



# The Green Banner Newsletter

Canadian Branch of Clan Macpherson Association

Volume 1, Issue Number 2

Summer Issue

August 2022

Greetings cousins,

I was given two wonderful gifts recently showing my Vance-MacPherson lineage.

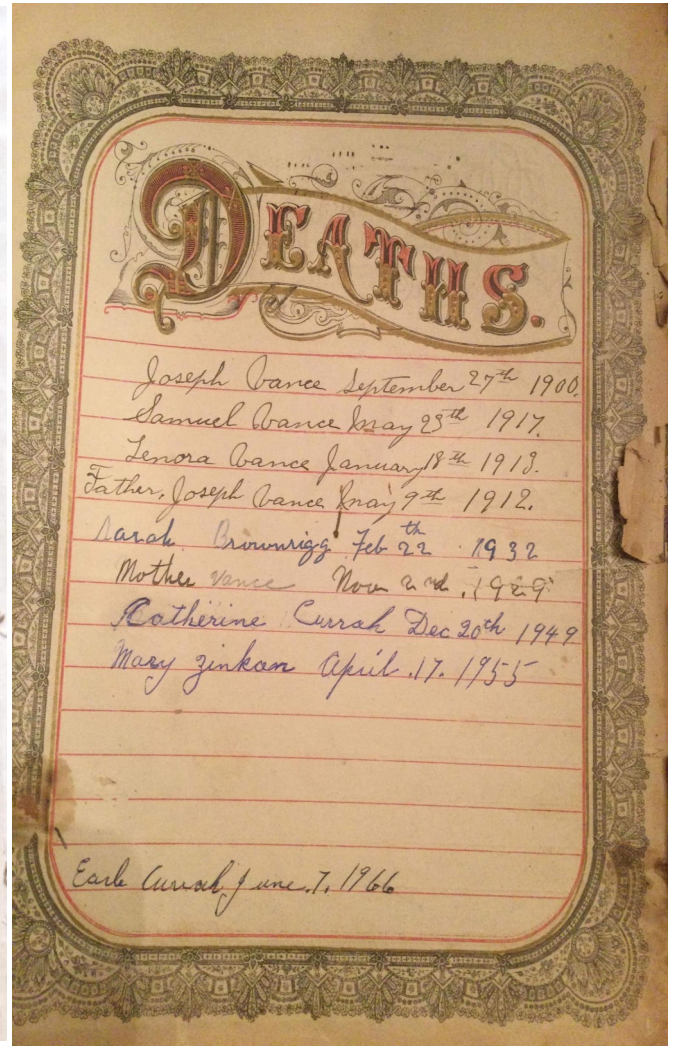
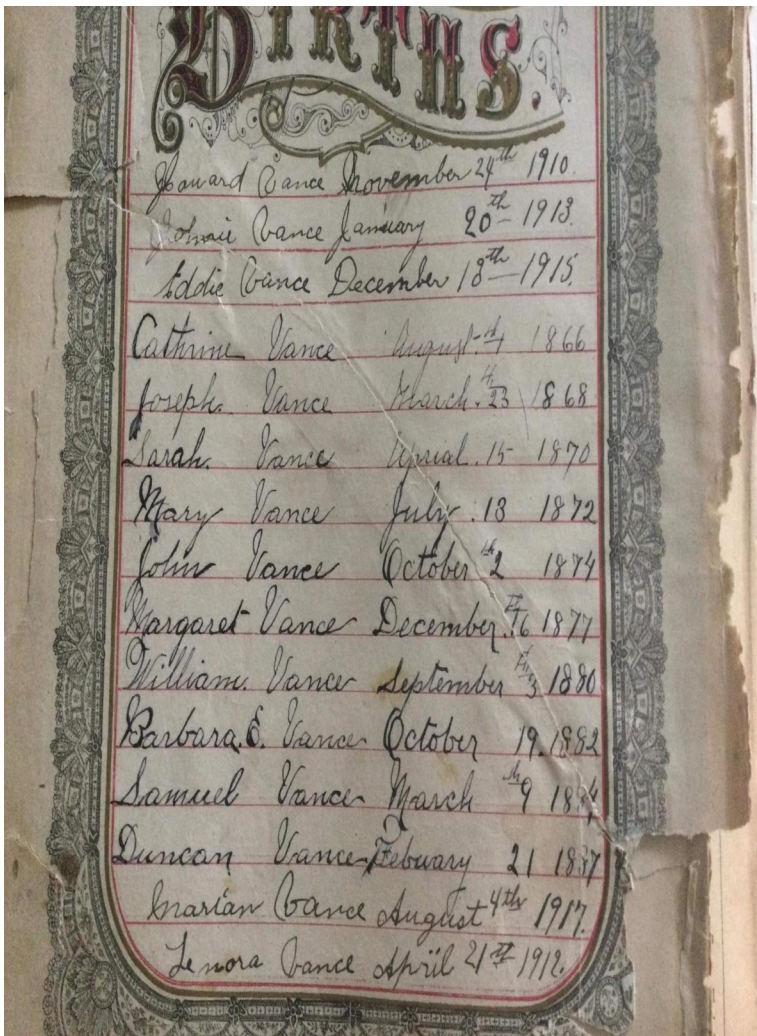
The first being this picture of Joseph Vance and Margaret MacPherson with their 10 children and son-in-law John Currah. Margaret MacPherson was born on South Uist the daughter of John MacPherson and Catherine MacAuley.

The second gift is the Vance Family Bible printed in 1886 listing the births and deaths of their family. Pictures are posted on the next page.





This is Joseph and Margaret's family Bible. Such a treasure!







## Remarks by Cluny on the occasion of the Opening of the Macpherson Museum, Friday 5th August 2022

Friends, Cousins:

Today's event has been billed as a 'formal re-opening' of the Clan Macpherson Museum and in a few minutes I am going to invite you all to do just that - to raise your glasses to the prosperity of our Museum as together we open the latest chapter in the Museum's illustrious history.

Opened in 1952 by my wife's Grandmother, the Clan Macpherson Museum was unique even then, the first ever clan museum in existence in the country, if not the world. In just two rooms it housed artefacts rescued from Cluny Castle following the sale of the estates in 1943, a small collection of treasures of massive importance and significance to those who bear the name Macpherson and to the wider community.

Since those early days, the Museum has enjoyed two extensions and most recently it has benefitted from a new roof. In 2007, the Museum was awarded Visit Scotland's four-star rating, an accolade we have proudly retained to this day.

Over the years, the collection has expanded with acquisitions and further donations and over time the manner in which the collection has been presented has also changed, whether in reality or virtually. One of our exciting innovations some years ago was the development of the Electronic Museum, taking artefacts to those never fortunate to visit the Museum in person wherever they might be across the world. We intend to build on this in the future with a new and interactive website, harnessing the best to match our ambitions.

In its most recent incarnation, emerging from Covid 19 quarantine like a butterfly, the Museum now abounds with colour and light, a series of interconnected galleries taking the visitor through different chapters of our history, familiar and traditional themes wonderfully presented to capture the imagination, inform and delight.

Not only that, we now have a theatre area, a dedicated space for children and an expanded shopping area which will particularly focus on the work of local artists.

We also have a new Curator, Aila, under whose leadership the Museum is setting out to forge new and lasting relationships across the local and wider communities, and building a network of volunteers to help run and manage the Museum. Since her arrival in April, it has been wonderful to hear her recount the tales of new visitors to the Museum, some of whom have not darkened our doorstep in years.

Many of you will be familiar with the *Talks from the Museum* series which are being broadcast across the internet monthly throughout the year and of the programme of events taking place this Autumn that are designed to highlight aspects of our collection and to entice to the Museum new visitors of all age groups, including children from the local schools. Out-of-season events are also being developed including a Christmas Special!

As Macphersons, we are all immensely proud to be part of the history of this wonderful part of Scotland and hope that our historic and contemporary links to Badenoch will be strengthened through all that we do in and around the Museum.

Spanning the last seventy years, countless numbers of people have been and are involved in creating and maintaining the Museum we have today: funding bodies and government agencies from whom we have received grants, Friends and Guardians of the Museum, generous visitors, people from afar who have raised money for us, office bearers and committee members. And not just Macphersons - members of the local community and people much further afield.

I could mention numerous people by name but will not on this occasion - there are just too many and it would be invidious to single out a few: this Museum is their Museum and to them all we owe an enormous debt of gratitude.

If you have not volunteered to support the Museum in some way, I would like to encourage you to do so. I am proud to say that I'm now involved in developing the Museum shop and have high expectations of my children too!

In Ewen MacPherson's newly published and highly recommended book, *The Clan Macpherson: Trials, Triumphs & Treasures*, reference is made to the Museum as a Jewel in the Crown of Scotland. As all those who visit the Museum this weekend and in the future will testify, our crown has just got even brighter!





Clansmen and women, the people of Badenoch present here today, friends and supporters of the Museum - some not present and yet others no longer with us, as your Chief, I invite you all to raise a glass to those that had the foresight to set up the Museum 70 years ago and those, donors, public agencies and contributors of time, energy and imagination, who have enabled it to reach this, the next stage of its development -  
Newtonmore's Clan Macpherson Museum,  
reborn and reinvigorated,  
a Jewel in the Crown of Scotland: the Museum.



## *From the desk of the CMA Chairman Bonnie A. McPherson*

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Email [Cma.chairman@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:Cma.chairman@clan-macpherson.org)

Hello to all Canadian friends and family,

The curtains have closed on a very successful gathering in our homeland of Scotland. The last count I received was 179 CMA members and friends attended the Gathering and AGM this year. It was great seeing everyone in person and doing a lot of catching up since the last time we were able to meet. Beautiful weather greeted us and stayed throughout the weekend. I saw several Canadian friends and I am hopeful that many more will join us next year. Plans are underway already and information will be circulated to everyone in the 2023 Creag Dhùbh.

Many pictures and stories are already appearing on the CMA Facebook page and the CMA Museum Facebook page. It was great to see Ed Smith, Chris Demler, and Bob and Sylvia Macpherson. I hope their stories and pictures will entice you to join us next year in Badenoch. The Canadian AGM and Gathering is around the corner. Another great event to gather together. My door is always open. Call, write email or even stop by!

Slainte,

*Bonnie*







## Beverly McPherson Letford Registrar's Report

As covid restrictions lessened, our registrations seemed to increase. It has been a good year even though covid is still hanging onto our world. I had the good fortune and so proud of registering 12 new annual members this year. I hope to continue this trend as 2022 is now half over. The more that I meet new people and ask for their last name, the more I learn the ones who belong to our Clan Macpherson. I act on the knowledge and give them the good news that they too can belong to the Clan Macpherson Association and explain all the benefits of belonging to this growing clan.

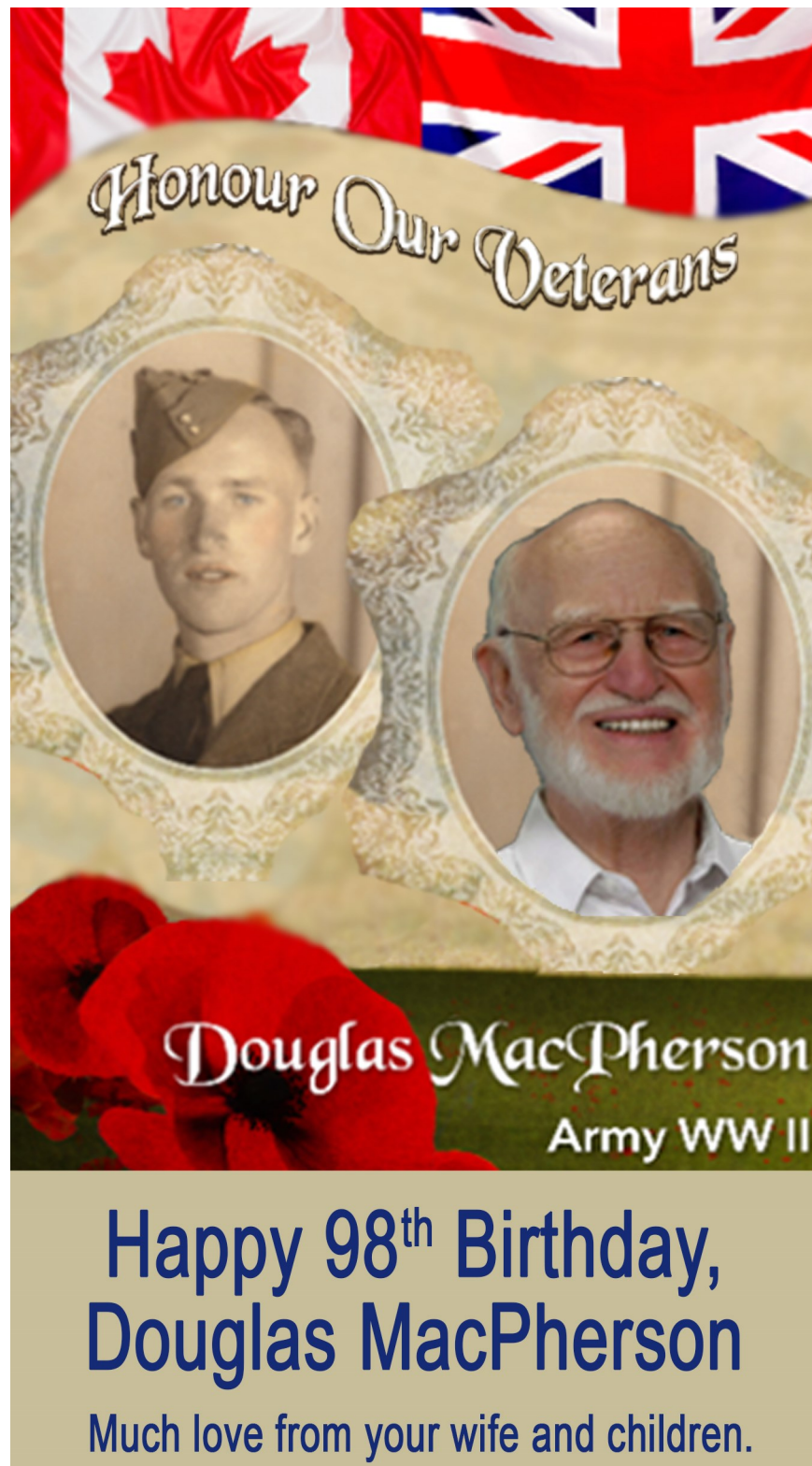
Attending the Fergus Scottish Festival 2022, I had another good fortune of camping beside a family of Gillies. It was my privilege to discuss possible Clan Macpherson memberships for all four of the Gillies. At our Macpherson Clan tent, it seemed to me that there were a large number of interested people asking us about the clan and how they can join. So many wonderful people out there and so little time to register them over the weekend. Lessons learned that next year it would be helpful to have an ample supply of the new membership forms with us.

Congratulations to Chris and Gina Cain., Douglas MacPherson and Bruce Gillis. Please enjoy their announcements and success stories.



Please welcome Henry James Russell  
born in Kingston Ontario on June 20,  
2022.

Henry is the son of Rebecca and Cameron  
Russell and grandson of Life Member  
Chris Cain and his wife Gina Cain.



Douglas MacPherson, Lifetime member of the Clan MacPherson Association (he has the framed letter to prove it! And he signed up the whole family!) Born in 1924 in Saint John NB to George and Margaret MacPherson. Was in WW2. Lifetime member of the Commercial Travelers. Legion member. Business Owner. now long retired. Married to Betty. Children: Malcom, David and Carolyn.





British Columbia Report  
D'Arcy McPherson

### **REGIONAL UPDATE – BRITISH COLUMBIA**

The summer of '22 has been an active one in B.C. with those who hold things Scottish dear in their hearts once again venturing out and enjoying events and the broader community.

The 159<sup>th</sup> Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival, a two-day festival, was attended by more than 20,000 spectators and enjoyed by many more as it was livestreamed on CHEK television! In addition to the traditional events, the Canadian Forces Skyhawks parachutists were on hand and the Strathcona Mounted Troop performed on both days. The 160<sup>th</sup> gathering is expected to offer even more, so mark your calendars for May 20 and 21, 2023. Next year, it would be great to see a Clan MacPherson presence.



Photo above: Wee dancers preparing to wow the onlookers in Victoria.

The largest event of the season in B.C. is the ScotFestBC Highland Games, this year held on July 17 and 18 at Lafarge Lake. There were many events, including competitions, a wide variety of musical entertainment and even whiskey tasting workshops that were very well attended. Even greater attendance is expected from June 16 to 18, 2023.



Photo above: Scottish Country Dancing at the 2022 BC Highland Games

A relative newcomer to the Highland Games circuit is the Campbell River Highland Gathering, held from August 5 to 7, 2022, as part of the Campbell River Salmonfest. This year was the fourth gathering and was a huge success. The competitions included pipes and drums, massed bands, highland dance and heavy games. There were many kiosks and displays as well as opportunities for a hearty meal and a tidy tipple. They have already begun planning for August 2023!



Photo above: Mt. Arrowsmith Pipe Band – Grade IV medley winners

Finally, a big congratulations goes out to the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band drum corps that won the World Pipe Band Championship top drumming prize on Saturday, August 13, in Glasgow, Scotland.



Photo above: Simon Fraser University Pipe Band

So onward we go to the fall when it is expected that there will be a lot of activity around St. Andrews Day and beyond.

All the best, cousins!

D'Arcy McPherson





## Western Canada Report By Robert Macpherson

I was very pleased to represent our Canadian Clan members at the Clan Gathering in Scotland this summer along with Ed Smith, Chris Demler and my wife, Sylvia. I had the honour of carrying the Canada flag in the march from Old Ralia to the Eilan (Newtonmore Shinty Ground).

We had spent some days ahead of time in Aberfeldy and when we arrived in Newtonmore it was just in time to be part of the Clan group picture taken in front of the newly renovated Clan museum. The usual activities were scheduled for the weekend: Highland dress ball, AGM, Clan march, the ceilidh, the Sunday church service and the picnic. Also, a "walk" up Craig Breagh led by Angus Macpherson on Monday morning. It was a great way to end the gathering.

One of the highlights of the weekend was to witness the welcoming of our new clan chief, Jamie Macpherson who will proudly and capably follow in his father's footsteps and reminded us that he, like his father, is "first among equals"

It was a very successful gathering with excellent weather and lots of opportunities to greet familiar "cousins" and meet new ones. All too soon the gathering was over but we are left with fond memories and anticipation of the next one. A tremendous thank you must be extended to all those people – association officers as well as volunteers who helped to make the gathering a success.



The colors and swordsmen of the Clan Macpherson and The Clan Macpherson Association



## Ontario East and Quebec Report by Chantal McPherson

This Summer, I was thrilled to participate in the Montreal Highland Games, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Douglas Hospital Grounds, Montreal, as host of the Clan Macpherson tent.

Having attended high-school nearby, and with the clan tents being located on my old track-and-field practice route, it was great to be back on familiar soil.

I was delighted to speak with visitors, many of whom were curious about Bob Archibald's sign "The Associated Families" of Clan Macpherson – onlookers would eagerly read the list of names, exclaiming with enthusiasm when their surname was found. A fantastic conversation starter! Thank you, Bob, for lending us your beautiful, handcrafted, sign; a fantastic, interactive, addition to the tent.

The sunny Canadian summer's day flew by, to the sound of visiting highland bands. See you in Montreal, next year!







Central Ontario Report  
Jacqueline Murdock

Greetings cousins from the Beaches!!

I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer so far. It has been lovely to be active outside in the wonderful weather that south-central Ontario has been enjoying this year. I have been busy nearly every weekend since the May long weekend. I have taken up backpacking and hiking with a vengeance and have been visiting Ontario's beautiful provincial parks. When I have been at home, I have been either dog sitting or spending time with my granddaughter who turned six this spring.

The Fergus Scottish Festival was held earlier this month. I unfortunately had stepped on a wasp the day before, resulting in a swollen instep, so I was unable to attend. But I hear there was a wonderful contingent representing Clan Macpherson. I look forward to hearing about the highlights from everyone who was able to attend.

The 71st Annual Gathering is coming up the weekend of September 30th. I hope that there will be a good turnout this year and that after two years of cancellations, everyone will be able to connect again.

In past years we had arranged both casual get-togethers and more formal events such as St Andrews ball or Robbie Burns dinners. Hopefully we can arrange a couple of varied events to connect later this fall and this coming winter. Reach out to me and let me know if there is any interest in these events again. We could have a casual lunch, go for walks in local gardens, or try and arrange larger events. Let us know!

In the meantime, enjoy the rest of your summer, and I hope to see you soon!

Jacqueline Murdoch



## Ontario West Report By Bruce McPherson

Greetings again from Ontario's western region! I thought it may be of interest to those who have not travelled in southern Ontario to reflect on some of the communities that are present with a high degree of Scottish influence. Traveling north from the extreme southwest, where I live, you will find names of communities such as Baldoon (the former settlement formed by Lord Selkirk), Wallaceburg (named for William Wallace), Iona Station, Port Glasgow, Glencoe, Cromarty, Embro, Ailsa Craig, Caledonia, Kincardine, Tobermory, Paisley, Shetland, Fergus and Badenoch (outside Guelph) to name just a few. Many counties, especially the ones with close ties to Scotland have their own tartan. It should give us all pride in our heritage, knowing that such a relatively small nation has given rise to so many centers. As you drive around this fall season, I encourage you to also take notice the communities in your region influenced by Scots. It would be interesting to know how many Macphersons helped form these towns! I would not at all be surprised to find out that we had a hand in many of them,  
Slainte!

### **HELP WANTED**

LOOKING TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR CLAN?

THE POSITIONS OF VICE CHAIRMAN AND EDITOR  
ARE OPEN.

FOR MORE DETAILS ON WHAT IS INVOLVED, PLEASE  
CONTACT A MEMBER OF YOUR EXECUTIVE.





## Treasurer's Report Ken Gillis

The clan association is in good shape financially as of almost the end of August. We have \$7,692 in our current account and \$11,131 in our Life Membership Fund. We are showing a loss of \$1,447 year to date. The loss is largely because of the deposit of \$2100 paid to secure our Gathering venue.

The Gathering is usually self supporting. I expect that once everything for the Gathering is settled, we will again return to a positive position for the year.

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

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL MACPHERSONS COUSINS!



Congratulations to Chelsey Macpherson of Puslinch for dancing at the Fergus Festival and Highland Games. Chelsey is the great niece of Donald, John, and Robert Macpherson (Hwy 6 South and Macphersons Lane, Puslinch ( granddaughter of late Kenneth Macpherson) and first female born to this branch of the family in 99 years, 10 months.





Congratulations to W. Bruce Gillis for being awarded The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. Bruce is on the far left, then Sandy MacMillan and the presenter is Brendan S. Cook, Base Commander (14 Wing Greenwood),



CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES  
TO  
ELLE AND ANGUS!



*Autumn in the Scottish Highlands proved the most magical of seasons for the intimate wedding of Canadian Elle McPherson-Yoon and British groom Angus Tweedie, who share Scottish ancestry.*

**How did you meet?** "We met in 2017, in Venice, Italy, at a 60s-themed party hosted by our mutual friend."

**How did your partner propose?** "Following nearly three years of dating long distance, between London and Toronto, Angus fittingly proposed at the arrivals gate of Toronto Pearson Airport."

**How would you describe the style of your wedding?** "My first references for the wedding stemmed from some of my favourite places in New York's Manhattan (where I studied fine and decorative arts with Sotheby's Institute): Bemelmans Bar and The Waverly Inn. On Angus's suggestion, we then booked the hotel, which houses a museum-worthy art collection curated by Hauser & Wirth, and combined our shared Scottish ancestry with my studies in art history."

**Were there any specific styling details?** "I walked down the aisle with my father to a string rendition of Elgar's *Nimrod*, a British composer, in homage to my husband-to-be. My sister-in-law Helen caught the bouquet, before Angus and I were escorted to our reception in a bow-bedecked Land Rover. Upon returning to The Fife Arms (where we stayed), our guests gathered for an outdoor cocktail hour in the courtyard, beneath the gaze of a Louise Bourgeois sculpture, surrounded by cosy fire pits, while Angus and I took photos and changed into our reception outfits. We then all enjoyed an inspired

tasting menu by head chef Marcus Sherry, which showcased local Scottish ingredients and honoured my Korean and Canadian heritages. In lieu of dancing [off limits due to Covid restrictions], we cut into our cake and capped the evening off with a whisky tasting hosted by The Macallan and enjoyed a cracking fireworks display."

**Tell us about your dresses.** "After I'd seen a photo of the 2017 Viktor & Rolf diagonal cut tulle gown, I tracked down a sample and had it shipped to me directly, sight unseen! I felt it was a modern take on the 90s wedding dresses I grew up admiring. When the reality hit that our wedding would be scaled down to a party of 20 [due to Covid], I did momentarily consider downsizing my wedding gown. Ultimately, I loved it too much to let it sit in my closet. I had anticipated wanting to change into a party dress in the evening ... Emilia Wickstead's Cruz mini-dress was the perfect fit. I loved the irreverence and joy of the oversized bow, and the black and white palette."

**Describe your hair and make-up.** "Very early on, doing my own make-up was something I felt comfortable with and wanted to do myself, in a calm environment. I also did my own hair and stuck with a hairstyle I was familiar with: a low bun with a centre part."

**What was the most unexpected part of your day?** "That the weather was sunny and mild!"



The bride kept accessories simple: family-owned drop earrings, an English net veil and her Lily of the valley bouquet.

Exchanging vows inside Crathie Kirk, a Gothic revival church where the British royal family got hitched in residence at Balmoral Castle.

## WHITE BOOK

**VENUE:** The Fife Arms, Braemar, Scotland  
**DRESSES:** Viktor & Rolf; Emilia Wickstead  
**SHOES:** Aquazzura  
**RINGS:** Tiffany & Co.  
**FRAGRANCE:** Santa Maria Novella  
**GROOM'S ATTIRE:** Edie & Ravenscroft  
**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Lucy Birkhead  
**FLOWERS:** Coo Hill Studio  
**CAKE:** Sarah Brion  
**MUSIC:** The Wedding String Quartet

The floral arch combines locally foraged elements with fresh, seasonal blooms, including thistles and dried maple leaves.

Showing off her oversized bow, The Olympia Le-Tan clutch is embellished with the words 'The Art of Happy Marriage'.

Aquazzura heels.

Cutting the Victoria sponge cake, in Emilia Wickstead.

Guests gather for a cozy candlelit dinner inside The Fife Arms Hotel.

Fireworks round off the night.



You may recognize this strapping handsome lad! Caleb is pictured with his three medals for 2nd place Grade 3 March, Grade 3 S/R and Intermediate Amateur Piobaircachd.

And the second picture is of Caleb's Dad Stuart, Caleb and myself. Who could resist the opportunity to have their picture taken with such handsome members of the Canadian Branch of Clan Macpherson!!

Best wishes to Caleb who is studying Forensic Science in September.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING  
ANNOUNCEMENTS, SPECIAL EVENTS,  
YOUR STORIES OR POEMS  
IS OCTOBER 31, 2022



## *Flowers of the Forest*



**Dr. Joyce Constance Macpherson**

Born 26 June, 1929, in London, England to Wilfrid Brown and Agnes Brown (née Hurry), passed away in the company of family on 19 July 2022 in London, Ontario. She was 93 years old. She was predeceased by her husband Dr. Alan G. Macpherson (1927-2018) and is survived by her son Ewan Macpherson (Nancy Davis) and grandchildren Jessica and Aaron, of London; and her daughter Anne Macpherson (Jamie Spiller) and granddaughters Aelis and Tamsin, of Rochester NY. Joyce was the first in her family to attend high school and university. When Britain democratized access to higher education in the 1940s Joyce walked determinedly through that door, transforming her life through her studies, and passing on that opportunity to her children and students. She was a proud graduate of Ware Grammar School, Hertfordshire (1947), Bedford College, University of London (B.Sc. 1950), King's College, University of London (M.Sc. 1956), and McGill University (Ph.D. 1966). She taught high school geography in England 1951-1957, was a research assistant and lecturer at McGill 1959-64, was a member of Memorial University of Newfoundland's Department of Geography 1966-94, and became Professor Emerita in 1998. She was elected Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society in 1992, and was awarded the RCGS Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002.

A geomorphologist and palynologist, her research on post-glacial climate warming and vegetation change particularly across Newfoundland has contributed to our understanding of the past 10,000 years. She took great pleasure in fieldwork trips across Newfoundland with students to extract sediment cores from ponds and bogs, from which she isolated ancient pollen grains distinct to each plant species, spending hours counting them at her microscope. Among her many publications was *The Natural Environment of Newfoundland, Past and Present* (1981), co-edited with Alan. She established the Joyce C. Macpherson Graduate Research Award in Physical Geography as an annual award in the MUN Department of Geography. A pioneering woman in her disciplines, she persisted against sexism, valued progressive male mentors and colleagues, and welcomed more women into the field. Joyce loved plants, the outdoors, travel, baking, music, and books. She conjured berries, rhubarb, vegetables and flowers from her St. John's garden, shared the bounty with friends including Susan McCorquodale, filled her home with plants, and shared gardening joys and woes with neighbours the Andersons and the Shawyers. In retirement she was active in the MUN Oxen Pond Botanical Garden's Friends of the Garden, serving as FOG president in 2003-04. Juggling career and motherhood, she organized family hikes all over the Avalon Peninsula, and in retirement walked many happy miles in Iceland, Britain, Australia, Belize, and across Canada. As she grew frail with age and dementia she continued to collect leaves and conifer cones and to tend her houseplants. The loving enriching childhood she provided her children included the example of community service, to the Children's Centre, Academics for Nuclear Disarmament, and the Eastern Newfoundland Regional science fair among others. Her family takes comfort in the rich legacy she leaves to her academic community and her family, and in her lifetime of generous concern for, and correspondence with, relatives, friends, and students alike, from Newfoundland to Norway to New Zealand. Her family is deeply grateful to the staff of the Manor Village at London and of the Palliative Care Outreach Team for the skilled and compassionate care they provided in her final months and days. In accordance with Joyce's wishes, her remains have been bequeathed to Western University's School of Medicine; a celebration of her life will take place at a later date. The family would be grateful for donations in Joyce's memory to MUN's Oxen Pond Botanical Garden (<https://www.mun.ca/give/Donate.php> or 1-877-700-4081).



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS thank you to following for their contributions and support to this issue: Bonnie McPherson, Beverly McPherson Letford, Ewan Macpherson, Bruce McPherson, Bob Macpherson, Janet McCredie and Aila Schaefer .

**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.**

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