MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This is my first message as Branch Chairman and first opportunity to thank the members for placing their confidence in me. I must admit I was a little humbled but also very proud when I read the name plates of the 18 past incumbents pinned to the Chairman’s Cromag. Many prominent members have led us in the past establishing the traditions and values of our Branch and Association. We are indeed fortunate and I will endeavour during my term to keep our Branch active in all things Macpherson and our Gatherings fun and interesting to attend. We are fortunate to have a great team of officers and I thank them for their continued support. There are vacancies for Provincial Councillors in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island plus we would like to engage an Assistant Editor to help and learn from Mark on the creation of our newsletter. Anyone interested in these positions should please contact me.

To the 56 members and guests that attended the Gathering in Waterloo thanks for coming and I hope you enjoyed the weekend as much as Irene and I did. To everyone that helped with the organization and/or provided entertainment your talents are very much appreciated.

Irene and I spent six fun days in St Augustine, Florida in October enjoying the fellowship at the Gathering of our US cousins. US Branch Chairman Jack Raines and his team made us very welcome.

Our Vice Chair Jacqueline spent an overnight in Ottawa recently, thanks to the Hospitality of Clan Piper Hugh Macpherson and wife Susan, finalizing hotel arrangements for our 65th Gathering. I do hope to see as many of our members as possible come to Ottawa in 2014 as Jacqueline is planning a special weekend for our enjoyment. The 2015 venue is Chicago and this will be a joint Gathering with the USA Branch. Our country is so vast and it is difficult to organize events on a national basis but if any of the Provinces would like to host a Gathering let me know and I will see how we can help to make it happen.

Monday 4th August 2014 is the opening of the ‘Macpherson’s in World War 1’ exhibition at the clan museum in Newtonmore. As reported by Ewen (Chairman of the Museum Trustees Committee) in the last edition of the GB, Canada will be well represented in the various displays. If any of our members have parents or grandparents that served during the Great War and have information of interest please pass it on as soon as possible. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Ewen for all he does in organizing such interesting exhibitions at the museum, if you haven’t had an opportunity to visit I recommend you add it to your bucket list. 2017 is Canada’s 150th birthday and Ewen is already planning for a special exhibition that year. I would ask all members and in particular the Provincial Councillors to identify any Macpherson’s that have made significant contributions to the history of our nation. I would also ask if any of our members would like to volunteer to help organize collection and editing of the material. Please let me know if this is a task that would be of interest to you.

In the new year many members will be attending various highland games across the country. I encourage you to let us know in advance so we can post this in the Green Banner and Facebook page so other members in your area might be encouraged to go along.

I am indeed grateful that our Editor Mark Macpherson is a real trooper and has organized another fine edition of our Newsletter.

As we approach the festive season I hope that you will enjoy some relaxing time with your family and friends. Irene joins me in wishing you all a joyous Christmas and sending best wishes for good health and happiness in the New Year.

Yours Aye, Bill Macpherson
THE GREEN BANNER
Published from time to time to bring news to the members of the Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association.

RGM Macpherson CM, KStJ, Honorary Chairman

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

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN:
John C Gillies

COUNCILLORS AT LARGE:
Lois Musselman
Ed Smith CD

PROVINCIAL COUNCILLORS:
Newfoundland  John C House
Nova Scotia  Bruce Gillis QC
New Brunswick and PEI  Vacant
Quebec  Major Myles G Macpherson CD
Ontario  Roderick E Smith
Manitoba  Vacant
Saskatchewan  Vacant
Alberta  Donald E Pearson
British Columbia  Vacant

FORMER CHAIRMEN Ex Officio
Mark F Macpherson CD
Robert J Archibald
Douglas MacPherson
Neil McPherson
W Ian McPherson
Stuart G MacPherson
R Gordon M Macpherson

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TREASURER’S CORNER
By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer

The Branch is in good shape financially as of the end of October. We have a little over $9,750 in our current account and a little over $9,900 in our Life Membership Fund.

I will be remitting three later membership fees to Clan Macpherson Association in November. I plan to amalgamate our two GIC’s into one in January and add the life membership money held in our current account. The result of my actions will mean the association will hold a single GIC worth over $10,500 as the Life Membership Fund.

The annual gathering was very successful and raised $362.

LEGION OF THE LOST

In previous issues we noted the following members need to be located:
Mr. Roderick Ian MacPherson  Kanata, ON
Col. Glen W. McPherson  W. Vancouver, BC
Mr. John D. and Glenna McPherson  Vancouver, BC

If any member knows where any of these lost members is presently residing, please send an email or note to:
Chantal McPherson, Registrar
991 Matheson E #13
Mississauga ON, L4W 2V3
Email: chantal@mdsscanada.com

COUNCIL OF THE CANADIAN BRANCH

The Council of the Branch is elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve for a term of one year with the exception of the Honorary Chairman, Immediate past Chairman and former chairmen who are ex officio. All members in good standing are eligible to serve on the Branch Council and the Branch committees formed from time to time to execute special projects or assist the Council.

The following is the Council for the year 2013/2014:

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Honorary Chairman  R Gordon M Macpherson CM, KStJ
Chairman  W (Bill) Macpherson PEng
Vice Chairman  Jacqueline Murdoch
Honorary Secretary  Robert W Archibald PhD
Honorary Treasurer  Ken Gillis
Registrar  Chantal McPherson

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

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John C Gillies

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n a lovely, warm weekend in September, members of the Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association met to enjoy the fellowship of their cousins at the 64th Gathering. If you were not there you missed a wonderful event at the Waterloo Inn organized by convenors, Rod Smith and Bill Macpherson. The venue, near the University of Waterloo with its beautiful grounds, could not have been better.

Many activities were available for the participants and the first of these was the Meet and Greet evening and ceilidh hosted by Ed Smith on Friday. A relaxed atmosphere and a fine buffet enabled everyone to circulate and catch up on happenings over the past year. As well it was a pleasure to meet and welcome new members of the Clan Association, Rev. Issa Saliba and his wife Eleanor. Our International Chairman, John Macpherson of Montrose and his wife, Iris, who is also the CMA Honorary Secretary, joined us. Not to forget our American cousins Stuart MacPherson and Donna Rucks (Dee McPherson) who were also present. Dee was kind enough to entertain the group at the ceilidh by playing the piano and singing songs of her own composition.

An important aspect of the annual Gathering is the meeting on Saturday morning. The Executive meets first to review the previous year’s reports and plan for next year’s meeting. Then at the AGM all the members are encouraged to voice their concerns before decisions are made. It was noted by the Chairman there were several former Chairmen present including Gordon Macpherson, Stuart MacPherson, Robert J Archibald, and Mark Macpherson in order of seniority.

With many optional events to attend on Saturday afternoon it was difficult to choose among the following: a football game (obviously of interest to Waterloo alumni); a concert; St. Jacob’s Market; and a tour of the immediate region. Others preferred a lunch and a walk across the university grounds.

Of course Saturday evening is always a highlight of our meeting with all the men wearing kilts and regalia, competing with the ladies for “best-dressed”. At the dinner the Chairman, John Gillies passed the cromag to the incoming Chairman, William (Bill) Macpherson as is the tradition in the Branch.

Bill presented the address to the haggis in his usual inimitable style and later in the evening further delighted the group with his presentation of Robbie Burn’s Tam O’Shanter, complete with costume and props. Once again Dee Macpherson entertained by playing the piano and changing the name of one of her compositions to “Natalie” in honor of John and Wendy Gillies’ little granddaughter who danced so charmingly to the song. The amateur choir sang but as they had not had an opportunity to practice there was a lot of good-natured laughing. Jacqueline Murdoch, our new Vice Chair, presented a short talk on navigating the Clan Macpherson website. Later local Scottish country dancers performed, one of whom was our own Ed Smith. After the dancing demonstrations, the dancers invited members of the audience up to join them. What a riotous evening!!!

Due to travel plans not everyone was able to make the Sunday Church service at the Bede Chapel of Renison College. The turnout was very good however. A special service had been arranged for the Association by Rod Smith with Dr. Glen Cartwright, Principal of the College. Ewan Macpherson, Clan Piper, piped us into the Chapel where we joined students from the University.

If you weren’t at Waterloo, we missed you and you missed a good time. We hope to see you next year In Ottawa, September 19 - 21. Make your plans now.
ow quickly the time goes by between editions of the Green Banner! I have to say that Iris and I have never had a moment to ourselves in the last 2 months.

In September we arrived in Toronto, were picked up by John Gillies, and whisked up the road (a Canadian term for about 100 miles) to Collingwood when we realised it was twenty hours since we had been in bed. The next two days were really nice. We were approached by a TV cameraman who asked Iris and me one or two questions about Canada and to our surprise we were on the local TV that evening. That was a first for us.

The Canadian Gathering was at Waterloo Ontario. The Hotel was quite an establishment. It took Iris and me some time to know our way about the endless corridors and stairs. I attended the Branch meetings which were very well conducted. I gave apologies from Cluny and Lady Hilary and a short Association report. We had a great night at the Ceilidh with Bill doing a wonderful job of reciting "Tam O'Shanter" and an excellent Dance team doing Scottish country dancing. The highland banquet was very enjoyable and it was lovely meeting friends like RGM Gordon and Stuart whom we had not seen for 20 years. As always it is a great pleasure to meet new clans people and make new friends.

It was nice to see John hand over the cromag to Bill and we wish him well in his tenure as Canadian Chairman. We thank Jaqueline Murdoch for transporting us and to Ron and Danna Fitton for a lovely meal and relaxing evening before travelling to Toronto airport very early next morning for our trip to the USA gathering in St Augustine Florida.

Bill Macpherson (the US convener), who had just lost his wife Nancy, had invited us to stay with him. We were apprehensive about this additional load on him, but our concerns were unfounded as he was extremely focused on the job of organising the USA gathering and making sure everything was in order.

With our free trolley passes we had a very pleasant time and found St Augustine a beautiful town with really interesting Spanish themed architecture. The Ceilidh was a good night. Iris and I thoroughly enjoyed Bill (Mississauga’s) rendition of “To a Haggis” and Bill’s (convener) family presentation of “Toast to the Lassies” and “Reply” were very entertaining. Jack Raines the US Chair, supervised the dancing which went very well. After a latish night all too soon it was next morning and we had the Church service to attend at eleven o’clock in the beautiful Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Bill drove us to the airport next day and we were so happy for him that all his preparations had worked out so well.

Iris and I wish him and his extended family all the very best and hope we may see them again in the future.

On returning home we recalled many of the lovely times we have had in North America and this once again confirmed what a wonderful world-wide organisation of which we are all members.

Iris and I had a weekend of meetings at the Clan Museum when we returned early this month and we also attended the Scottish Branch AGM held in East Fortune Museum of Flight near Edinburgh. After the business we all enjoyed a lunch and had a look at the marvellous display of military and commercial aircraft including Concorde where entering the rather small cabin area for the first time was a great experience. On this occasion we were delighted to have Cluny and Lady Hilary in attendance at the event.

Our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year and we hope that we may see you in Ottawa next year.

The initial fund-raising was successful and the concept of the Guardians was extended to be a continuing feature of Museum fund raising. Membership is achieved by a donation of a minimum or $1000 US or equivalent. Since it’s inception, a total of 95 Guardians have been inducted with 6 of them being Canadians as at 2013.

On being inducted, each Guardian is presented with the distinctive pin shown at the left and a certificate designed by our Gordon Macpherson. Their name is entered on a plaque which is located in a prominent place in the museum. At CMA events you may notice the pin proudly worn by the current Guardians. It is hoped that more members will see fit to become Guardians to support our museum and also obtain recognition of their support on the immortal plaque. Today the required donation can be made by installments making it easy indeed to show your support.

For information on how to become a Dionadairen, visit the website at www.clanmacpherson-org

For additional information on the history of the Guardians see Creag Dhuubh 1993 pp 15-18.
HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION

By Helen Macpherson

I spent my summer vacation fulfilling a dream I have had since 2001 when my parents showed me a video (yes a VHS!) of a Macpherson Clan Gathering that they picked up at the Macpherson Clan Museum in Newtonmore. I was hooked and I needed to go! This August, 2013, I finally had the time and the funds to attend a gathering.

From the moment I set foot in the Duke of Gordon Hotel until I left Kingussie I had an amazing time. I didn’t know a single soul at the Gathering but I was warmly greeted by Iris the CMA Secretary who informed me that there was a Canadian contingent, consisting of John, Mary Margaret, Bill, Irene and Ed eagerly awaiting my arrival, giving me the odd yet wonderful feeling that I was a long lost family member finally coming home!

What a treat to see kilted men everywhere I looked on the formal night. I always have been a sucker for a man in a kilt. (sigh). I had the distinct pleasure of sitting with the college and university crowd for the dinner and I took great delight in their enthusiasm for and commitment to the gathering. It is my sincere hope that they grow in that commitment as they are the future Chairmen and leaders of the Association. I had the pleasure of trying a few Scottish traditional dances and had excellent partners who helped me find my place when I got lost and graciously ignored my fumbling through the various steps of the dances.

I will always remember the sensation of pride I felt standing on the bridge in Newtonmore watching my clansmen with dear, dear Cluny in the lead march onto the games. What a thrill to see the March as it is such a tourist attraction and, of course, it never rains on the Clan March!

I was duly initiated into the whole ceilidh atmosphere by joining with the Canadians to sing a song with them as it was, well, tradition! That night I fell blissfully asleep to the sounds of singing and bagpipes emanating from the bar after the ceilidh.

It is hard to put into words the feeling of heritage that washed over me when I stood overlooking the Spey River and the awareness of my roots when I saw my clansmen (my kin!) gathered in the field in the shadow of Creag Dhubh.

I met so many interesting and diverse members of my clan and have so many warm-fuzzy memories of the gathering to keep me warm during this winter. It can get to -40 degrees Celsius in my home town of Prince George, British Columbia, Canada! Would I ever attend another Gathering? In a heartbeat!

Helen Macpherson, a new member of CMA a year ago, is currently residing and working in BC as a professional photographer. She hails from Montreal and went to Vancouver in the ’80s to complete her education in photography.

THINGS I DID

When I Was Not At The Gathering

By Ken Gillis

I missed the Branch Gathering in Waterloo because Ella and I were on a cruise to the Black Sea and Holy Land that is only offered in September every second year.

In Israel, we had an overland excursion starting at the town of Nazareth where we took a walking tour to the church of Annunciation and the childhood home of Jesus, then on to Capernaum where Christ settled after he left Nazareth where he chose his first four disciples; James, John, Peter and Andrew.

Next was the Church of the Multiplication where Christ performed the miracle of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish. The church preserves a splendid early Christian mosaic as well as the stone that tradition says the miraculous meal was laid. This was followed by the Mount of the Beatitudes, the site where Christ delivered his Sermon on the Mount, then to the Jordan River and the place revered as the site of Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist.

While it may sound like we had travelled many miles, all of this was completed before lunch. These places are very short distances apart and a lot of them are located on or near the Sea of Galilee.

After lunch we traveled to Jerusalem and went immediately to the Mount of Olives for a panoramic view of the Old City. The view is spectacular seeing the city across the Kidron valley, which is quite deep with steep sides. From the Mount of Olives we proceeded to the Garden of Gethsemane within the walled grounds of the Church of All Nations. This peaceful garden is the site where Judas betrayed Christ. The church enshrines the Rock of Agony where Christ endured his Passion.

We visited the sacred Jewish shrine in Jerusalem: the Western or Wailing Wall, sole remnant of the 2nd Temple erected by Herod the Great and destroyed by Rome in 70 A.D.

The next morning we were at the Israel Museum which features The Shrine of the Book, a wing housing the Dead Sea Scrolls, a collection of 972 documents including texts from the Hebrew Bible. We followed the Via Dolorosa where Christ walked, carrying the cross to his crucifixion. The Via Dolorosa ends at the majestic Church of the Holy Sepulcher, site of the Final Stations of the Cross.

This excursion, although rewarding, was like trying to drink from a fire hose. There was so much to see and do and so very little time to see it.
POETRY CORNER

ather Ewan MacPherson sent us the following poem sharing his memories of Cluny’s visit to Toronto in 1972. This poem compliments the fine article by Gordon in the September issue.

CLUNY'S VISIT 1972

When Cluny came, Toronto stopped to see
A highland Chief, his lady and the Clan
Process through city streets; the pipes and drums;
Police all mounted and the endless crowds;
Hot August sun and air of jubilee.

At evening, shyly proud, we went down town;
The largest number we had ever been;
Canadian in our way; yet in our souls
Some part of Scotland we could not define.

We came from country towns and family farms;
From highways, hockey pucks and lakeside homes;
From summer days in cottages up north;
From city streets; from culture, banks and trade.

We came in kilts to recreate a time
And live it in the present if we could.
We came to see our Chief; to welcome him
And Lady Cluny to our neighbourhood.

No hint of Scotland here; no Glasgow street;
No highland bothy drenched in ancient blood;
No skinny cattle stolen in the night;
No song of anguish; no receding cliffs;
No burning croft; only a pitch black sea;
Only the Hector and the groaning deck,
As timber clashed with timber and the tide
Turned slowly on to Westwards with the wind
And stiffened sails; and resurrection found;
Abandoned people came to this new land.

In Ullapool, there is a small museum,
Where you can find the words of all our grief;
The songs we wrote and with great courage sang,
Walking the road to Upper Canada.

We cleared the land; we wrenched the tree trunks out;
Laid out the farms; built roads; constructed towns;
Until at last our young descendants knew,
In this God given loveliness, a life
So full of plenty we could not believe
What Providence was ours; what days we lived.

Unbowed we stood to gather round our Chief;
One in our lineage; in our belief.
It was as if the shared past that we knew
Took wings in what we were; rose up and flew

Ewan A. MacPherson
30th August 2013

SUPPORT CLAN MACPHERSON MUSEUM WITH CLICKS!

he Clan Macpherson Museum opened to the public in 1952 and is located in Newtonmore, Scotland in the middle of the highlands. It houses collections that are significant not only to the Clan Macpherson, but to the Highlands of Scotland. The museum is accredited having been awarded a 4-Star Museum status by the Museum Galleries of Scotland, the Arts Council of England, and the Scottish Tourist Board.

To strengthen our recognition we need more people making posts on as many tourism websites as possible. To date, there are few visitors initiating links to our museum webpage from external tourist sites and even fewer posts providing feedback on the museum itself. This additional recognition is important to secure our accreditation status as a four-star museum for the future. This is where we need your help.

What we aim to do is to push our museum website up the general search engine rankings on sites such as Google, Bing, and Yahoo. This occurs whenever the Clan Macpherson Museum site is visited on the external tourist web pages. This is achieved by clicking on the links to the Macpherson museum on these pages. The more clicks the higher the ranking becomes. The higher the ranking, the sooner people searching in this category find us.

To aid in this process the "Please Help" tab on the CMA Museum page (http://www.clan-macpherson.org/visit_museum/links/index.html) was set up so you can help with pushing up our ranking with the search engines with very little use of your valuable time. Simply visit this webpage and you will find a list of links to the various important tourist sites. Click on one of these links will send you directly to the tourist site you have selected.

Here is an example of what to do once you are on the “Please Help” page of the museum website: Click on one of the links such as “Visit Scotland”. You will be directed right to the Clan Macpherson Museum link on this site. That is all there is to it. You can continue to select the other links on “Please Help” thus registering your interest in the Clan Macpherson museum each time you do this.

It is advisable to use each of the links on “Please Help” only once. If you are keen to help with this project, then for subsequent times to the same tourist site you should connect directly using the site web address and not the link on “Please Help”. On arriving at the site find the Clan Macpherson Museum page using the site search form – et voila!

Continued on page 7
**CANADIANS AT ST AUGUSTINE**

By Mark F Macpherson

The US Branch Gathering took place at historic St Augustine Florida this year. Canadian representation was ably provided by Bill, our new Chair, and his wife Irene, with Mark, June, and their son Rob Macpherson who lives in Georgia, but is a life member of both the US and Canadian branches.

The venue was first settled by the Spaniards and is the oldest city in the USA, founded in 1565. It is an interesting place to visit although with the US government shut-down in progress the main feature, the old fort, was not open. As part of the registration package “trolley” rides were organized that provided tours of the town covering most the main features. Additional free tickets allowed for further repeat excursions to points of particular personal interest.

The Gathering was well organized and executed by Bill Macpherson, a local member, who had sadly just lost his wife. Bill opted to continue the event which he did in an excellent manner taking great pains to see that everyone was looked after.

At the Highland dinner our own Bill was tapped to present the Ode to the Haggis which he did with his usual élan and Scottish brogue. A most enjoyable time was had by all at the dinner. Rob was so impressed with the company that he decided he should get kitted up with a proper Macpherson outfit for the next Gathering.

The Sunday service was held at the Presbyterian Memorial Church established by Henry Flagler, a partner of John D Rockefeller, and a philanthropist who supported many major projects in St Augustine late in the nineteenth century. He and his family are buried on the church grounds. Following the service, there were goodbyes to old and new friends with promises to meet next year in Albuquerque – possibly, and

**CREAG DHUBH! TO CANADIAN BRANCH MEMBERS**

By W. (Bill) Macpherson Chairman

Creag Dhubh is the war cry of Clan Macpherson. In times of peace a war cry is used as a rallying call to clansmen.

Creag Dhubh is also known to most of us as the excellent Annual Publication of the Clan Macpherson Association that we look forward to receiving in the spring of each year.

Creag Dhubh, translated as Black Rock, refers to a hill in the Cairngorms, a mountain range in the eastern Highlands of Scotland. Creag Dhubh is right in the heart of Clan Macpherson territory. Central to the history of Clan Macpherson, Creag Dhubh contains Cluny’s Cave, the famous hiding place of Bonnie Prince Charlie & Ewan of the 45. Near to Cluny Castle, Creag Dhubh overlooks the Eilan, home of the Newtonmore Highland Games, where Clan Macpherson proudly marches each year and our flagship Clan museum is close by the Eilan.

Members who were present at the Branch AGM in Waterloo will recall that our Association Chairman John Macpherson (Montrose) reported that museum income had fallen in the last few years.

Each year as part of the Newtonmore Highland games there is a hill race up Creag Dhubh. A run of 5.7 km to an elevation of 300 m. Next year Jacqueline Murdoch, our Vice Chair, and I will be representing the Branch at the Association Gathering in Scotland. We are both planning to participate in the Creag Dhubh Hill Run and would like to use this occasion as a Branch fund raiser for the Clan Museum.

“Creag Dhubh!” Branch members. We are looking for sponsorship contributions that will be donated on behalf of the Branch to the museum. Anyone that would like to support this event can contact Jacqueline or myself or simply send a cheque to Branch Treasurer Ken Gillis marked for the Canadian Branch Museum Fund raiser.

Thanks in advance for your support

**SUPPORT CLAN MACPHERSON MUSEUM WITH CLICKS!**

Below are a few of the tourist site addresses. If you want others or find any problems with this process, please contact me at jacquelinemurdoch@rogers.com and I will be delighted to help you.

[www.visitscotland.com/](http://www.visitscotland.com/)
[www.britainexpress.com/](http://www.britainexpress.com/)
[www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk/](http://www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk/)

We hope that each time you have a spare minute, you will go to “Please Help” and click on a few links, or visit one or the tourist websites and click on the Clan Macpherson Museum page. If every member of CMA does this frequently it won’t be long before we have the most recognized museum in Scotland.

**DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE**

Please submit your notes and captioned photos before February 28 2014.
FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Visit the Clan Macpherson Online Shop

Shop with your fingertip

Your gifts will be delivered to your door!

All proceeds benefit the Museum

www.clan-macpherson.org/shop