provincial governments of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Cluny Macpherson, President of the Atlantic Lottery Corporation, was elected as a member of the World Lottery Association executive for a two-year term at its Conference 2000 when it met in Glasgow this past June.



## History Corner



Step back ...to a time when Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister, roamed the halls of Napanee's proudest historical homes. Built in 1826, the Macpherson House has seen many distinguished people come and go. Now as a museum, the house preserves a way of life allowing one to relive the past and remember how it used to be.

In his day, Allan Macpherson was the most prominent resident of Napanee (known as Clarksville in the early 1800's), Upper Canada. He owned the local mill, the distillery and a store. He assisted in civic ventures like building churches and schools, the first printing press and macadamizing the road to Kingston.

His house was the first to be built on the north side of the river. Until then the town was located on the opposite bank, but soon gravitated toward Macpherson's manor. When it was new, the house was the finest in town. Equipped with a lovely ballroom, the Macphersons enjoyed entertaining and among their frequent guests was a relative - John A. Macdonald. At the time, before his political debut, John was practicing law in town. Little did they know that he later would become the first leader of the country called Canada!

## Young Immigrants to Canada

### Annie Macpherson

Annie Parlane Macpherson was born in Scotland and educated at the Home and Colonial Training College in Gray's Inn Road, London. Her father, James, was a teacher and she helped him with correspondence and other work. When her father died in 1851, Miss Macpherson moved first to Cambridgeshire and then to London. It was through friends in London that she became aware of the conditions in the East End of the city.

In 1869 Miss Macpherson opened the Home of Industry at 60 Commerical Road in Spitalfield. April of that same year she helped send 50 families to Canada. The spring of 1870 saw Miss Macpherson on board the Peruvian with 100 children. These first children were placed in Quebec City, Montreal and Richmond, P.Q.; Belleville, Toronto, Hamilton and several other places in Ontario.

While in Canada Miss Macpherson was invited to use a home in Belleville, Ontario with the rent being paid for by the County of Hastings. The home was called *Marchmont*. Miss Macpherson placed Miss Ellen Bilbrough in charge of the home. Two additional homes were added in 1872, one at Galt (now Cambridge), Ontario and the other at Knowlton, P.Q.

Miss Macpherson brought children to Canada from her own home in London but she also had arrangements with Barnardo, Quarrier, Smyly, and many other organizations to accompany and place their children as well. Some of the children came from workhouses.

After a great deal of bad press, brought on by the Doyle Report of 1875, Miss Macpherson decided to change the way she worked. She turned the Knowlton home over to her sister, Mrs. Birt, in 1877 and *Marchmont* was turned over to Miss Bilbrough that year as well.

Miss Macpherson used the home at Galt, called Blair Atol, until 1882. At that time she moved her work to a home in Stratford, Ontario located at 51 Avon Street. The Stratford home was used until 1920 when the Liverpool Sheltering Home took over her work.

Miss Macpherson's organization continued to bring children to Canada until 1920 when the work was turned over to the Liverpool Sheltering Home. Children were placed all over Canada but mainly in Ontario. Some 10,000 children came to Canada with this organization.