



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 15 Number 2

SUMMER ISSUE

July, 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

By Denise Lagundzin



Greetings Cousins,

Despite the beautiful weather, after having a discussion with R.T. McPherson, the US Chairman, we decided to cancel the planned Joint Canadian/US Joint 2021 Gathering.

The next Joint US/Canadian Gathering will be hosted by our American cousins in 2025, more details will follow. This year's Canadian AGM will be held in Zoom again. We have some activities planned which will make the event fun! Please keep Saturday September 25, 2021 open for these meetings.

We must make some changes to our Canadian Constitution as there are now different types of memberships which need to be mentioned. The Executive meeting will be held at 10:30 am and the General Meeting at 1:00 pm.

There are still the Quebec and Central Ontario Councillor positions open. Please consider standing for one of these positions.

Although most of the Highland Games and Festivals have been cancelled for 2021, there are some games which are being held in virtual events.

The Glengarry Games will be presenting a series of online entertainment to give everyone a little taste of the Games. The Pipers and Pipe Band Society of Ontario (PPBSO) is presenting six online contests for solo piping and drumming open to all its members.

The Games in Cobourg, Ontario may go ahead at a later date according to their website. Stay tuned for more details or check out their website -<https://www.cobourghighlandgames.ca/>

This pandemic has proven that we are all strong and adaptable. Hang in there, normal may soon return.

I hope to see many of you at our AGM. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me or any member of Council.

Please be safe and kind.

Denise Lagundzin,
Chairman, Canadian Branch

POEM BY PAULINE MCCREADIE

Stewarton, Scotland



Doon the street.
It's time to go the messages.
I'm going down the street.

I wonder if we'll have a natter.
If my pals and I meet.
I need to go to the butchers.

Fir a bone for the dug.
It's a bonny wee mongrel.
Not a flashy pug.

I need to go to the grocers.
For a pat oh butter fresh.
I hope I'm wae up the queue.

Would be awful if there's nothing left.
I need to get the fish in.
Some nice trout for Friday's tea.

Along wae peas and tumpshies.
The best meal all week.
I need to buy some washin powder.

To take to the steamie.
Where I always have a gossip.
Wae our wee Jeannie.

My prams all ready.
The wean is nice and snug.
All wrapped up

Like a bug in a rug.
I've got ma shoes oan.
The ones that make me maw.

Shame they're no the right size.
They don't fit ataw.
Its no easy being a Mammy.

So many jobs to be done.
I'm glad I'm still a wean.
And I'm only playing, having fun.

ACTING REGISTRAR'S REPORT

By Beverly McPherson Letford



Since there is no Clan news to report, I thought I would tell you a little bit about myself and my piece of Clan family history. I was born Beverly Ann McPherson in Fenwick, Ontario. I have always been immensely proud, passionate and interested in my McPherson roots. Even as a child, I sat in awe listening to the stories told by visiting McPherson relatives, of where and how they lived and learning of their legacy. As a teen, I would drive through the Niagara Peninsula countryside on the weekends looking for hideaway country graveyards and documenting any McPherson graves I found. I still have those records.



Beverly and Duart Munro Letford

My husband, Duart Munro Letford and I live in Port Colborne, Ontario. I retired from a career with the Provincial Government in 2014. Number one on my bucket list after retirement was to, at least once, attend the Macpherson gathering in Scotland. What great memories Duart and I had in 2014 attending our first gathering. We were thrilled to meet our cousins and felt so welcomed there and to be part of the Clan. It made me realize, as I observed cousins that weekend, that they have some of the same blood that I do which makes me feel like a real McPherson! My father is Clare Leighton McPherson, born in Gainsborough Township, St. Ann's, Ontario, and my mother is Jean Martha Horn, born in Poland.



McPherson family photo

My father was better known as "Bill" or "Willy". My grandfather is Ernest McPherson (see picture below-Ernest at 7 years old). My father's mother is Faith (nee Honeybun) Lambert McPherson and she came over from England. Ernest was born in Gainsborough Township, St. Ann's, Ontario. Ernest was the ninth born of four-

teen children. (One sibling, Will, is not in this picture as he ran off- he did not want to have his picture taken!) My great grandfather and great grandmother are Ezra McPherson and Amanda Crowe (shown in picture holding twins), both born in Gainsborough Township, St. Ann's.



Lane's Cemetery, St. Ann's.

The most interesting cemetery is Lane's Cemetery, on Twenty Road, St. Ann's. Many of the early McPherson Pioneers from the surrounding area are buried here, dating back to 1797 as shown on the gatepost in this picture. Reaching fur-

ther back in my McPherson lineage, I inherited a copy of a handwritten McPherson family tree, which I believe in the 1940s was the beginning of consolidating McPherson names and dates that was compiled by Allan Macpherson's family living in Gainsborough Township. The earliest date on this huge 48" x 36" family tree is 1762. The earliest name on this family tree is Archibald Macpherson with five of his children named, all from Perthshire, Scotland. Only some of his children came over to settle in North America, as the family tree indicates.

Recently, while renewing my membership to the Canadian Clan Macpherson Association, I was offered an opportunity to become even closer to the Macpherson clan by accepting the position of Acting Registrar in our Canadian Branch of Clan Macpherson Association.

I am still getting through the learning curve that comes with a few technical setbacks, but I have a great teacher in Denise, Chairman. Apart from this marvellous opportunity, I already have several ongoing bucket list obligations, such as continuing old masters art lessons in portrait painting at an atelier, a clogger, resuming violin lessons when studio opens up, a dedicated gardener, strong in my faith and my community, and wildlife enthusiast with seasonal access to our camp on the French River.

I am truly thankful for this opportunity and have added the Registrar duties to my already fun calendar. I am looking forward to the September AGM when I am officially voted into the Registrar position and can drop the "Acting".

I cannot wait to meet more and more of my cousins!! A dream for me has truly come true!!

In closing, don't forget to please keep me updated with any changes in telephone numbers, addresses or life changes.

Thank you.

Beverly McPherson Letford

Acting Registrar

TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The clan association is in good shape financially as of the end of May. We have \$10,866 in our current account and \$11,527 in our Life Membership Fund.

We are showing a gain of \$1,107 year to date at the end of May. The gain is largely because we have received memberships and remittances are not

due.

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 virtual clan gathering on September 25, 2021 and in person next year, when hopefully the COVID-19 epidemic will have passed.

DEADLINE FOR AUTUMN ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the Autumn issue are due on the Editor's desk by September 15th, 2021. 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

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

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John C House, MOM, FSA Scot, Eastern Canada
Bruce McPherson, Western Ontario
Robert T. Macpherson, Western Canada
D'Arcy McPherson, British Columbia

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Inquiries and articles may be sent by email to
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ONTARIO WEST REPORT

By Bruce McPherson



Greetings again from southwestern Ontario! I am writing this update as we all continue to live through the restrictions and risks associated with the COVID pandemic. This virus has challenged all of us in our ability to remain connected in a world where visit-

ing and speaking with each other face to face can only be done in certain situations and usually, when it does occur behind a mask and/or face shield. It is a challenging time which many of us will be pleased to see past.

It is interesting to think back on the early Scots MacPhersons who immigrated to Canada. For those of us like myself who draw connections in our family tree to MacPhersons who immigrated in the 1700s, we can now imagine what it would have been like to board the ships to sail away from connections, family and history and start afresh in remote country.

Today, we have the wonders of Skype, Facetime and Zoom to easily call and see our family. One or two generations ago, we would have only had the phone to hear each other's voices and 1-2 generations prior to that, only the written word which could take months to receive. Stretching even further back, we can imagine a world where immigrating and leaving Scotland would mean a total separation from everything known. I think it important to look back as we start to see the end of the pandemic and the return to life pre – March 2020. We will see the end to the virus and the isolation, many of our ancestors wouldn't. Many would never return to see the nation of their family and, if your family is anything like mine, it will take generations to re-connect with your family ties and culture.

For those of you who have some time, while the world's pace continues to be quite sluggish, write down your family's stories and when this is done, share them. The information you share will help keep the MacPherson family name alive and help feed curiosity and interest in both this association and the greater Clan.

Slainte!



Ruins on the Isle of Iona

AN ARMY PIPER'S STORY

By Hugh Macpherson



In this and future editions of the Green Banner, we will benefit from the writings of Pipe Major Hugh Macpherson, an author of several books related to his experiences and a Piper in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, he first began learning to play the bagpipes in Saskatoon at 13 years of age.

In 1964, at 17 years of age, he joined The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, where he served as an infantry piper with the First Battalion at Camp Gagetown, New Brunswick. In 1967 he travelled across the continent by train as one of the pipers on the Canadian Centennial Tattoo.

Leaving the army, he moved to Ontario and worked as a daily newspaper reporter on the St. Catharines Standard and, after a short time with the Clan McFarlane Pipe Band, led the Welland Police Pipe Band to a Grade Three North American Championship at Burlington, Ontario in 1970.

The following year he went back into the army, joining Second Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment and undergoing Combat Leader and Infantry Section Commander training. He served as an infantry corporal piper in New Brunswick and Cyprus.

He was privileged to attend the year-long British Army Pipe Majors' Course at Edinburgh Castle, Scotland and graduated first in his class in May 1975.

Upon graduation he was assigned to form an air force volunteer band at Canadian Forces Base Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, after which he served as pipe major of Canadian Forces Europe at Lahr, West Germany 1977 - 1982.

He returned to Portage la Prairie for two years before attending one year of French language training. This was followed by the CF Senior Leadership Academy.

Following that he was pipe major at Canadian Forces Base Greenwood in Nova Scotia until 1988 when he returned as pipe major of Second Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment. In 1990 2 RCR Pipes & Drums won the Grade III North American Championship at Maxville, Ontario.

From April 1992 until his retirement, he served as pipe major of Air Command Pipes & Drums in Ottawa, achieving the rank of Chief Warrant Officer in 1995 as the Canadian Forces Senior Pipe Major. During that period he also held the appointment as Personal Piper to successive Governors General of Canada.

Pipe Major Macpherson retired with over 34 years of service in September 2000 and in 2004 earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Cum Laude) in History from the University of Ottawa.

In November 2004 Scott's Highland Services of London, Ontario published his first book, "Pipers of The Canadian Regular Army 1950 - 2000". Two years later "A Piper's American Odyssey" was published by Penumbra Press of Manotick, Ontario. In March 2021 Commoners' Press of Ottawa published his third book 'An Army Piper's Stories'.

He has been married since 1969 to Susan Macpherson (née Parnall) of St. Catharines, Ontario, and has two married children – Professor Iain Macpherson PhD at Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton and Victoria Macpherson-Hayes BSc, RN in Toronto.

The following is an example of his writing:

SORRY APHRODITE, MA'AM

I admit that I have always been a slipshod thinker – we who like to call ourselves “big picture” men. Throughout a long career I had partners in crime who came along, shook their heads in frustration and picked up the pieces to make things happen. When they weren't there I always got into difficulties.

Today I was speaking to my granddaughter Sato in Edmonton – 12 years old – she has decided to be the Roman Goddess Diana the Huntress (the Greek Artemis) for a play at school.

In 1973 2nd Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment was on U.N. peacekeeping duty on the island of Cyprus at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. When off-duty some of us would tour about to see the ancient sites.

On Christmas Day, I decided that I simply must swim in the sea. Soft sand and the undertow took me; I was face-down and headed for Turkey when some rich Greek man from a nearby apartment overheard my friends yelling and, dressed in his festive finery and dragging his poor wife's silk bedsheets behind him, ran down onto the beach and enlisted my distraught colleagues in a rescue operation – he saved the regiment the loss of their most handsome, charming and debonair soldier!

I cannot remember which pipers and drummers were with me on this particular day – maybe piper Joey Muir from Glengarry County was guilty. Certainly drummer St. Amand, who later became the only married Roman Catholic priest in Canada as chaplain at a hospital in London, Ontario, was enthusiastically there. What superb characters and musicians we were lucky to have in that Pipes & Drums!

That morning we had found a huge rock by the shore near Paphos. I sloppily 'recognized' it as the place where “Diana or some goddess like that” had washed ashore.

I had mistaken Diana for Aphrodite – Goddess of the sea (or Venus, if you like) – who had reputedly drifted in at that place stark naked on a huge shell. I encouraged my friends to clamber up to the top of the boulder with our beer and my bagpipe. They drank – I played a celebratory piobaireachd – The Old Men of the Shells – for 'Diana' and off we went!

That day Aphrodite very nearly got her watery revenge for my shoddy note-taking!

MESSAGE FROM THE CMA CHAIRMAN

By Bill Macpherson



This will be my last opportunity to address the Canada Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association (CMA) as your Association Chairman. Chairmen serve for 3 years (maximum 5 years) according to the CMA Constitution, so at this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in August I hand over the reins to my Vice Chairman, Bonnie

MacPherson.

It has been an 'interesting' 3 years! I think it was Confucius who said "May the Lord protect me from living in interesting times". 'Interesting times' can be a bit like 'exciting flights' (which I have done) - not necessarily fun. Boredom, occasionally, can be good.

I have obviously missed some of the opportunities usually available to Chairmen to meet our members at Gatherings and AGMs. I only made 1 Canada Branch AGM as Chairman (although another at Kingston as a visiting member in Canada at the right time) and I am sorry I didn't manage to meet more of you. Canada has always held a special place in my consciousness and I do hope to make it over again.

Chairmanship of the CMA, however, is far more than 'glad-handing' at events. The work of the CMA has continued unabated, and I thank all the members of the CMA Council and the Branch Committees for continuing the work of keeping the organisation functioning and maintaining contact with the world-wide membership during this trying time.

Although it is practically easier to attend virtual meetings, it is far more difficult to make them as effective as in-person meetings, and I think your Council has done remarkably well to adapt to the change. We do look forward, however, to the time when, once again, we can shake hands in person.

I am glad to say that, at the moment, the annual Gathering in Badenoch is going ahead. I say "at the moment" because the one thing that the last year has taught us is the truth of Burns' words "The best-laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft agley".

It is likely to be a smaller Gathering than usual, and we are expecting fewer overseas members joining the throng; but those who make it will be a welcome sight in Badenoch. Providing the Gathering does go ahead, the CMA AGM will be an in person affair, but the various reports will be available for download from the website and the Minutes will be in next year's Creag Dhubh as usual.

In this last year we have also seen the loss of a number of 'well-kent' members of the Association, the loss of each one not only a source of great sadness to their family, but also to the wider circle of the CMA.

None more so, of course, than our 27th Chief and Association President, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie. Cluny, as he was known to all, died in February and speaking personally I miss his leadership, friendship and humour. We

are fortunate, however, that he leaves us his son who I am sure will follow his father's footsteps in a similar vein.

We welcome as our 28th Chief, James (Jamie) Brodie Macpherson of Cluny. Bill, ex-Canada Branch Chairman, wrote a very good obituary of Cluny in the last edition of the Green Banner but it would be remiss of me not to think on Bill's own loss, his lovely wife Irene. My memories of Irene all start with her great smile, laugh and sense of humour.

I leave you with the Celtic blessing:

"May the road rise up to meet you,

May the wind be ever at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face

And the rain fall softly on your fields.

Until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of his hand."

Yours aye,

Bill

EDITOR'S REPORT

By John C. House



The pandemic continues to impact various events in the region, including Highland Games and other Scottish festivals. It is hoped that things will return to normal for the 2022 season.

I encourage members to contribute stories and news for publication in the Green Banner.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Canada's iconic fishing schooner, the Bluenose, that is featured on Canada's 10 cent coin. If you are going to be in the Atlantic region this summer, there are a number of in-person events scheduled, as well as lots of virtual events for those who can't come here this summer. Information can be found at <https://bluenose100.ca/>.



Bluenose II in Halifax Harbour, Nova Scotia