

THE GREEN BANNER

Bratach Uaine

Newsletter

of the

Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association

Spring Edition

March 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

Chairman	Denise Lagundzin, FSAScot
Vice Chairman	Vacant
Honorary Treasurer	Bill Macpherson, Peng FSAScot
Honorary Secretary	Janet McCredie
Registrar	Beverly McPherson Letford

Past Chairmen

Ed Smith CD, FSAScot	William Macpherson PEng, FSAScot
Robert (Bob) ARCHIBALD	Stuart MacPherson
Ian McPherson	

Councillors

Eastern Canada	John C. House, MOM, FSAScot,
Western Ontario	Bruce McPherson,
Western Canada	Robert T. Macpherson,
B.C Councillor	<i>Vacant</i>
Quebec and Eastern Ontario Councillor	<i>Vacant</i>
Central Ontario Councillor	<i>Vacant</i>
Webmaster	Vance McPherson
Editor	Denise Lagundzin FSAScot



Greetings Cousins,

Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter, although late, finds everyone well. Our house has not been healthy this past fall and early winter. I saw the green sprouts in my Garden. Hopefully it will not be long until things are growing and the summer sun returns.

This newsletter is going to be a celebration of all that we accomplished in 2024 and our plans for 2025.

Unfortunately our Joint Gathering with our American cousins has been cancelled. The Executive Council felt that there wasn't enough interest to proceed with this event. Our US are holding a Gathering in Florida and have extended us an invitation. The new CMA Chairman, Angus Macpherson, and his wife Valerie will be attending.

Our branch had booths at Northumberland, Kingsville, Cambridge and Fergus Highland Games. I hope you enjoy the pictures which are posted later in the newsletter.

At our AGM we thanked Ken Gillis for his service as Treasurer and welcomed Bill Macpherson as our new Treasurer; we also thanked Ewan Macpherson for his service as Webmaster and welcomed Vance McPherson.

The Association website has been updated and looks great! If you have anything you would like to share such as a birthday, marriage, or other special event please let me know.

We have a “Hod” again. Thank you to Chris Cain for crafting one for us. A Hod is a wooden tray used to carry the Haggis into a dinner.

Our branch also has another sword. One was gifted to me and I am gifting it to the clan. Now, we need a couple of targes and we will be a splendid sight in the Clan Marches.



The deadline for the Spring Issue of the Green Banner is May 15, 2025.

Do you write poems or stories? Have you had an experience you would like to share? Please send in your articles and announcements you would like to share with your cousins.

The Registration form for the Clan Macpherson Association Gathering and AGM August 1—4, 2025 in Kingussie, Scotland. I recommend that everyone experience it at least once. If you are planning on attending the Gathering in Scotland this summer please let me know.

I have run out of page space so the pictures from last year's Fergus Games and the 2025 Robert Burns Weekend will be in the next issue of The Green Banner.

Thanks,
Denise Lagundzin
Chairman

Congratulations and Celebrations

Congratulations to Rod Smith who was honoured on Sunday February 23, by the Lutheran Church of Canada with their highest award for Leaders.

The Lamb Award is a national recognition bestowed on Lutheran adults (including laypersons, pastors, professional church workers, men and women) by the National Lutheran Association on Scouting [NLAS].



Happy 40th Anniversary to John and Janet McCredie

Janet is our Secretary and John shares his love and talent with the piano with us.



Greetings to all Macpherson cousins!

I am pleased to send you a summary of my activities to date. The Highland Games season began in June and I was able to attend with our clan tent in Red Deer, Alberta. There was an excellent attendance and even a few Macphersons (or Septs) stopped by.

I was delighted to welcome our own Bill Macpherson (Mississauga) who was able to participate in the Clan march during the Opening Ceremonies. Sylvia and I enjoyed having a good visit with him that day. We were also able to meet one of his sons and his family. I was especially pleased that the Red Deer Highland Games Association actually recognized each Clan representative during the opening ceremonies. This feature seems to be lacking in some of the other associations.

The next time we saw Bill was in Scotland at the annual Clan Gathering in Newtonmore/Kingussie, this time with another son and family. We were also pleased to see Ed Smith in attendance as he is such a long-standing and involved member of our association. Ian Smythe from Edmonton, Alberta also attended for the first time and had the honour of carrying the Canada sword.

In August, we attended the Gathering of the Clans event in Sedgewick, Alberta. This little community puts on a bigger and better event each year with this being the sixth, complete with pipe bands, heavy events, highland dancers and various other interesting displays. Unfortunately, there were no Macphersons by name but a gentleman named Gow stopped by for a chat. The opening ceremony included each clan representative taking a place in front of a lit torch and calling out our clan name in turn. Again, great recognition.

As always, we ended our season at Canmore, Alberta. This year, due to Calgary not presenting its own games, Canmore had chosen to use two days for its events. Usually, they operate back to back. The weather was absolutely perfect and the crowds were huge both days.

I had more Macphersons or related Macphersons stop by my tent than I've had for a long time and all very interested in knowing more about their ancestry. This event will mark the last active event specifically for Macphersons this season. It involves a lot of travel and a lot of work but is very satisfying at the end

Best wishes all.
Slainte.

Bill Macpherson,
Sylvia and Bob
Macpherson



Bob and Sylvia
Macpherson,
Bill Macpherson
And
Andrew Macpherson



Opening Ceremonies
Canmore, Alberta
2024



Check the Spring Issue of the Green Banner
For pictures of
The 2024 Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games
And
The 2025 Robert Burns Weekend
Deadline for the Spring Issue is May 15, 2025.



Greetings Cousins,

It has been a busy year in the Western Region of Ontario this summer. I am aware that our Clan was represented at several games in the region including Kincardine, Kingsville, Fergus and Cambridge.

My family and I joined Denise at the Kingsville games and despite an extremely hot day, a good time was had by all. The MacPhersons were well represented with Denise and my family being joined by a few other young MacPhersons with a keen interest in their Clan ties.



Bruce, Kelly, William, James and Alexander McPherson



Dillion and Riley Macpherson

I have also saw many photos of the other games in the area and am aware that the turn outs were noteworthy. It is hoped that the number of events attended will result in a subsequent increase in our membership, though I know this is an ongoing topic of discussion.

Wishing you all the best,

Slainte

Bruce McPherson,
Ontario West Councillor





Why is it that my heart stirs
When I hear the bagpipes play?
Why do I feel Scotland is my home
When I live so far away?
Why do I feel a sense of pride
When I see the Saltire fly?
Although it may seem strange to you
Perhaps I can tell you why.
When you are born of Scottish blood
Something strange seems to take place
As if a seed is planted within you
Which makes you fiercely proud of your race.
This Scottish patriotism never dies
And in your soul it always remains
Because Scotland is as much a part of you
As the blood flowing through your veins.

Social Media Report

This year the executive decided to take our Canadian Facebook Page and open it to anyone interested in the Clan. There is no requirement to belong to the branch association. It is our hope that as non-member cousins find the page and learn more about their heritage, they'll be interested in joining the CMA of Canada.

As of this writing, the page "Macpherson and Associated Families in Canada" (Given this name as the Intl association did not want it named Clan Macpherson in/of Canada or any variation thereof), has 83 members. The page is moderately active with the bulk of content being generated by myself or Denise. Association members are encouraged to join the group and contribute.

We have also opened an Instagram page but have not made much use of it at this point. We are attempting to set up cross posting between it and Facebook.

Beyond this, we have started interim communications via emailed newsletters. Thus far we've sent out one and the next is being worked on and will go out shortly. These newsletters are designed to keep interest in members between social events. It is important that association members feel they belong to an active and informative group.

Any advice and contributions to social media is very appreciated.

Chris Cain

canadianclanmedia@gmail.com



Editorial
Written By Douglas MacPherson
For The Bratach Uaine
Winter 1994

The association “can only be as great as the sum of all its parts.” In other words, the success of the association in promoting the clan totally depends upon the active participation of all its members.

Two on going problems plaguing the association are membership and activities. Without membership, no clan association would exist. However, despite efforts, membership in the clan is very small among Macphersons and septs.

Secondly, if the association is to be a viable organization, it must have continuous events so members can get together for fellowship. Otherwise, the association merely exists for some obscure nostalgic reason without any significant meaning or purpose.

Unfortunately, only a handful of members are trying to deal with these problems of size and relevancy of the association. But their efforts can only be as good as they are in number (five to six). Unless more support from the branch membership is forthcoming, the likelihood of ongoing success is limited.

The question must be thrown to the membership, “What type of association do you want and what are you prepared to do to achieve it?”

Editorial
Written By Douglas MacPherson
For The Bratach Uaine
Winter 1994

The branch is open to ideas on both membership and activities through its Chairman Stuart McPherson. But also, members are constantly required to look after activities either one-time only or ongoing. As the saying goes, you can only get out of something, what you put into it.

The association not only needs new members but also Participative members. The direction of the association rests with all members, either by their involvement or lack of it. We must question our own sense of Scottish pride, when we can witness thousands pour out to Highland games across the country yet are willing to abdicate our ancestry into a few hands.

Cousins, rest assured the Canadian Branch isn't going anywhere. The above article written in 1994 is as relevant then as it now. Your help is needed to keep our Branch active and growing.

Have you renewed your membership?

There are several positions open across the country, could you fill in one of those positions?

Do you have a suggestion for an activity?

*Times are changing and we must too.
I invite you to share your thoughts and ideas to make our Branch stronger.*

*Thank you to everyone for their support this past year.
Denise*

Gordon's Sword

My Grandson, Dominik, and I took a drive to the Borden Military Museum this summer to find out more about Gordon's Sword, kindly donated by Sandy Macpherson and Kirk and Pam McPherson. Jake took a look at Gordon's sword and wrote up this information about it.

Hello,

Thanks for coming in yesterday with your sabre. I did a bit of looking and I would agree that it is German. The blade marking is associated with Weyersberg Kirschbaum & co in Solingen. The particular mark with the two heads and the W.K.S initials (two companies merged and combined their marks) would likely date this sword to the 1880s or later. Being post 1871, it would be a German rather than Prussian weapon, though the company dates much further back. They produced a wide range of swords, knives, cutlery, bicycle parts and later car parts and exported them around the world. They were a major supplier of bayonets, and swords to the German military as well as some foreign forces.

Many officers would have purchased their swords privately and would have not been part of official issue, or on the other hand a military may purchase a number of swords like these and officially issue them, though they are not necessarily a design specific to that force. Therefore, its hard to place this sword with any particular military etc.

At this time, most officers would have had a sword for ceremonial purposes, which makes sense given the decorations on the blade. Most NCMs swords or those issued for combat would have been simpler. That being said, many officers did carry their swords on active service as a rank indicator. These swords were made with the blades dull and were usually kept that way. It looks like your sword has never been sharpened, at least for most of the blade. If you look at the line of the edge from the ricasso to the strong of the blade, it is strait and aligned. If it had been sharpened and dulled later, I would expect some sort of dip where the material was ground away. Additionally, the etchings are located so close to the edge that any significant sharpening would have erased some of them. Near the foible (tip of the blade) it is a bit sharper and its possible that this area was sharpened though I would say its not likely. However, it does have a number punched into the sword and scabbard, indicating that it was officially issued or accounted for, likely military.

In conclusion, I would say that this is a German ceremonial Officers sword from the late 19th or early 20th C. Overall its in fantastic condition and worth looking after and keeping in the collection. It would (if possible) be worth asking where Gordon Macpherson obtained the sword, that may be a good starting point to figure out exactly who owned it or where it may have been used.

However, this is not at all my area of expertise and a dedicated sword expert would possibly be able to tell you more.

Anyways, I hope this helps, and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best,

Jake De La Plante, BAH, MA, OCGC

(he/him)

Curator, Base Borden Military Museum

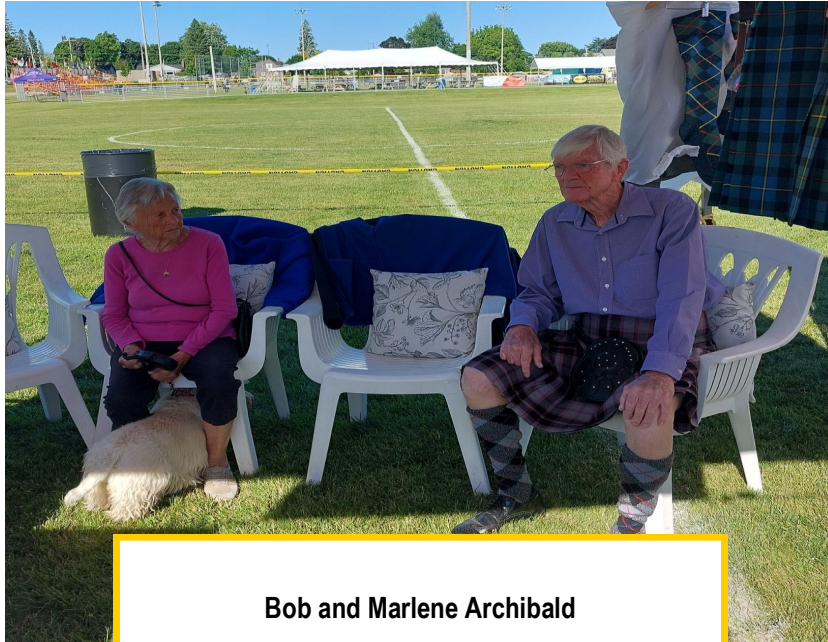
Canadian Forces Morale & Welfare Services (CFMWS)

National Defence | Government of Canada

jake.delaplante@forces.gc.ca

705-424-1200 Ex 270-2935

Pictures from 2024 Highland Games



Bob and Marlene Archibald
Northumberland Games



Mike Lagundzin
Setting up tent



Denise Lagundzin
Chairman

The Northumberland Games, formerly the Cobourg Games) are held at the Port Hope Agricultural Park.

We will not have a tent at these games this year.

Cambridge Scottish Festival and Highland Games



**Denise Lagundzin,
Honourary Chieftain of the
Cambridge Highland
Games presenting an
award.**



**William Macpherson, of
Mississauga, organizing
the Clan March**



**Janine Lagundzin,
Mike Lagundzin and
John McCredie**



**Janine Lagundzin,
Deegan Davidson-
Brown and
Dean Stokes**

2024 Clan Gathering in Kingussie

Pictures courtesy of Bill Macpherson



Bill Macpherson with his son Stuart, daughter-in-law MJ and Cyrus



Master Cyrus Macpherson



Bill Macpherson, Ian Smythe, Sylvia and Bob Macpherson



Bill Macpherson with his new friends Andreas and Bengt.

**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	

Name	
Facebook Name	

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

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 3rd parties but only to CMA officers for the purpose of membership communication.

Date:	Signature:
-------	------------

Please make your cheque payable to Clan Macpherson Association, Canadian Branch, and mail to
Bill Macpherson Treasurer
Clan Macpherson Association, Canadian Branch
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

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: gowrie	James Brodie Macpherson of Cluny and Blair-
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)

I'm Alive

Feeling fresh as a daisy
How wonderful to be alive
Each day a promise
Of a blessed life

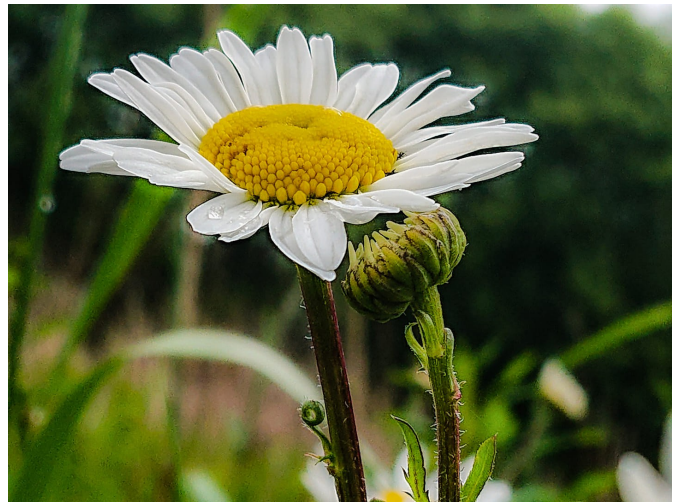
I taste the scent of the flower
Embrace what life has instore
Each delicate petal
Promises more

With a kiss of youth
I feel so carefree
Following the path
Set out for only me

Where all is right
In this world so fine
I gather my memories
In a posy sublime

A daisy chain of wishes
I carry around
With the sway of the trees
My courage I found

To move through this world
With hope and grace
And just like a daisy
There is happiness on my face.



Used with the kind permission of the Author

Pauline McCredie
Stewarton, Scotland