



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 15 Number 3

AUTUMN ISSUE

November, 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

By Denise Lagundzin



Greetings Cousins,

The Canadian Branch of Clan Macpherson held its 71st Council and AGM meetings on Saturday, September 25, 2021.

Thank you to everyone who joined in.

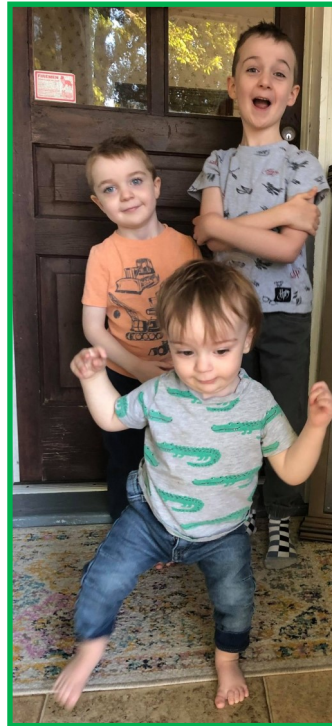
Thank you to Ewan Macpherson for piping MacPherson's Lament; Bill Macpherson and Ed Smith for their work on the Nominating Committee; and Mark Macpherson for his work on revising our Constitution. We welcome Chantal McPherson as our Quebec and Eastern Ontario Councillor and Jacqueline Murdoch as our Central Ontario Councillor.



A get-together meeting of Canadian Branch members

On Wednesday August 11, a few members of the Council met at an outdoor café to present Ed Smith with an engraved Clan Macpherson pocket watch to thank Ed for his 4 years as Chairman. If Covid had cooperated, we would have been celebrating with our US cousins this past weekend in Niagara Falls, Ontario for our Joint Gathering. Instead with the rest of the world, we are self-isolating, social distancing and getting our Covid vaccines. We have reasons to celebrate this year! Joyce Macpherson celebrated her 92nd birthday; Ella Gillis, wife of Ken Gillis our Treasurer, celebrated her birthday. Greg and Heather Emerson welcome their grandson Edward Macpherson Emerson Wylie who was born in July.

Congratulations and best wishes go out to Brynn and Jared



James, William and Alexander McPherson

who were married on August 7. Brynn is the daughter of Janet and John McCredie. Alexander McPherson, son of Bruce and Kelly, turns one. Here are James, William and Alexander. We will start to plan our 2022 Gathering in January. Covid-19 has changed how we may have our Gatherings in future. Stay tuned for more details.

John House is planning to reach out to the organizers to lay a wreath at the Culloden Memorial, Knoydart, Nova Scotia. The April ceremony commemorates three Scottish Immigrants, John MacPherson, and Augus and Hugh MacDonald, who were veterans of the Clanranald Regiment who participated in the

Battle of Culloden, April 1746. Check out www.culloden.ca for more information.

We send our best wishes out to those who are fighting health issues and to their families who are supporting, keep up the good fight!



Another image of some of our Canadian Branch members getting together

TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The clan association is in good shape financially as of the end of September. We have \$9,144 in our current account and \$11,131 in our Life Membership Fund. We are showing a loss of \$615 year to date at the end of September. The loss is largely because of accounting period differences.

Let me explain; we have received 2 life memberships. The first was after the deadline for remittance to the Association last year and the second was after the new year this year. The money was held in our accounts until it was remitted near the end of September. The money inflated our position at the end of last year which caused us to show a loss, year over year. However; if we look back to 2019, we actually have a gain over the 2 years of \$1,270. Near the end of September, I remitted 2 life and 33 annual memberships to the Clan Association in accordance with Clan guidelines. The levels of membership activity during this past year made us the most active branch in the association.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our next clan gathering. It has been far too long since we have been able to gather and celebrate our Scottish heritage.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank to following for their contributions and support to this issue: Denise Lagundzin, Beverly McPherson Letford, Ken Gillis, Bruce McPherson, Bob Macpherson, D'Arcy McPherson, Ian Smythe, Bonnie McPherson, and Chantal McPherson. I also thank Penny Abraham for assistance with proof reading 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,

Officers:

Denise Lagundzin, Chairman
Ken Gillis, Honorary Treasurer
Janet McCredie, Honorary Secretary
Beverly McPherson Letford, Registrar

Immediate Past Chairman:

Ed Smith CD

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Bruce McPherson, Western Ontario
Chantal McPherson, Québec and Eastern Ontario
Robert T. Macpherson, Western Canada
D'Arcy McPherson, British Columbia

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ONTARIO WESTERN REGION REPORT

By Bruce McPherson



Greetings from Ontario's Western Region. This year, like last, has brought very little in person activity as a result of the ongoing COVID pandemic. Although all gatherings were again cancelled, many of the Highland Games attempted to provide opportunities

to view virtual celebrations of Scottish culture. I attempted to view as many of the events online as possible and want to say, there were some very unique and innovative approaches to the games. Embro, a small community outside of Stratford Ontario which likes to boast one of Ontario's oldest games, chose to hold a competition for locals to decorate their homes in Tartan which was then judged. Fergus, posted videos of all major heavy events, had piping competitions and special concerts from international musicians including the Red Hot Chili Pipers. They also had sections to learn a little Gaelic for both adults and children and a section to listen to children's books written in Scots. Looking forward to 2022, it is hoped that next year's report will be more focused on our Clan's contributions to the various games which will hopefully be in person!

Until then, Slainte, - Bruce McPherson,

WESTERN CANADA REPORT

By Bob Macpherson



Due to Covid-19, there have been few if any Clan activities in the last two years. It has been up to individual Macphersons to do the best they could themselves. I was able to host a reasonably successful Robbie Burns event last January on Zoom. Not quite like the real thing but the

spirit was there. This September the Canmore Highland Games were held once again and I was there with our clan tent. Some protocols were in place to help people keep safe and there was a pretty good sized crowd.

There were five pipe bands in attendance as well as all the usual highland activities. It was a huge relief to organizers and attendees alike to be back in action. There were only three other Highland Games scheduled in the west this season although there were a couple of highland gatherings minus the games. I was pleased to have conversations with a number of Macphersons and those with Macphersons in their family trees. One even took away an application to join our association.

I look forward to being able to travel to Scotland to attend the next Clan Gathering in Newtonmore and Kingussie in 2022. Having had to postpone both in 2020 and 2021 I want to be optimistic. Fingers crossed! Yours aye, - Bob Macpherson

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

By Beverly McPherson Letford



The 2021 year has been very active despite the Covid pandemic. We lost two life members and had two new life members join us. We also had nine new annual members.

We had three annual members and one junior member who did not renew their memberships.



Paul Andrew MacPherson
PhD, MD, FRCPC

We welcome new member Dr. Paul Andrew MacPherson hails from New Brunswick, and is the son of Alastair and Phoebe MacPherson. Alastair is the son of George and Margaret (Aitken; immigrated ca1904) MacPherson; George was the son of David and Ann MacPherson (immigrated 1872).

Dr MacPherson, now in Ottawa, is a specialist in infectious diseases and an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Ottawa Hospital and University of Ottawa.



Mary MacPherson

We are pleased to introduce Mary MacPherson, the daughter of Phoebe and Alastair MacPherson from the beautiful east coast of Canada, and currently residing in Moncton, New Brunswick, where she is raising her two daughters who are fourteen and sixteen.

In addition to being a mother, she is a minister within the United Church of Canada.

Mary is happiest out in nature, riding a horse, hanging out and hiking with her dog, biking, reading history, or doing some writing. She is thrilled to discover more about her Scottish heritage and connect with her Macpherson cousins.

We also welcome Bruce C. McPherson, Ronald Stuart MacPherson, Ian R. Smythe, Mary Margaret MacPherson, Elaine Marguerite McPherson, Kent McPherson, and Paul McPherson.

Unfortunately, a few of our cousins were not able to submit photos and brief description of themselves.

Flowers of the Forest:

We were saddened to lose two of our Canadian Life Members this fiscal:

- Irene Mary Macpherson
- Lawrie Taylor

Thank you.

- Beverly McPherson Letford, Registrar

BRITISH COLUMBIA REPORT

By D'Arcy McPherson



As one might expect, the schedule of Scottish-themed events has been relatively quiet during 2020 and 2021. However, some events were able to proceed.

On July 1, 2021, the annual Canada Day at Craigflower (Victoria) event was held with a somewhat pared

down number of attendees and a cap on performers at 50, as per provincial COVID guidelines at the time. There was great excitement among those in attendance at being able to gather safely for the first time in over a year. The event was recorded and can be viewed at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shUj1uY4hjc>.

At the time of this writing, the B.C. Highland Games, with the support of the United Scottish Cultural Society, will be taking place on September 3 and 4 at its traditional home of La Farge Lake Park in Coquitlam, B.C. While the 5K run was cancelled due to lack of registrants, I'm happy to report that the Whiskey and Oyster event was sold out. Adhering to all COVID protocols, the event will include dancing, games, a piper's glen, heavy lifting, cultural workshops, and family fun.

Sharing what seems to be a busy weekend, the 158th Victoria Highland Games will be held on September 4 and 5 on the grounds of Craigflower Manor. While not all events will be held because of the short timeframe to prepare, dancing, piping and heavy lifting competitions will be proceeding.

All the best. - D'Arcy McPherson

DEADLINE FOR SPRING ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the Spring Issue are due on the Editor's desk by March 1st, 2022. 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



GREETINGS FROM THE CMA CHAIRMAN

By Bonnie A. McPherson



Dear Cousins,

I'm so delighted to be elected as your CMA Chairman. The Cromag has metaphorically been passed from Bill Macpherson to me, and the CMA has been left in excellent order by my predecessor. I was honored to serve as CMA Vice Chair for three years and watched and learned much from Bill and the others on the CMA Council.

I began this journey in 1986 when I became a regular member of the CMA US Branch. I met wonderful people and love that I can call them my friends today. In 1991 I became a Life member and soon after that a Na Diònadairean Clann Mhuirich or Guardian of the Clan Macpherson. Within the CMA US Branch, I've served as Assistant Editor of The Urlar, Council Member at Large, Assistant Membership Secretary, Vice Chairman and Chairman. It's been a long road that I've enjoyed and now I have the honor of leading the CMA. Leading is the key word for this position. I will work with the CMA Council as a team as we move forward. The CMA Council is the working backbone of this Association, and I look forward to what lies ahead.

Visit the CMA Website and peruse through all it has to offer. I always enjoy visiting the other Branches pages and see what they are up to. <https://www.clan-macpherson.org/index.html> If you have yet to go to the Clan Macpherson Association Facebook page and join, please do so. It's easy to do and a great way to stay involved. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/clan.macpherson.association>

"Gather together", What a lovely thought. We've been apart too long! We are cautiously beginning the planning for the next CMA Gathering in 2022. An event where we will celebrate James Brodie Macpherson as our 28th Chief and the Grand Re-Opening of the Museum. We will be vigilant to assess the ending of the pandemic that has kept us apart for so long. The size and scope of the event is still to be determined. Fingers crossed we will meet in person again. Keep an eye on the CMA Website, the CMA Facebook page, your Green Banner and the Creag Dhubh for information as it develops.

I look forward to visiting with many of the different Branches of the CMA during the next three years. There are so many new members to meet and members to reconnect with whom I've already met over the years.

My door is always open. Call, write, email, or even stop by!

Until then,

Slainte,

Bonnie

QUÉBEC & EASTERN ONTARIO REPORT

By Chantal McPherson



What a year it has been for my family! On October 17, 2020, my daughter Elle was married to Angus Tweedie in Braemar, Scotland. Then, inspired by the Highlands, I moved back to my home province of Québec and now live a happy retired life in the beautiful Laurentian Mountains. I am honoured and happy to announce that I am your new representative for Québec and Eastern Ontario.



Elle & Angus on their wedding day, Braemar, Scotland

If all goes well, I look forward to seeing members new and old from Québec and Ontario at the Glengarry and Montreal Highland Games in 2022.



Another wedding day picture

A REAL MACPHERSON ADVENTURE

By Beverly McPherson Letford



Have you ever driven down Highway #6 through Puslinch, Ontario and noticed one green street sign, “MacPhersons Lane”, and another sign, “McPherson Ln. 7465”?

Driving past these road signs always made me curious. But what made September 22nd different than any other drive through Puslinch was that this time I was going to stop and investigate the origins of this Lane and if I might find MacPhersons still living there. With camera in hand, my husband Duart and I intended to turn right onto MacPherson Lane, but we missed it so we took the next side road called Leslie Road at the lights in Puslinch. On that road, we travelled a good two concessions until we came to a road named Watson Road South.



Macphersons Lane road sign



Badenoch sign

It is there where we discovered a plaque under a tree in the corner of a soccer field at that intersection.

I was elated reading this plaque:

"Badenoch Settled - 1832

Badenoch Women's Institute"!

My imagination started to wander: what did the women do at this site—quilt? How did they dress and I wondered if this was the only place where social gatherings with others were held in the 1800s? Did the women folk walk to meet there, rode horses or travelled in buggies?



Sign at Wellington County Forest

With Duart waiting for me in the truck and to carry this adventure further, our MacPherson adventure started out very exciting. But my excitement did not end there! Just down the road less than 1/2 mile we noticed another wooden sign. It was a newer-type sign showing that the forest behind it was a Badenoch Tract of the Wellington County Forest. There was that Badenoch word again! Did the men log there to clear land for farming? Were they all MacPhersons?

Leaving that site and my imagination running wild again, I noticed many open fields on the opposite side of the road and this time wondering how many MacPherson's must have lived and worked in that area clearing the land for farming. We travelled not 400 feet to see a marvellous black wrought iron fence, very old looking, surrounding the front of a building. As we walked closer to the fence my eyes nearly popped out when I read the letters on this beautiful ornate gate: "Badenoch Community Centre". An engraved stone was noticed high on the front of the building with a carving that looked like that of a thistle. Over the doorway an inscription read to the best of what I could tell: S

S.r.r.Ao:9 1889 Puslinch



Flags at Badenoch Community Centre

I noticed two flags flying. One, the Canadian flag and the other one, I'm not too sure. The only thing I could make out on the blue flag was a crest and what looked like Gaelic writing.

It was windy that day and tried to capture a photo with the flag unfurled, but my best

efforts were not successful.

Was it possible that we just travelled through a time warp, back in time, and were now in 1800 Scotland?? I was sure if we waited long enough we might witness a MacPherson walking along that side road. I am convinced that the tree I'm about to show you had been there as a seedling on the lane when the MacPherson settlers first came in the 1800.

Leaving that site and hoping to find a graveyard that might be named Badenoch too, we finally found the MacPherson lane that we initially set out to investigate.



Beverly with Robert MacPherson

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A REAL MACPHERSON ADVENTURE—CONTINUED

Continued from page 5

Turning down the lane was almost an eerie feeling...like I've been there before...yes...my imagination does run wild at times. We first came upon a man riding his lawn mower cutting grass.



Laneway in Badenoch

Duart stopped and asked the man if MacPhersons still resided on this Lane. Oh my goodness!! This man IS a MacPherson. His name is Robert Orme MacPherson. His brother Donald Murray MacPherson lives on the other side of the lane. Their nephew lives at the curve on MacPherson lane and

they still own 173 acre of family farmland.

Here is my first MacPherson I met on MacPherson Lane, Cousin Robert Orme MacPherson.

A very pleasant man who gave me permission to write about him and his family and to post his picture with me.

I explained to him that I was on a lifelong hunt for MacPherson historical sites and was always fascinated by the name of this road "McPherson Ln" since the 1970s and wanted to find out how closely we might be related as I was a McPherson too.



Badenoch Community Centre gate

He told me his brother Donald would be better to talk to. I asked if he thought Donald would be bothered with me going to him and Robert replied, "well you won't know until you knock on his door then you will find out if you are bothering him!"

Donald was receptive and told me the third brother Kenneth George was taken to the hospital, just that morning, and I then immediately tried to end my conversation with him given concern for his brother. But he said no please stay and I'll show you our family tree.

Before we left his patio table he gave me a copy of his family tree. Donald talked about his Grandfather and Grandmother who settled in the area across Hwy #6.

Their barn still stands, but their original house burned in 1961. I asked if he remembers his grandmother and asked if she was

a sweet grandmother. He replied, "Yes, but she chased us around all the time with a yardstick to swat us!" I asked if it hurt, and he said, "No. She couldn't catch us!" He and Duart and I chuckled. I asked Donald if he and his brothers farmed and he firmly said, "No. We never farmed because it was considered unpaid help!" Lol

I asked further about the third brother and if he was going to be ok. Donald said, "yes, probably, but he hadn't ate or drank for over 36 hours". I offered that it was important for all of us to hydrate often so we don't feel whoosey. He smiled and offered me, "Sometimes that is the reason why one feels whoosey"! Lol

This MacPherson family is known as the James MacPherson Family and are descendants of the Angus Elder MacPherson (1788-1878) who married Katharine McCraw (1800-1882). (Anyone who is interested in seeing this family's tree please let me know.)

Although I didn't get a chance to tell them more about my position as Registrar for the Canadian Branch, Clan MacPherson Association, I let them know that I will be back soon if that is alright to talk further about our families and perhaps they will consider joining our interesting association.

I did let them know there likely will be clan events near them next year and that they may want to meet some of their cousins. They said yes it sounds good and we exchanged email addresses and then said our goodbyes.

We really enjoyed the visit with this MacPherson family and truly enjoyed their sense of humour.

I do hope their brother is well and back home soon. There was so much more I could write about here, but I'll save it for my next adventure after I visit more Macpherson cousins.



Mushrooms growing near the Badenoch Community Centre gate

NEW CANADIAN BRANCH MEMBER

By Ian Smythe



It is with great pleasure to learn that my earliest known origins trace back to the sept Gow or Smith of Clan Macpherson, and quite possibly back to the celebrated armourer known as Gow Chrom or Henry, the smith of the Wynd, of Perth. This sept was born out of Clan Macpherson's face-off at that bizarre dual known as the Battle of North Inch in 1397. Thanks to Y-DNA science I am able to confirm matches to the Macpherson clan and others who trace their origin to the former clan territory of Invernesshire.

In my early 20's I joined the Legion pipe band and have been piping up until recently while participating in all of the traditional highland events ever since, as well as my daughter being a highland dancer.

My earliest known Smith ancestor from clan Macpherson was a soldier recruited into the Dutch-Scots brigade in the later 1600's. Countries from mainland Europe sent ships to Scottish ports to recruit soldiers for their armies when needed, and my ancestor was probably recruited in Inverness. In a Dutch marriage record, 1690, he is recorded as Ooldert Smit, soldier, born in Scotland, married to a Dutch widow. He was a sergeant and following the Nine Years War and the Glorious Revolution, was paid off with land in Ireland. (probably a lease-for-life on forfeited land) After several generations in Ireland, my line emigrated to Shawville, Quebec and later migrated to North Dakota, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

As an occupational name, the family has lived up to it with a history of blacksmithing and the metal trades. I am a millwright, like my father before me, and was employed through the Alberta Millwright's Local Union for 20 years. I left the local in 2016 to work for the Correctional Service of Canada at the medium security institution at Mission, British Columbia in the facilities department for over two years. Returning to Edmonton, I am now employed as an Electro-mechanical specialist for Canada Post at the main parcel sorting plant. I wore a uniform much of my life – six years in sea cadets and twelve more in the reserve.

In a continuation of my strong interest in heritage and family history, I purchased an early family house from my parents in 2008 whereupon it was formally registered as a Municipal Historic Resource. It was a major undertaking for me as I had the house restored from top to bottom, including replacing the foundation. The house was built in 1908 and is known as The William Wood Residence. (the original family that occupied it).

I married a woman that I met in the Philippines while traveling through south-east Asia in the early 1990s. My son Sidney is with the RCAF and posted to Trenton, ON while my daughter Lillian is studying Recreation, Sports and Tourism at the

University of Alberta. Lily is a rugby athlete playing for the national team of the Philippines (The Volcanoes), as well as for the UofA and a local rugby club.

On a final note, it has been 275 years since the Battle of Culloden and the disbursement of the original clan societies. It is therefore all the more remarkable that clan associations continue to thrive, honouring the tradition and memory of our ancestors that date back to medieval times while continuing to promote the fellowship of us, their descendants. Surely, there are no other societies like ours in the world. Long may they live.

EDITOR'S & ATLANTIC CANADA REPORT

By John C. House



The ongoing pandemic continues to impact activities throughout Atlantic Canada. Nevertheless, life goes on as many people are now vaccinated and many of the restrictions have now been lifted.

As most are aware, this part of Canada is noted for its historic Scottish roots and traditions. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) recently published a story about a local Nova Scotian TikToker named Cory Matheson (whose Gaelic name is Coraidh MacMhathain), who recently started making videos to demonstrate how Celtic languages, including Scottish Gaelic, have influenced current words and common questions that people use today. His most popular videos are a series on Celtic influences in everyday language in Atlantic Canada. For example, Mr. Matheson explains how the use of "right" as an adverb came about — as in "it is right windy outside." He explains that it is rooted in the Welsh (or Cymraeg) word "reit," meaning "very." The is also one on that quick intake of breath to mean yes, which Matheson calls the "Gaelic gasp." He said it was passed down from the region's Scottish and Irish ancestors who would likely have used the words "tha" or "aye" with the gasp to show agreement.

Matheson also has an explanation for the common East Coast question: who's your father? It comes from the Scots or Irish phrase "who do you belong to?" which was very important because a lot of people had the same name. He was inspired to create the series after interacting with people outside of the Atlantic region who were confused by some of his expressions. Anyone interested in this can find the full CBC story at the following link.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/who-s-your-father-nova-scotia-man-shares-gaelic-origins-atlantic-phrases-on-tiktok-1.6264779>

There are links there to Cory Matheson's videos.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.