



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 14 Number 1

SPRING ISSUE

April 2020

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Denise Lagundzin, Registrar



Greetings Cousins!

A gentle reminder, your 2020 annual members are now due. Thank you to those who have renewed. As we now have different types of memberships, please feel to contact me at 519-507-4465, if you have any questions.

One-year annual membership is \$43.00

Ten-year memberships are \$430.00

Annual membership for 18 – 25 years old is \$22.00

Junior membership for under 18 years old is \$10.00

Life membership is \$1,050.00

Membership Renewals can be done online or contact me, and I will happy to mail you a Renewal form.

Please welcome our 3 new members –



Cheryl and Mathew Abraham both recently became members of the CMA. Cheryl was adopted and had found her maternal side of the family approximately 20 years ago.

She had never been told anything about the paternal side of her family, so when DNA tests recently became "all the rage" she decided,

what could it hurt, and purchased one.

Her very first contact was Michael, the half-brother of her father Fred McPherson. She and Michael started talking and developed a relationship.

A few short months later she met her brother in Winnipeg, Manitoba and was introduced to her sister, Marcie McPherson. This trip also introduced her to her biological father, Fred McPherson, who sadly passed away a few short days after their meeting.

She and her husband Matthew have since traveled to England to meet yet another paternal cousin, whose story is similar to her own. She is grateful to have found the missing part of her roots and is looking forward to knowing more, with her husband equally as keen right by her side.



Theresa Thompson is a stay at home mom to three girls as well as running a baking business from home. In her spare time she coaches youth basketball and loves hiking with her Great Dane.

Theresa's grandmother was Mary Catherine MacPherson, daughter of Samuel Macpherson and Rebecca MacLean.

Her great-aunt Theresa (her namesake) still lives in Antigonish N.S., which is near where her ancestors arrived after leaving Scotland during the Highland Clearances.

Like her grandmother, Theresa speaks some Gaelic, and she is currently trying to bring the language to her three daughters and improve her own mastery of the language.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By Ed Smith



Good day Cousins All,

These are worrying times indeed. However, to the best of my knowledge "worry has never won the battle".

The most we can do is to follow the directions of the world health experts and the recommendations of the elected officials.

And Granma's voice echoes, "Go wash your hands". Often.

The Canadian & US branches 2020 Joint Gathering Committee, have been working tirelessly.

We are six (6) months away from the 2020 Canada and United States Joint Gathering.

Location and timing is offering everyone a very interesting visit to the Niagara Falls, Ontario region.

At the best time of year, September 25 through 27, when the summer heat is subsiding and the crowds of tourists are waning. Come join us and be surprised.

"What's this you say"....."What about Covid 19???" Yes, this has thrown a real monkey wrench into the normal hectic life we are accustomed to. The Virus is a monster of the unknown,

Continued on Page 2

TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The clan association is in good shape financially as of the end of December, 2019.

We have \$7,873 in our current account and \$11,464 in our Life Membership Fund.

We are showing a surplus of \$609 for the year.

The 2019 Clan Gathering generated a surplus of \$590 which helped our current account balance.

I have paid the deposit for our venue for the Joint Clan Gathering in September.

There are no outstanding bills at this point and I do not anticipate any large expenditures until we get closer to the Clan Gathering.

The surpluses generated this year will help with the planning and execution of this year's joint gathering, which I hope you will all come and enjoy.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank to following for their contributions and support to the Spring Issue: Denise Lagundzin, Ken Gillis, Ed Smith, Dr Mairi MacPherson and Graham Gillespie.

We also thank Penny Abraham for her valued assistance with this issue.

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, FSA Scot

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Inquiries and articles may be sent by email to
greenbanner326@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Continued from Page 1

and is disrupting our daily routines (some even worry if the tissue mills are going to shut down).

This is more aggressive than the SARS epidemic from a few years ago. Governments around the world have been taking steps including enforcing self-quarantine, closing venues and borders in an effort to effect a measure of control. Only time will tell as to the effectiveness of all this. Some politicians are saying a month or two. Reality says closer to four or five months.

I am inclined to recommend that we proceed with the planned 2020 CMA Canadian & US Joint Gathering and Branch AGMs. I will be consulting with the Principals regarding the event in both Canada and US as we share the investment of both time and money. It should be noted that hotel registration cancellation must be made no later than forty-five (45) days prior to your arrival date for the event.

Gathering registrations will be refunded in full, should the 2020 CMA Canada & United States Joint Gathering be cancelled.

Please Keep the date open & stay tuned.

Yours, Aye

Edward M. Smith, CD, Chairman, Canadian Branch

CLAN MACPHERSON ASOCIATION



CAIRN CROFT HOTEL
NIAGARA FALLS ONTARIO

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2020

DEADLINE FOR SUMMER ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the Summer Issue are due on the Editor's desk by June 15th, 2020. 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

MACPHERSONIANA

By Dr Mairi MacPherson



Warm Greetings from Badenoch. I'm Dr Mairi MacPherson, and I'm the new Development Officer at the Clan Macpherson Museum.

I stay in a small village called Hill of Fearn, about an hour north of Inverness - some of you may remember me and

my husband Jim (who goes by Seamus at home) from various Monday talks at the Gathering over the years. I'll be at the Gathering in August with a wee 'pop up museum' at the Duke - come say hello!

I also run our social media accounts:

Clan Macpherson Museum' page on Facebook,

Instagram (@clanmacphersonmuseum) , and

Twitter (@cmaphersonm)

We'll be launching a new project soon called 'Macphersoniana', which is all about capturing YOUR Macpherson objects and stories! It's an ongoing digital exhibition that collects objects and stories associated with being a Macpherson.

It will explore the history of the Macphersons through these objects and stories in an online exhibition and repository that can be accessed from anywhere in the world.

But we need your help to make it happen! We want to tell YOUR stories - not those of objects already in the museum. Do you have an object that tells the story of your 'Macpherson-ness'?

Then share it with us as part of this digital exhibition! The definition of 'object' is very broad – it can be anything from a commemorative plate to a dress, from a picture to a letter. It can be a family heirloom passed down generations or something you bought last year.

It's your object and your story! It doesn't have to say 'Macpherson' on it, or be tartan, or in any way obviously connected to the clan.

To give an example, my husband Seamus won the golf tournament at the 2016 Gathering and was given an engraved quaich.

This has pride of place on top of our piano, and it's a Macphersoniana object - not because it is unique or particularly valuable, but because of the personal connection and the story it tells. It's not ancient or made from silver - but it will remind him of that joyous gathering forever (and, as we've not had a golf tournament since, he is still the reigning men's champion!).

It's easy to take part in the project: just get in touch with me by email at museum.development@clan-macpherson.org, and we'll take it from there.

If we can't meet up in person we'll chat by email, phone or skype. If you're coming to the Gathering and are able to bring your 'object' along we'll be able to photograph it there, and to hear your stories.

You might also know that the Museum is in desperate need of a new roof - please consider donating some money towards that.

Did you know you can also be a Friend or a Guardian of the Museum?

Have a look on our website for more info: www.clan-macpherson.org/museum.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHAIR

By Denise Lagundzin



Greetings Cousins,

The US team of Graham and Debby Gillespie and the Canadian team of Jan McCredie, Ewan Macpherson and myself are deep into planning the Joint Gathering. The highlights planned so far are a Whisky History and Tasting experience by John MacPherson, a wine tour on a double decker bus, attending the St. Catherine's Grape and Wine Festival as well as a new event. A Maple Welcome is being planned for any first-time attender to the gathering.

Please put Friday September 25 to Sunday September 27 in your calendars.

Watch Clan Macpherson Association Facebook Group and the Clan webpage for updates.

I hope to see you there!



ADVERTISING IN THE GREEN BANNER

Members are reminded that there are opportunities for advertising space in the Green Banner.

We would like to defray the expenses of publishing and distributing our newsletter and also contribute to Branch operations.

The rates per issue are as follows:

Eighth Page	\$12
Quarter Page	\$20
Half Page	\$35
Full Page	\$65

The Green Banner is read by adults and children alike across the country and is circulated outside of Canada.

Anyone wishing to advertise their business, services or talents, or events that might be of interest to our readers, should contact greenbanner326@gmail.com for more details and multi-issue rates.

THE 2020 JOINT GATHERING

By John C. House



With this issue you will have received a supplement to the Green Banner, kindly prepared by Graham Gillespie of the United States Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association. This special supplement was initially prepared for US members and provides a comprehensive outline of details of the upcoming joint gathering.

The supplement includes photographs and important details of the venue – the Cairn Croft Best Western Plus Hotel in Niagara Falls, as well as information on local attractions in the area. Details are also provided on travel information.



Cairn Croft Best Western Plus Hotel

Rather than reproducing all the information here, we shall point out some of the highlights and urge you to refer to the supplement document for details.

A group rate of \$169.00 is available to those planning to attend the gathering. This rate applies to Friday and Saturday (September 25 and 26, 2020). The supplement provides more information for those interested in extending their stay beyond these dates. Rooms are reserved on a first come, first served basis, so you are urged to book your accommodations sooner than later. It is important to note that rooms can be cancelled up to 45 days prior to check-in without penalty.

As many are already aware, Niagara Falls offers many attractions in the immediate area. Again, the supplement provides comprehensive details on many things that may be of interest to attendees, including information on dining, recreation, shopping, and other interesting attractions.

For those who have arrived by Thursday afternoon, attendees can meet up at Doc Magilligan's Irish Pub if they are so inclined.

Friday begins with breakfast at Doc's Café. The USA Branch

council members will be busy in the morning and early afternoon attending to business, and other attendees are free to do their own thing.



Doc Magilligan's Irish Pub

For those that aren't doing touristy things, the third-floor hospitality suite will be open all day. At around 4:30 pm attendees can begin to gather at the Poolside Lounge for a cocktail hour before dinner. Between 5:30 and 8:00 pm attendees can dine at Doc Magilligan's Irish Pub, where there will be a section reserved for the CMA. At 8:00 pm the Ceilidh begins in the nearby Oak Room. Following the Ceilidh attendees are free to head to Doc's Café or to the hospitality suite.

On Saturday morning there is a welcome breakfast for first time AGM attendees. Both the Canadian and US branches will also hold their respective AGMs in the morning.

At 12:30 pm organized tours will head out for the afternoon. The supplement provides details on tours available. In the online registration you will be asked to indicate if you are interested in participating in one of the tours.

The hospitality suite will close at 4:00 pm on Saturday, and the draws will be made for the raffle and silent auction (those attending are encouraged to bring along an item [or several] to help in supporting the AGM's raffle and silent auction). At 5:00 pm there will be a whisky history and tasting event at the hospitality suite.

Everyone will be asked to gather outside the Oak Room in the Poolside Lounge for a group photo at 7:00 pm. This will be followed by a Highland dinner at 7:30 pm. The dinner and ceremonies will be followed by Scottish dancing into the night.

On Sunday morning, attendees may meet at 10:00 am in the Cairn Croft lobby in advance of the short walk to attend a service at Drummond Hill Presbyterian Church. As already indicated, please refer to the supplement for details.