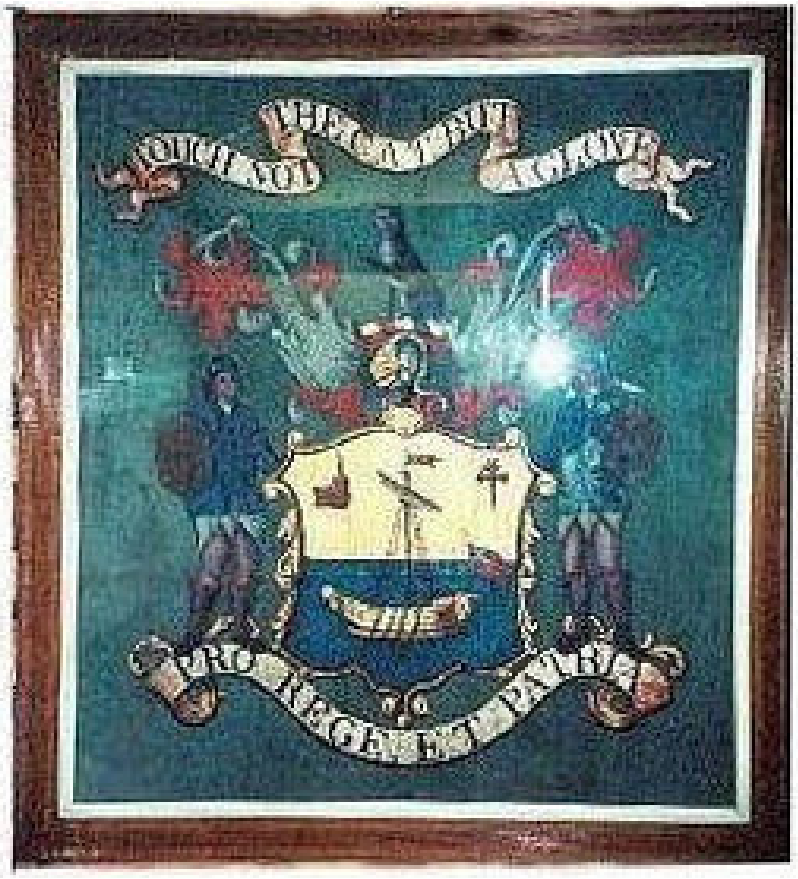
The Green Banner

An Bratach Uaine

Newsletter of the Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association



September 2026 Edition

The Chief of the Clan Macpherson and The Honourary President

James Brodie Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie

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A Message from the Chair

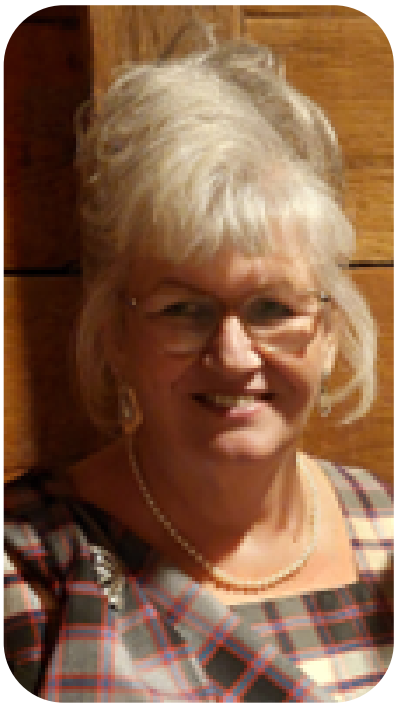
Greetings Cousins!
What a summer it has been! I hope you all have enjoyed your summer.
Mike and I attended the Gerogetown, Embro, Glengarry and Fergus Games.

We caught up with so many of our Macpherson cousins. Thank you to Cathy and Graham MacPherson for asking to attend the Glengarry Games in Maxville, Ontario and for bring out many family members to join us in the Clan March.

Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland did not disappoint this year. We had many visitors and a well attended Clan March.

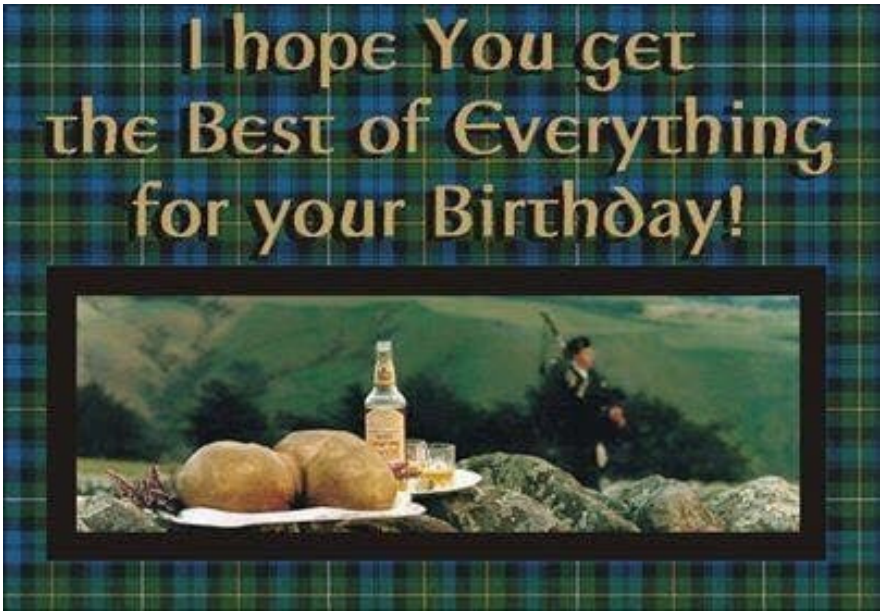
Watch for the pictures from the summer games to be posted on the Clan Page.

The date for our AGM is Saturday November 7 at 1:00 pm EST. Watch for your Zoom invitation October 15, 2026. Please let me know you do not receive yours.



Denise Lagundzin

To everyone celebrating their birthday this summer,
best wishes from your cousins!



Do you have a special occasion or celebration coming up, or an interesting story
please share it with us .
We love to share your good news!
Pictures are always welcome.

The deadline for the Winter Issue of the Green Banner is November 30, 2026.
Please send your articles and pictures to
vance.mcpherson@gmail.com
or
denise.lagundzin@gmail.com



A warm welcome to our new and returning Canadian Members

Andrew MacPherson,
Aaron Macpherson,
Sherry Giles
Graham MacPherson

Maria Bedek also joins us.
Maria grew up in Hamilton, has an interest in discovering more about her Gillis family connections.
Welcome Maria.

Congratulations

Best Wishes
to Rod Smith and Kim Griffins
who were married
Saturday August 8, 2026





FLOWERS OF THE FOREST





Bruce Gillis
August 30, 1946 –
April 21, 2026

Bruce Gillis, 79

W. Bruce Gillis, K.C., U.E., F.S.A. (Scot) William “Bruce” Gillis, aged 79, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at Valley Regional Hospital in Kentville. A man of many talents, accomplishments, and stories, Bruce leaves behind a legacy that his family will proudly carry forward.

Born on August 30, 1946, in Saint John, New Brunswick, Bruce was the son of Donald Archibald Gillis and Mary (Teed) Gillis. He graduated from Middleton High School in 1963, receiving the Lieutenant Governor’s Medal and earning a full scholarship to McGill University. He completed his Bachelor of Science in 1967. During his time at McGill, Bruce embraced student life wholeheartedly—playing lead trumpet in the concert band, joining the cheerleading team, and serving as Features Editor of The McGill Daily.

Bruce continued his studies at Dalhousie University, earning his LLB in 1971, followed by a Master of Laws from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1972. At Dalhousie, he served as President of the Dalhousie Student Union, sat on the Board of Governors, worked with Student Aid, joined the Dalhousie Scuba Club, and immersed himself in campus life.

He was admitted to the Nova Scotia Bar in May 1971 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1986. Over the course of his career, Bruce served on numerous boards, acted as an adjudicator for Small Claims Court from 1980 to 1992, and remained deeply engaged in politics. For 50 years, he maintained a private general law practice in Middleton and served as solicitor for both the Town of Middleton and the County of Annapolis for more than two decades.

Bruce was devoted to his family and lived life entirely on his own terms. He loved music, played guitar and drums, rode horses, never missed a Saturday crossword, an avid reader and had a fondness for snacks. His peach trees were a source of pride and mild obsession. A true social spirit, he made friends wherever he went—especially among the members of The Benevolent Funipendulous Society of Nova Scotia Logotechnicians. He delighted in exploring cookbooks, discovering new recipes, and enjoying dinners out with family and friends. A lifelong Montreal Canadiens fan, he rarely missed a game. He also cherished wearing his full Highland kit and held fond memories of his travels to Scotland. Whether roaming the woods, tinkering with tools, or cruising the Valley in his sports cars, Bruce embraced every day with curiosity and enthusiasm.

His volunteer contributions were extensive. In 2022, he was awarded the Sovereign's Volunteer Medal by the Governor General of Canada. He coached Bridgetown Minor Hockey for many years and played drums with the 14 Wing Greenwood Air Force Pipe Band for 35 years, where he earned the rank of Drum Sergeant.

Bruce married Deborah Smith on September 18, 1982, in Middleton, Nova Scotia. He is survived by his wife, Deborah Ann Gillis; his children, Shawna Jardine (Rob) of Saskatoon, Paul Jones (Mary) of Berwick, William "Rob" Gillis (Erica) of Halifax, and Kendra Logan (Josh) of Stewiacke; and his grandchildren, Calum and Duncan Jardine, Michael and William Jones, and Colby, Brody, and Parker Logan.





Wendy Elaine Gillies (Crump)

August 9, 1943 - June 18, 2024

Wendy passed peacefully at Campbell House Hospice in Collingwood, Ontario on June 18, 2024 surrounded by love. Born August 9, 1943, Wendy was predeceased by her parents Helen and Maxwell Crump, her brother Richard Crump and her husband, John Gillies (deceased 2019). She is survived by her children Tia Hall (late Kevin Hall, Scott Young) of Collingwood, Jory Winter (Chris) of Whistler, BC and Ian Gillies (Kelsi) of Coquitlam, BC, and her Grandchildren; Ella, Natalie, Ethan, Penelope, Harvey and Fiona.

Wendy was tremendously proud of her children and grandchildren and took great pleasure in their accomplishments. Wendy was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario where she cultivated a love for ballet, and time spent outdoors at her family cottage. She attended Waterloo Lutheran University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts and teaching degree. She was even awarded the prestigious honour of “Miss Canadian University” in 1965. It was there where she met her husband John. After marriage, she taught in Wheatley, Mississauga and Toronto, Ontario, teaching English and PE, and later in her career, adult education. Wendy had a great appreciation for the outdoors and loved spending time skiing at Skyloft and Toronto Ski Clubs, and boating and cottaging on the waters of Georgian Bay with family and friends. She loved her many years of boating to her favourite bays with John, and later swimming on the shores of their treasured cottage on Moon Island. Wendy was a teacher through and through and took great joy in showing her grandchildren the small wonders of life, throwing tea parties for them, or reading their favourite stories. Wendy spent her last 5 five years with the caring residents and dedicated staff at Raglan Village Retirement Residence. Wendy’s loved ones want to thank the wonderful staff for supporting Wendy and for appreciating all of the gifts she had to offer. Wendy always had a bright smile and a warm greeting for others. Her kindness and generosity will be forever missed by those that knew and loved her.

Tried, Tested and True Recipes

Plain Jane Doughnuts

This recipe for doughnuts was from Graham's great grandmother Mary Jane (we nickname them plain Jane doughnuts).

1 cup white sugar
1 heaping Tbsp lard (size of an egg)
1 Tbsp vanilla
2 beaten eggs
1 cup milk
3 tsp baking powder
1 tsp salt
3 ½ cups flour
½ tsp baking soda

Cream sugar , lard and vanilla. Add beaten eggs. Stir in gradually the milk with baking powder , salt , flour and baking soda. Mix thoroughly. Knead dough , roll to 1/2 inch thick and cut into doughnuts shapes.Deep Fry in 365 degree F oil . Cook on one side , then carefully flip and cook on the other side . Keep children away from stove area and do not leave heating oil unattended .

This is an old recipe that continues to be a family favorite, always made at Christmas and often eaten with our homemade raspberry jam for breakfast.

Did you make this recipe? Post a picture to our Facebook page!

Our next AGM will be held via Zoom on Saturday, November 7, 2026 at 1:00 PM EST. Zoom invitations will be sent out October 15, 2026.



Who do you think you are?

A catchy phrase, popular genealogical television show but also a genuine sediment for many. Some may come to the conclusion that finding the answers to this question should be left alone – the past is in the past and so on.

Others, content themselves that they must be related to all Clan members due to their surname alone. For others, like myself, gaining a greater sense of just what the answer is to this question becomes a life long endeavour.

Growing up a McPherson, I didn't really start to think about Scottish culture until my years in high school. I was lucky and this passion hit me early – I realize many don't have as many years to start the journey and therefore have a much shorter span to research.

Quickly the interest of Scottish culture grew and eventually evolved into a passion surrounding genealogy – not just who the Clan is but rather where my spot is in it. Getting answers to this question tends to be the precipitating factor for many to start research and also to gain a greater appreciation as to how your particular family evolved to what it is.

The journey can sometimes take unexpected turns – some find they are a member of the Clan Chief line, some like myself a very old branch which broke off early, while others find their surname was not a function of genetics but rather a potential allegiance, adoption or simply a change of name in the course of history. This never means you are any less of a member of the Clan but rather you just came upon the name in a manner which was not quite as linear as birth / taking your father's surname. DNA research can reveal some of these tales, sometimes leading to more questions than answers but also represents a gift for future generations.

Your DNA doesn't change, doesn't rely upon you still being around to interpret and even if you believe your immediate children don't have interest, how about your grandchildren or great grandchildren or great x5 grandchildren? There continues to be a healthy MacPherson DNA project which in recent years has been slow to grow but will continue on well past my involvement with the project. Some may have reservations, some just won't test, some the expense is too great and I appreciate and understand all of the above, but for those on the fence about it, I would invite you to talk to those that have including myself.

I hope to continue to bring updates surrounding the project and also research updates on potential Canadian lines / individuals in time in the Banner. There are many many families of Mc/MacPhersons let alone the Associated Names in Canada to report on!

Bruce Daniel McPherson

History of The **Luckenbooth Brooch,** it is a traditional Scottish wedding brooch given to the bride by the groom on their wedding day and subsequently pinned to the shawl of the first baby to protect it from “evil spirits”.



The Luckenbooth has figures very similar to the Claddagh Ring, and a similar purpose of being a love token. The Luckenbooth charm also continues the traditional theme of heart and crown. The earliest records of heart shaped brooches in Scotland date back to 1503. In the 18th Century, these brooches were often known as ’Luckenbooth’ brooches because they were sold from locked booths in the jewellery quarter of St. Giles, Edinburgh.

During the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries there were two main styles of brooches in Scotland; one was the ring brooch, often with incised decoration, and used to fasten plaids by both men and women. The other brooch was a heart shaped one, often given at weddings and engagements as tokens of love.

From the eighteenth century onwards small plain heart shaped brooches were worn to protect against evil spirits, the evil eye or the attention of the fairies. These are the famous “Luckenbooth Brooches”.

Luckenbooths were shops in Edinburgh, situated on the Royal Mile from St Giles Cathedral down towards the Canongate. They were the city’s first permanent shops that housed jewellery workers and other trades, dating from the 16th century. The brooches they made were heart shaped ones surmounted by a crown and usually made of silver.

The first Luckenbooth brooches date from the late XVII century and were very small. This traditional gift was given to a man’s sweetheart on their betrothal but also it was considered a lucky charm, protecting the wearer against evil eyes. Among other powers the Luckenbooth has, was easing the pain at childbirth and ensuring a good flow of breast milk when pinned to a woman’s petticoats near the left thigh. If pinned to the baby’s shawl, it will protect the child from being stolen by fairies.

During the XVIII and XIX centuries the Luckenbooth became larger and more elaborate with inscriptions on the back such as biblical references or the initials of the couple and the date of their betrothal.

From 1850 onwards, the intertwined hearts resembling the letter M; with thistle Fleur de Lys were used; these came to be called Mary’s Brooches or even Queen Mary’s Brooches. Mary Queen’s husband, Lord Darnley gave her one.

The Luckenbooth Brooch is still a very popular gift for weddings today. Many Scots and Scottish descendants in Canada were it as a symbol of Scottish tradition and good luck.

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 Stratheam and Strathnaim, and parts of old Castlelands of Inverness, and the Lordship of Pettie

Slogan (war cry) ***Creag dhubh Chlann Chattain!*** *(The black rock of Clan Chattan!)* Reference to Creag Dhubh, a 2,350 foot hill that marks the boundary between upper and lower Badenoch

Followers Cattanachs, MacGilchynichs, MacKenzies*, Clarks, Davidsons, Gilles, MacIntyres, and MacGregors in Badenoch, and certain families called MacVurich, MacMurrich, Macurrach, or other variants of MacMhuirich.



Plant Badge Sprig of white heather, boxwood, or whortleberry

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"). Pictured top right.

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)

Tartans


Hunting


Red


Dress


Chattan

The wishing tree.



It holds so many hopes and dreams.
Pick a shell and make a wish.
Close your eyes tightly.
And give it a loving kiss.
Then your innermost wishes.
Will be sure to come true.
So hang your dreams upon the tree.
And forevermore you won't be blue.
In our special place.
We each made our plea.
That someday we would return.
Together you and me.
All my love and secrets.
Are hung on this tree.
A reminder of all I yearn for.
For everyone to see.
So I hold my breath and dream.
That my wishes all come true.
And together in the future.
I'll share them all with you.

Used with the kind permission of Pauline McCredie, Stewarton, Scotland.

Denise Lagundzin