

# ***THE GREEN BANNER***

**Bratach Uaine**

**Newsletter**

**of the**

**Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association**

**Summer Edition**

**June 2025**



The Chief of the Clan Macpherson and The Honourary President  
James Brodie Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie

The Executive of the Canadian Branch  
Of Clan Macpherson Association

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Central Ontario Councillor	<i>Vacant</i>
Webmaster	Vance McPherson

Dear Cousins,

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you to this edition of our newsletter. As Chairman, I am proud to share this platform, where voices converge, ideas flourish, and our collective vision for progress takes center stage. This newsletter reflects the incredible dedication, talent, and innovation of our community, and I am honored to be part of this journey with you.



Each edition serves as a testament to the diverse perspectives and experiences that enrich our shared purpose. Whether it's celebrating achievements, addressing challenges, or exploring opportunities, this newsletter is a beacon of collaboration and inspiration for all.

I want to express my gratitude to Bruce McPherson and Vance McPherson for sharing their stories and thoughts. When we contribute to making this initiative successful—your commitment fuels our drive for excellence and unity. Together, let us embrace every opportunity to lead, innovate, and excel as we move forward. All stories and happy events are welcome in our Green Banner!

I hope that you enjoy the pictures from our 2025 Robert Burns weekend which is held each January.

If your summer plans allow, please visit a Highland Game near you. Embracing the highland spirit, music and food celebrates our Macpherson history and heritage.

Thank you for being an invaluable part of our story. May this newsletter inspire and empower you in all your endeavors.

Warm regards,  
Denise Lagundzin

## Congratulations and Celebrations



Congratulations to Bruce Gillis FSAScot of Paradise Nova Scotia

Bruce has been awarded the Sovereign's Volunteer Medal for outstanding volunteer work by the Governor General of Canada.

Presenting the award to Bruce is the CFB Greenwood Base commander.

# Birthday Wishes And Birth Announcements



Happy First Birthday  
Willow, granddaughter of  
Janet and John McCredie



Welcome to Callan!  
A second child for  
Stuart and MJ,  
3rd Grandchild for  
Bill and late wife Irene  
Macpherson



Welcome to Owen William Russell  
Grandson of Chris and Gina Cain

## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST



**McPherson, Judith “Judy” Peggy** – of Bridgewater passed away July 27, 2024, in Mahone Nursing Home, Mahone Bay. Judy was born in Winnipeg in 1933, the only child of *Audrey* (Wannemaker) and Donovan McPherson.



## 2025 Robert Burns Weekend

Saturday January 25 to Sunday January 26,  
2025

Idlewyld Spa & Inn  
London Ontario



Our new Hod, carried by Aaron Macpherson, Chris Cain, Bill Macpherson



Bill Macpherson addressing the Haggis



**Kim and Rod Smith**

## **2025 Robert Burns Weekend**



**Jim and Marlene Place, Nancy Davis,  
Jessica and Aaron Macpherson**





## Thoughts from Vance McPherson

'S e latha naiseanta a' bhreacain a th' ann:  
It's Tartan Day (as Bruce Daniel McPherson reminded me this morning), in Canada and the U.S. anyway, notably not so much in Scotland.

Among the Scottish diaspora that spends time thinking of these things, the tartan is always a source of generally convivial controversy. Of course, as with all matters of etiquette, there are strong opinions about what is correct: people invent entry fictitious rules about who is entitled to wear which tartan (anyone can wear any of them), or not wearing two tartans at once (also fine if you like the look of it) or never wearing a tartan tie with another tartan piece (why not?)

But then again, such rules are always made up by someone. And if a community finds that following them enriches their lives, what harm can there be, so long as their internal consistency doesn't become outward evangelism?

Where it can start to hurt, though, is when people propound what they insist is a hard truth: that there is, in fact, nothing especially authentic about tartans; that they are a fiction contrived in the nineteenth century as a sort of kitchy enthusiasm for an Indigenous culture recently subsumed, a faddish revenue stream for weavers whose business inevitably suffered from the Clearances, a romanticised and safe glorification of a Clan system that, deprived of its lands and people, no longer posed a threat to the nation-state.

This notion is rooted in truth. No, each clan did not, in ancient times, have its own tartan (but each clan did have its own land and a small number of weavers who invariably replicated patterns). Yes, the idea was popularised only after the clans themselves posed no political threat to the Britain-approved landlords. And yes, for me, the tartan without the language and the history smacks of the very imperialism that drove us from the bones of our ancestors.

This narrative, too, puts too much emphasis on the coloniser and not nearly enough on the genius of the colonised.

The tartan, whether politically associated or not, is an ancient technology with its own teachings and direct connection to the land on which it arose.

The way you can see the diagonal hashmarks is intentional. Weavers recognise this as 2/2 twill, and when woven with lanolin-impregnated wool, the pattern is especially good at sloughing off mists and rains for which Gàidhlig traditional lands are famous.

The colours reflect plants and trees and lichens of the area, as the dyes were made by hand and in small batches using recipes passed along maternal lines since the glaciers receded. It is no stretch to assume that clans with more red in their tartans had both the lichens and the knowledge to make those dyes, blues suggest a cultivation of woad or harvest of certain molluscs, and so forth.



Because the dyes were made in small batches at the level of families, and for the cultural love of multitudes of bright colours that, besides perhaps for the Sami People, was generally lacking in Europe (but otherwise celebrated around the world), it made sense to dye spools of wool that could be woven together rather than whole pieces of cloth.

The tartan patterns, though intricate, are not overly complex; one weaver could set the warp, and any person using the loom could use it as a code for the weft to create a beautiful, intellectually-satisfying pattern. The loom itself can teach an as-yet unskilled person to weave in this way.

When you spend long enough with anything, with patience and intention, it will tell you things, if you let it. Who am I? Is one of those unanswerable questions in every culture, and especially, how much of me is determined by my genetics, and how much is a product of my adventures? The humble tartan provides a teaching on this, if you would want to have it. Generally, there are two main colour blocks ("Buffalo Plaid," very popular here in Northern Ontario, has only two) and you can see how your health and genetics influence you. And then there are these other unrelated threads that are also woven in. None of them outcompete the other, and the complete fabric is unique, essential, and irreducible. I have spent a long time with tartans, and this is what they eventually told me.



Happy Tartan Day, to those who celebrate! Indeed, it is in keeping with the day to reflect on any ancestral dress and uncover its meaning. In every age of history, there have been wars and injustices, trade disputes and health fears; and in every age and in every place, human beings have responded to whatever was happening around them, before anything else in the day, by considering what they wear; and what they chose can tell us about them across time. And in learning about them in whatever way is available to us, maybe one day we will learn enough about ourselves to finally celebrate the whole human family as I'm quite certain we are meant to do.

Vance McPherson  
April 6, 2025



**Angus Macpherson  
Chairman,  
Clan Macpherson Association,**



**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

I write this after, with my Chieftain of the Newtonmore Highland Games Hat on, completing the application to the Highland Council for the Macpherson March from Old Ralia to the Newtonmore Highland Games on 2 August 2025. It looks like we could be following up to 5 bands this year – exciting stuff! It also includes a question in the risk assessment asking if we intend having any weapons, halberds, spear-tops on banner poles etc. as part of the procession? To which my answer is “Yes. Banners and ceremonial swords will be carried in the march.” And “The risk is low.” on the basis that the Clan has not carried out a Clan charge since the Battle of Mulroy in August 1688 and even then there is some debate about whether a charge was required or if it was their presence that was sufficient to win the day!

The Highland Games has an added attraction this year as the Newtonmore Shinty Club are planning to hold a veteran’s (over 40) shinty tournament on the adjacent games field, known as the Johnny Cattanach field. Shinty is a game of stick, a caman, and ball. Its rules were formally drawn up in Balavil by Kingussie, the former home of James Macpherson of Ossian fame, at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century but its existence had started far earlier as an alternative to inter-clan warfare. Johnny Cattanach, a resident of Newtonmore, is thought to be the finest shinty player ever. Not only was he able to run from one end of Newtonmore to the other bouncing his ball on his caman but also scored the most goals ever in a shinty cup final, eight! Sadly he was killed in Gallipoli in 1915, while serving as a medical doctor at the age of 30.

We are lucky too to have John Robertson, a local historian, who will be giving an illustrated talk on the ‘Wolf’ of Badenoch after the picnic on the Sunday. The ‘Wolf’, baptised Alexander, was the 3<sup>rd</sup> son of King Robert the Second of Scotland. A medieval oligarch and sometime resident in a castle at Ruthven. He lived a colourful life which included a string of mistresses and burning down Elgin Cathedral. However, he made it up with the church and was buried in Dunkeld Cathedral.

While thinking of history, the Museum is looking tremendous and has had a record opening month with plenty of visitors and several very generous donations, the life blood of the Museum along with all the volunteers that help run it. The weather has recently broken to the great relief of farmers and gardeners but prior to that we had the best part of six gloriously sunny weeks with no rain. Sufficiently warm to tempt Valerie and I into swimming in the Spey, a very rare occurrence in April!

Being Chairman of the Association is a great privilege and throws up the unexpected almost every day. Today it has been Pipers from France wishing to meet Cluny at the Newtonmore Highland Games and an inquiry if the Symington Family is an associated family of the Clan Macpherson!

Valerie and I am fortunate enough to have been invited to the Stone Mountain Games and Annual General Meeting of the US Branch later this year. It is the first step, apart from a brief foray across the Channel to France, of Valerie and I trying to visit all the branches of the Clan. If you feel there is anything that we can do to help with your branch activities please let me know and we will strive to be there.

In the interim we look forward to seeing all of you who are planning to come to Badenoch this summer. Gathering numbers are building up well. It should be a fun event.

Last March, my family and I had the opportunity to take a short drive from our home near Amherstburg, Ontario to the town of Wallaceburg, Ontario. Knowing some of the history of the Scottish settlement patterns in South Western Ontario, I was interested to see how the local museum depicted the settlement of Baldoon.



Some may be aware that Baldoon was the second of three settlements organized by the Earl of Selkirk, Thomas Douglas. Thomas was a lowlander, born in Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland. His place in Canadian history is tied much closer to his third settlement in Red River (Manitoba) and his first two settlements, one in Prince Edward Island and one in Upper Canada (Baldoon) are lesser known.

Baldoon was settled largely by Scots from Argyllshire, specifically from the Isles of Mull and Tiree. The Highlanders left Scotland after a brief stay in Kirkcudbrightshire in 1804. There were 15 heads of families with a total of 102 original settlers bound for Baldoon via the passenger vessel Oughton. Amongst these families was an Angus Mc/MacPherson along with his wife Kristy and children, Alexander, Donald, Mary and Dugald. Little is known of Angus but it appears that he was born on the Isle of Mull in approximately 1755. His children were born in 1785, 1787, 1796 and 1800.

Land at Baldoon was unlike the land in Scotland. It is (and was) flat, boggy and prone to flooding. Unfortunately for the Highlanders, the year 1804 was also noted to be particularly rainy, thus preventing the construction of log / frame homes. Additionally the wet land resulted in a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes which in turn resulted in outbreaks of malaria. Selkirk had hoped that the land would be useful for the breeding of sheep, however many of his sheep fell victim to rattlesnakes, wolves and disease. By the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, 1804, 14 of the initial settlers has succumbed to diseased and poor conditions. By November of 1805, 22 of the settlers had passed including 8 of the initial 15 head of households.

By 1815, Selkirk had sold the Baldoon settlement land. History reflects that the Baldoon settlement was a failure, although some of the descendants of the original settlers went on to form Wallaceburg (named in honor of William Wallace).

Ever the family historian, I attempted to find out what had become of Angus and his family. Unfortunately little is known about them. It does appear that Angus was amongst the early settlers who died in 1804 but I can not locate a trace of his children, so it is still a mystery if they are buried in Baldoon or if they went on to move to another area of Canada. There is no known monument or grave for Angus.

Written by Bruce McPherson  
May 27, 2025

## THE BALDOON SETTLEMENT FIFTEEN FAMILIES

Lord Selkirk selected 15 highland families, "of all descriptions of people, the most proper for the purpose..." Most of the chosen settlers, came from the Argyll Islands, especially Mull and Tiree although the passenger list gives few details. With one exception, the heads of families and their wives were middle-aged with teenaged sons and daughters. The outbreak of the Napoleonic Wars, made crossing the Atlantic perilous. Thus Selkirk felt it was best to delay the voyage one year (until 1804), offering the families work on his estate in Kirkcubright, until a ship could be readied.

NAME	AGE	NAME	AGE
John MacDougald	50	Peter Macdonald	42
Sarah MacDougald	47	Mary MacDonald	45
Angus MacDougald	17	John MacDonald	13
John Macdougald	14	David MacDonald	12
Hector MacDougald	10 1/2	Peter MacDonald	5 1/2
Lauchlan MacDougald	8 1/2	Angus MacDonald	31
Archibald MacDougald	6	Jean MacDonald	40
James MacDougald	2 1/2	Angus MacDonald	3
Munly MacDougald	18	Andrew MacDonald	6
Flora Macdougald	4	Kath MacDonald	8
Allan MacDougald	21	Nancy MacDonald	3 months
Ann Macdougald	19	Donald MacCallum	50
Mary Macdougald	5 months	Mary MacCallum	40
Angus MacPherson	49	Hugh MacCallum	18
Kirsty MacPherson	43	Isa MacCallum	16
Alexander MacPherson	19	Flora MacCallum	14
Donald MacPherson	17	Amelia MacCallum	9
Mary Macpherson	8	Peggy MacCallum	7
Dugald MacPherson	4	Ann MacCallum	4
Alexander MacDonald	35	Charles Morrison	49
Mary MacDonald	30	Peggy Morrison	34
John MacDonald	13	Flora Morrison	14
Angus MacDonald	8	Christian Morrison	2 1/2
Neil MacDonald	3	Fa: MacKay	14
Unice MacDonald	9	James Morrison	13
Ann MacDonald	5		
Kath MacDonald	1 1/2		
Donald Brown	38	John McKenzie	36
Marion Brown	35	Ann McKenzie	36
Hector Brown	7	Keneth McKenzie	10
Alexander Brown	5	Donald McKenzie	8
Flora Brown	7	Flora McKenzie	6
Neil Brown		John Buchannan	42
Allan MacLean	32	Kath Buchannan	31
Mary MacLean	30	Alexander Buchannan	17
Mary McDonald	48	Robert Buchannan	10
Kirsty MacLean	10	John Buchannan	1 1/2
Mary MacLean	2 1/2	Marion Buchannan	19
Hector Maclean	8	Kath Buchannan	8
Effie McLean	8 months	Nelly Buchannan	3 1/2
Angus MacDonald		Donald Buchannan	5 1/2
Nancy McLaughlin		Donald MacDonald	45
Ann McLean		Kath MacDonald	37
Allan MacDonald	18	Chris MacDonald	15
John MacDonald	16	Sarah MacDonald	13
Archibald MacDonald		Mary MacDonald	9
Donald MacDonald		Kath MacDonald	7
Hector MacDonald		Flora MacDonald	5
Neil MacDonald		Peggy MacDonald	3
		Angus Macdonald	11
		Donald MacDonald	32
		Flora MacDonald	26
		John MacDonald	6
		Duncan MacDonald	3
		Hugh MacDonald	1 1/2

# Fragments of Baldoon

Acknowledgments  
 Research and Curation Assistance: Richard Miller  
 General and Design Assistance: Jessi Lashmore  
 Artist: Jim Mulgrew

The Baldoon Settlement was founded in 1804 by Thomas Douglas, the 5th Earl of Selkirk. His mission was to aid the Scottish people who had been losing their lands and way of life by relocating them to new settlements. Fifteen families from Scotland made the journey to the Settlement. They hoped to build farms and raise sheep as they did in the Highlands of Scotland.

Unfortunately the site chosen for the Settlement was marshland and filled with dangerous animals. Many of the settlers died of disease, and their sheep died from snake bites and scab. The Settlement was also raided by American soldiers during the War of 1812, adding more hardship. Lord Selkirk eventually sold the land, feeling the Settlement had been a failure.



Baldoon was not a complete failure though. Some of the settlers did prosper and would go on to relocate to nearby areas and established the Town of Wallaceburg.

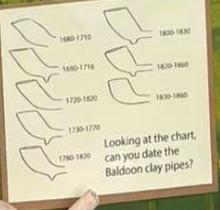
While Baldoon was abandoned, pieces of its past still remain. All of the objects here were found at the Baldoon site and give some insight to the 19th century settlement.

Kilt Pins are used to weigh down kilts and keep them closed. They also help wearers display wealth and their clan's symbols. This practice is thought to have started in the Victorian era.

The Thistle is the oldest national flower in the world. It has been a symbol of Scotland since the 11th century. Legend says it saved Scottish soldiers: they were alerted to an ambush when they heard cries of pain as the enemy stepped on the thorny plant barefooted.

1812, Baldoon was American Army. Musket and are found throughout the American and British muskets. The British less which used .75 calibre

Clay Pipes were cheap, but very fragile. They were easily broken and thrown away. This means they are often found at colonial and post-colonial historic sites. Their shape and size would change with the years, making them perfect artifacts for dating historic sites.



JIM 17

**Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association  
New or Renewal Membership Application Form  
I wish to apply for a membership in the following category:  
(check one only)**

Single Payment		Check
Life Member	\$1,050	
Annual Payment		
One-year annual Membership	\$43	
Ten-year annual Membership	\$430	
Young Adult annual Membership (18 – 25 years)	\$22	
Junior (under 18)	\$10	

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Facebook Name</b>	

<b>Spouse's Name</b>	
<b>Street Address</b>	
<b>City</b>	
<b>Province</b>	<b>Postal Code</b>
<b>Home Telephone</b>	<b>Mobile Telephone</b>
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Please provide your date of birth in dd/mm/yyyy format. This data is held in confidence and only used for demographic purposes only.</b> /      /	

I agree to receive Newsletters or updates regarding CMA or related events via email, mail and/or telephone messages. CMA will not provide your contact information to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties but only to CMA officers for the purpose of membership communication.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>
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E-transfer payments can be sent to  
Canada.Treasurer@clan-macpherson.org  
Checks can be mailed to Mr. Wm Macpherson  
3326 Cambourne Cres.  
Mississauga ON L5N 5P6

## **Other Interests and References**

Learn Scottish Gaelic with other Canadians Macphersons at  
<https://www.duolingo.com/learn>

LearnGaelic.scot is another option to learn Gaelic.

Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto

Interested in Scottish History? Consider joining the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. We have several members of the Fellowship in our Association and would be happy to discuss sponsoring you.

### **Newsletters from other Scottish Clubs**

The Tartan Thistle by St. Andrew's Society of Toronto

The Scottish Connection  
[www.bagtownclans.com](http://www.bagtownclans.com)

Scottish Scran

Love Scotland

<https://lovescotland.substack.com?r=19paa4>

Saving Wildcats

Celtic Life International Newsletter

63% Scottish Podcast

The Sounds of Scotland Radio Program

**If you enjoy other Scottish Entertainment, please share them with your cousins.**

## Upcoming 2025 Highland Games

Our Branch will be hosting a tent at the following Games

### Alberta

Thank you to our Western Canada Councillor  
Bob Macpherson and his lovely wife Sylvia for hosting the  
Clan tents.

Sherwood Park Highland Games July 19-20, 2025  
Alberta Canada

Canmore Highland Games August 30, 2025  
Alberta Canada

### Ontario

July 1, 2025  
Embro Highland Games  
355644 35th Line, Zorra, ON N0J 1J0

July 4-6, 2025  
Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games  
310 Durham Market St N,  
Kincardine, ON N2Z 1Z9

Sunday July 6, 2025 10:30—11:30  
Kirkin of the Tartan  
Knox Presbyterian Church  
345 Durham Street  
Kincardine, ON N2Z 2Y1

July 19, 2025  
Cambridge Scottish Festival  
Churchill Park,  
Cambridge ON N1R 8K7

August 8-10, 2025  
Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games  
550 Belsyde Ave.  
Fergus, ON N1M 2W7



# CLAN MACPHERSON or CLANN MHUIRICH



- Chief:** James Brodie Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie
- His Heir:** William Thomas (younger of Cluny)
- Clan Country:** Badenoch, the upper reaches of Strathearn and Strathnairn, and parts of old Castlelands of Inverness, and the Lordship of Pettie.
- Slogan (war-cry):** CREAG DHUBH CHLANN CHATAIN!  
The Black Rock of Clanchattan!  
(A reference to Creag Dhubh, a 2,350-foot hill that marks the boundary between upper and lower Badenoch.)
- Followers:** The Cattanachs, MacGilchynichs, (MacKenzies)\*, Clarks, Davidsons, Gillies, Macintyres, and MacGregors in Badenoch, and certain families called MacVurich, MacMurrich, Macurrach or other variants of MacMhurich (\*Not to be confused with the Clan MacKenzie of Northern Scotland)
- Plant Badge:** Sprig of white heather, boxwood, or whortelberry.
- Crest Badge:** The wildcat which forms the crest of the chief's coat of arms, within a strap and buckle bearing his motto: "Touch not the cat but a glove" (in Gaelic, "Na bean do'n chat gun lamhainn").
- Tartans:**
1. "Clan Macpherson" (red).
  2. "Hunting Macpherson" (grey).
  3. "Dress Cluny (white).
  4. A variant of "Clan Chattan" or Cattanach".
- Clan Pipe Music:**
- Gathering:** "Creag Dhubh Chlann Chatain" (The Black Rock of Clanchattan)
- March:** "Stheudar dhomhthinn a bhifaldhdhach aidh direach" (I must myself be going home directly) more familiar in the Lowlands of Scotland as "Macpherson's Rant".
- Salute:** "Faille Loch Duthaich" (Welcome to Loch Duich)
- Lament:** "Cumha Chlunaigh\* (Lament for Cluny Macpherson)

## No one cares

No one cares  
If you're fat or thin.  
All that matters  
Is the person within.

No one cares  
If you dress nice or not.  
It's the way you carry yourself.  
That means alot.

No one cares  
If you've had a hard day.  
So pick yourself up.  
And go out to play.

No one cares  
If life treats you tough.  
Just remember  
You're always enough.

No one cares  
If you're rich or poor.  
So strive to do good.  
And your soul will be pure.

No one cares  
It's just the way of the world.  
So hold your head high.  
As your future unfurls.

No one cares  
If the truth be told.  
So step out on your own.  
Be positive and bold.

Used with the kind permission of the Author

Pauline McCredie  
Stewarton, Scotland

