



# THE GREEN BANNER

## NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 14 Number 2

SUMMER ISSUE

August 2020

### NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Denise Lagundzin, Registrar



**G**reetings Cousins!

The hot and hazy days of summer have arrived in my little town of Walkerton, Ontario. The sun is a welcome diversion from the daily news. However, we are Macphersons, no matter the spelling you use, and we shall carry on.

I am happy to announce that we have 2 new members who have joined us.



Scott MacPherson joins us from Ontario.

Scott's Great Great Grandfather was Malcolm MacPherson, also known as Calum Piobair, Piper to Cluny.

On behalf of all members of the Canadian Branch we are happy to welcome Scott as a new member of the

Clan Macpherson Association.

We also welcome Ian Macpherson from Nova Scotia. Ian re-



members copies of Creag Dhubb in his home as he grew up. He is delighted to finally join the association that his father valued so much. As the only son of the only son of an only son, the Macpherson surname is precious to him.

He has collected a few degrees and practiced a few professions over his lifetime, but he is happily retired in beautiful Nova Scotia now. Together with his wife, Wendy, he's immensely proud of their two sons; both of whom have already earned honours for their surname: one as an adventurer, and now a businessman in the Canadian Far North, the other as a newly-winged pilot in the RCAF.

If you are making any changes to your physical address or email address, please contact me so that you do not miss any Clan news. My email address is [Canada.registrar@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:Canada.registrar@clan-macpherson.org) and my home telephone number is 519-507-4465.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By Ed Smith



**G**ood day Cousins,

It has become a bit of a habit for me to wonder how my family and friends are managing in these most unusual times. COVID 19 has been most disruptive to our lifestyles to say nothing about commerce throughout the world. Yes, I wear a mask primarily for the protection of others.

Almost every event planned for the year has been cancelled, including Highland games, national celebrations, clan gatherings, as well as our Joint Canada/ US gathering planned for Niagara Falls in September. I have been very fortunate this past few years to have a small group of members who have stepped forward and taken on the challenge of organizing the Annual Canadian Branch Gathering and AGM. We have tried different venues and dates trying to improve attendance. To this end I wish to thank yet again Janet McCredie and family, Ewen Macpherson, Denise Lagundzin along with this years US representatives Graham and Debbie Gillespie from upstate New York. Everyone worked together seamlessly to plan one of the best joint gatherings ever!

Late in August I will be convening a CMA Canadian Branch

Council meeting using the online medium known as ZOOM. When signed on the members will be able to conduct a visual meeting in preparation for a CMA Canadian Branch AGM to be held in September 2020. The dates for 2020 will be determined at a later time. This will follow the same process as the Council meeting and will be available to the entire Branch membership coast to coast to coast. We will have our AGM as is mandated by the constitution. - "Unusual times demand unusual methods to accomplish the expected" – anonymous.

The CMA AGM in Scotland will be held as a virtual event. Notification was sent to all those members who have email. Written notification was distributed by Branch Registrar Denise Lagundzin.

Each member should by now have received an email from the Association informing you of the AGM this year. If not, please be advised that the AGM will be available from 27 July 2020 to 8 August 2020 at:

<https://www.clan-macpherson.org/cma2020agm>.

The page is password protected, you will need to enter the username "cma2020agm" and the password "Badenoch^2020" (use only the text between the quotation marks). Once on the page you will also be required to sign in with your email address so we can ensure that only CMA

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## TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The clan association is in good shape financially as of the end of June. We have \$8,513 in our current account and \$11,527 in our Life Membership Fund.

We are showing a gain of \$639 year to date at the end of June. The gain is largely because we have received registrations and memberships and have not had to pay any remittances. The cancellation of our Gathering will mean the refunding the 6 registrations received, which I will do shortly. We have received the refund of the venue deposit, which leaves one deposit outstanding.

I will be remitting our membership fees to Clan Macpherson Association in September, as per the clan association guidelines.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our next clan gathering next year, when hopefully the COVID-19 epidemic will have passed.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank to following for their contributions and support to the Summer Issue: Denise Lagundzin, Ken Gillis, Ed Smith, Bob Macpherson, and Beth McPherson Frost.

We also thank Penny Abraham for her valued assistance with this issue.

### 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, FSA Scot

**Officers:**

Ed Smith CD, Chairman  
Denise Lagundzin, Vice-Chairman  
Janet McCredie, Honorary Secretary  
Ken Gillis, Honorary Treasurer  
Denise Lagundzin, Registrar

**Immediate Past Chairman:**

William Macpherson, PEng

**Regional Councillors:**

John C House, MOM, FSA Scot, Eastern Canada  
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, FSA Scot

Inquiries and articles may be sent by email to  
greenbanner326@gmail.com

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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members will be included. Once 'on the AGM site you will be able to read and/or download the reports, ask questions relating to the reports and, for those items that require a vote, mark an abstention or dissent. Those members not marking an abstention or dissent will be deemed to have voted for the relevant proposal. In broad terms up to 31 July will be for accessing reports and asking any questions, the rest of the period for accessing the answers to the questions and coming to a decision on any items requiring a vote. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact the CMA secretary.

In Closing, the time is close at hand when there will be a changing of the guard. Past chairman Bill Macpherson will be searching for members to fill many of the positions vacated by members for family illness and other reasons. We are few in number in the Branch and the CMA cannot hire staff. It falls to the membership to find time in their busy lives to spare a few hours once in a while to take part in the operation. While the title description is lengthy, the duties are quite simple and random. We need representatives in most areas. Some of the current positions are double and even triple tasked. This is not fair. In most cases only an hour or two is required per month. Please contact Bill Macpherson and volunteer!

Yours, Aye

Edward M. Smith, CD, Chairman, Canadian Branch

## ADVERTISING IN THE GREEN BANNER

Members are reminded that there are opportunities for advertising space in the Green Banner.

We would like to defray the expenses of publishing and distributing our newsletter and also contribute to Branch operations.

The rates per issue are as follows:

Eighth Page	\$12
Quarter Page	\$20
Half Page	\$35
Full Page	\$65

The Green Banner is read by adults and children alike across the country and is circulated outside of Canada.

Anyone wishing to advertise their business, services or talents, or events that might be of interest to our readers, should contact

## DEADLINE FOR AUTUMN ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the Autumn Issue are due on the Editor's desk by September 30th, 2020. We look forward to input to the Green Banner from all members. Send your drafts or outlines as soon as possible to:

Greenbanner326@gmail.com

## WESTERN CANADA

By Bob Macpherson



Greetings to all Macpherson cousins across Canada and elsewhere. I hope you are all keeping safe and well during this time of COVID19. It certainly has created some unusual and difficult situations. As is the case across Canada and in Scotland, highland games and gatherings have been

cancelled – no surprise to anyone but disappointing to many.

I will miss setting up our clan tent this summer and visiting with the curious as they stop to see what the tent is all about. It is always a thrill to find a few Macphersons dropping in among all the other folks who stop by.

There are literally no opportunities for any kind of socializing among the larger Macpherson family this year but I know there will be specific family gatherings – being mindful of all the health protocols, of course.

I am especially disappointed to miss the Clan Gathering in



Newtonmore Clan Gathering

Newtonmore and Kingussie this summer as my wife and I had already been booked in to various events. I will have to settle for looking at YouTube to watch the pipe bands marching down Main Street in Newtonmore, the march from Old Ralia



Newtonmore Clan Gathering

to the games field, and excerpts of the games themselves from past years. The memories of 2018 are particularly special as I attended and proudly marched carrying a sword as part of the Honour Guard. I will have to re-read the 2019 Creag Dhubh and re-watch the video “Sons of the Parson” on YouTube. So we do what we can do to keep our clan spirits up and look forward to future opportunities.

Until then, Slainte!

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHAIR

By Denise Lagundzin



Greetings Cousins,

I sometimes think that we have entered “The Twilight Zone”. Do you remember that television series? Who ever thought that one-way shopping isles, masks, gloves and social distancing would become the normal way of life for us?

As I hope you have heard, the Joint Canadian/US Gathering has been cancelled for this year. This is my first year as Vice Chairman and the primary function of this position is to plan the Gathering. It was been a wonderful experience for me meeting and getting to know our US cousins Graham and Debby Gillespie while planning what would have been our September Gathering.

Unfortunately, now we do not know if the Joint Gathering will take place in 2021 or not. There are many activities you can still do to keep in touch with our cousins and our Clan. Have you checked out the Clan Macpherson web site? You can take a virtual tour of the museum <https://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/mem/tour.html>. I encourage you to have some fun and take “The Great Macpherson Quiz” on page 32 in your Creag Dhubh to help support the Clan Macpherson Museum re-roofing project.

Are you on Facebook? Have you joined the Official Clan Macpherson Facebook Page? It is a great way to stay in touch with other clan members and keep up on the news.

Until next time, take care and stay well.



## ATLANTIC CANADA

By John C. House



**S**omeday the pandemic will be behind us and we can get back to some semblance of our normal lives. When that happens a trip to Atlantic Canada could be a thing to consider.

There are many beautiful things to see here, including the varied and abundant wildlife. One such attraction that we have in common with our Scottish relatives is the presence of the much beloved Atlantic Puffin, which establishes breeding colonies each year along the coastlines of the North Atlantic.



Atlantic Puffins are very social during the nesting season

Other than the breeding season in summer, these seabirds spend the rest of their time at sea, never setting foot on land.

When travel restrictions recently eased within the so-called “Atlantic Bubble”, we decided to take a trip that included a ferry ride to Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick.

From there we took another boat out to Machias Seal Island where there is a significant nesting colony of seabirds. Machias Seal Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary is a tiny, treeless island rising barely 9 metres above sea level. It is located 20 kilometres off the southwestern tip of Grand Manan Island in the Bay of Fundy. It is regarded as one of the most important seabird nesting colonies in the Gulf of Maine.

Some estimates suggest that there are approximately to 5000 pairs of Atlantic Puffins, 1000 pairs of Razorbills, and about 500 pairs of Common Murres nesting on the island during breeding season.

Another interesting feature of Machias Seal Island is the fact that it is actually disputed territory, with both the United States and Canada laying claim to it. This doesn't seem to concern the seabirds, as they were busy coming and going out to sea to catch fish to feed their young. Referred to as pufflings.



Atlantic Puffins have a lifespan of about 20 years

This small island has a lighthouse that has been maintained by the Canadian Coast Guard for more than 100 years.

Access to Machias Seal Island is very limited and controlled during a very small window during the summer. Machias Seal Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary is located on lands owned by Fisheries and Ocean Canada and is open to the public during most of the year for activities that are consistent with the



An Atlantic Puffin's beak changes colour during the breeding season

conservation goals of the sanctuary. Only one Canadian operator is authorized to bring people there, and are permitted to land only 15 people a day, six days a week.

Each year over 1200 naturalists and photographers visit the sanctuary to see the impressive display of birds on the island.

It was well worth the visit and I would recommend it as a very unique experience.

# MACPHERSON DNA PROJECT

By Beth McPherson Frost



The Macpherson DNA project is an ongoing study of YDNA (male line) at Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) to discover our deep ancestry and identify the lines of our men. FTDNA hosts our surname project as well as many others. They are managed by volunteer administrators.

Women are also invited to participate but we cannot test our male line without a father, brother, cousin or uncle (as an example) for our Macpherson line. They must be in the unbroken line going father to son. The males can also test their Mtdna which is their mother's line.

We can all test Family Finder whether we are male or female and there will be more about that as we go along. This is called the Autosomal DNA.

Each surname project has different rules on who can join based on which type of DNA they will accept. The Macpherson project currently accepts all DNA although we do have guidelines for our Autosomal DNA joins.

We see many different septs in our Clan Macpherson Association and all approved by our chief are welcome. Let us all head to a Clan event where we encounter first a Gillespie! Yes, they are in the clan and next a Clark! Then a Smith and an Ellis checking off our registrations and giving us a badge. Finally, we run into a McPherson at the cocktail hour! We found one! Okay we say. I guess we are at the Macpherson party!

Let us talk a bit about what just happened. There are many septs to our clan and we all are under the Macpherson family umbrella but when it comes to DNA we will each need to get into our specific name projects because we have found through the testing we are not all genetically related.

That does not mean there is not a line or two intermarried but for most purposes we will each test at our surname project and then come back together as a larger family united under the Macpherson chief.

The Macpherson project commenced many years ago by our beloved Dr. Alan Gibson Macpherson of Memorial University of Newfoundland. Dr. Alan Macpherson brought a proposal to the clan to test our many lineages and get them identified. Our chief became involved as well and we can proudly say he is at our center. This was just a start. It immediately became apparent as the testing began that the lines would need to be in different projects.

The Macpherson group went on with our band of men who were then separated into their respective groups. Today we are looking at a vastly diverse project with many Y line groups identified and tested to the highest level of BigY 700.

This is the gold standard for all male line testing. While we

have identified a specific snp unique to Macpherson men there are other groups all descending from the area. Historically this would represent the population of the country and how those Macpherson's emerged.

Our goal here is only to introduce and then perhaps get more specific in another article. Our lines have deep ancestry from the entire region. Some are Irish and many, although not all of those, have the Niall of Nine Hostages marker.

It is said those men number around 15 % of the Scottish population overall. Admin Athol McDonald has determined there are around 10% in the Macpherson project at this time.

The number can go up or down depending on the population tested. We also have a line from the region of Ardennes in France, Belgium and Luxembourg looking at descent from the old House of Brabant.

This is a dukedom and modern Flemish researchers are showing a link to King Robert De Brus as it is said he descends from the 4<sup>th</sup> son of the Duke of Leuven rather than having come on the Norman invasion. Given DNA sequences uncovered that would see a link to one of our groups in project.

There are also lines we know have descended from the Vikings. Then we have our chiefly line as well as many of the cadet lines being grouped and tested to the highest levels available. A wonderful accomplishment! The largest number of our men are in this grouping and our Admin Athol McDonald has made tremendous progress identifying them.

The Macpherson project has advanced rapidly in the past 4 years and we are extremely proud of our group. We remain a project that aims to promote and put the testing of our men at the front.

The Macpherson men are the first line. As previously stated, we also do have Mtdna and Family Finder welcome. Family Finder is our autosomal test at FTDNA, and we accept our Macphersons tested as a compliment and support to our men tested. As a Family Finder Admin, I have personally grouped our folks to be identified with their male line tested.

There are many family lines surrounding our groups which does help in the larger genealogy area. Definite patterns have emerged, and I can often tell which line a family is just by the Macpherson folks they match.

That is not always 100% because some of our lines have been in certain regions for hundreds of years with the same group of families.

This is when our YDNA testing become so important even in family finding. We recommend our members test their male line (YDNA) first and then get their Autosomal (Family Finder) testing. This makes for a much easier search.

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## REMEMBERING NORMAN MCPHERSON

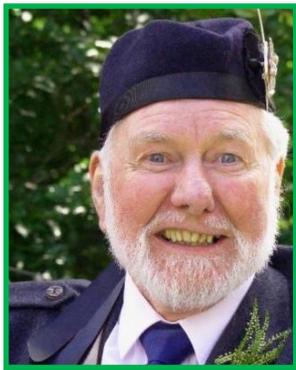
By Ed Smith



It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Norman McPherson on 21 April, 2020. Norman had been in poor health for some years but had still been taking a full part in our activities. However, at the beginning of February his health issues escalated. After returning home from hospital and being able to say goodbye to family; he died peacefully at home

with his wife Mary by his side.

Norman was a long-standing member of the CMA and was active in the Scottish Branch from its formation from the amalgamation of the 3 regional Scottish branches. He was elected to the Committee at the Branch AGM in 2007, later serving as Vice-Chairman from 2009-2012 and as Chairman from 2012-2015.



Norman McPherson

As Chairman he ran efficient Committee Meetings and was an excellent Fear an Tigh at Branch events.

Norman was our principal liaison with Clan Chattan and the Association of Highland Clans and Societies, serving on the committees of both organisations. He also served on the Management Advisory Committee of the Clan Museum for several years with responsibility for Health and Safety.

Norman accepted Cluny's invitation in 2009 to take up the role as banner man following John Stuart's passing and it was with great pride that he would lead the Clan March to the Eilan at the Newtonmore Games.

At Burns Suppers Norman introduced other Burns' graces, departing from the traditional Selkirk Grace, and very generously would contribute a raffle prize of a bottle of a special whisky that he had in cask.

He would arrive with a picture quiz prepared by his brother Charlie which would be fixed around the room and keep the arriving diners entertained before the meal.

Visitors to the Clan Tent at the Inverness Games would find Norman at his genial and friendly best giving a warm welcome to all at the Macpherson table and ready to give whatever information and explanations that were asked of him.

His knowledge of the Clan and his enthusiasm never failed to impress, and this would be illustrated by photographs and items of Clan information fixed to pull-up screens which he had brought along.

It was typical of Norman that he continued to contribute to Committee discussions by email during his illness and while still in hospital sent a message apologising for not being able to carry out all his duties at the Burns Supper this year.

Our sympathies and best wishes go to Mary and his family.

## MACPHERSON DNA PROJECT

*Continued from previous page*

Please check our group out on our public display at Family Tree DNA. We are the Macpherson DNA project. We welcome you and your family to test and become part of our project and it's Facebook Group.

Everyone interested is welcome to join our Facebook group where we discuss everything related to our project and clan. Our Facebook Group is named the MacPherson DNA Project! Look for our dress tartan on our page and you will be there.

We encourage all men bearing our surname to join us in project and get started with a Y37 or Y111 test and see what group you land in or maybe you will be the start to another part of our beautiful and rich history. Macpherson's All! We hope to see you there and will include links and email contacts. We all welcome you to join us both in our project and on our Facebook page.

Our Admin:

Athol McDonald, Admin to MacPherson (Admin to Clan Chattan DNA) [macdon@iinet.net.au](mailto:macdon@iinet.net.au)

Beth McPherson Frost, Co-Admin to MacPherson (Admin to Facebook Group) [bfro23@yahoo.com](mailto:bfro23@yahoo.com)

John Templer Harper, Co Admin to MacPherson (Admin to Harper, Admin to Templer and Co-Admin to L-1335)

We can all be found at the MacPherson/McPherson project at Family Tree DNA (FTDNA.com)

The MacPherson DNA Project Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/499302200413599>



Scene at Stennes, Orkney Islands, Scotland

