



# THE GREEN BANNER

## NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 15 Number 1

SPRING ISSUE

March, 2021



**THE HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM ALAN MACPHERSON  
OF CLUNY & BLAIRGOWRIE TD  
1926-2021**

**W**e were all saddened by the news that our beloved Chief 'Cluny' had departed this life on February 4th 2021 and the Canadian Branch sends sincere condolences to Annie, Jamie & families and Lady Hilary.

Branch Chairman Denise met Cluny for the first time at the 2019 Badenoch Gathering and returned with a wonderful impression of our Chief.

Feeling that she could not do justice in eulogizing him she asked if I would write a few words for the Green Banner.

The following is extracted from an obituary in the Scotsman newspaper of 3rd March: 'Like his Jacobite ancestor Cluny Macpherson in the Rising of 1745, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny led from the front. As clan chief, soldier, lawyer, judge and passionate rugby player, his trademarks proved to be personal courage and independent judgement'.

Much has and will continue to be written about Cluny's contribution to country and community and there is no doubt that he leaves an amazing legacy of service. I will focus on Cluny Chief of the Clan.

Our Clan Association has truly been blessed to have had our Chief so integrally involved in our activities and affairs for so many years.

The impression Cluny left on Denise is typical for all fortunate enough to have been in his company. Irene and I first met Cluny and Lady Sheila in 1997 at a Canadian Branch Gathering in Kitchener, Ontario.

At the Chief's reception we were awestruck at how they both made a point of mingling with everyone in attendance and marvelled at how Cluny remembered and recalled names.

Our admiration and affection grew stronger as we met Cluny at many more Gatherings in Canada, USA and Badenoch. We have so many fond memories of our times together and particularly treasure when he and Hilary made their last visit to Canada in 2012.

We picked them up at the airport in Toronto and then journeyed on to Kingston and got them both to ourselves for a few days before everyone else arrived.

We met up again the following week at the US Branch Gathering in Reno, Nevada and I can still see Cluny and Irene bossing the 50 cent roulette table in the wee sma' hours following the Ceilidh. Happy memories indeed.

Many members of the Canadian Branch shared a special affinity and friendship with Cluny and I am sure all the clansfolk fortunate enough to have met him will have similar fond memories.

He will be dearly missed by us all, and may he rest in peace.

William Macpherson, Former Chairman

Canadian Branch



## MESSAGE FROM CANADIAN BR CHAIRMAN

By Denise Lagundzin



Greetings, Cousins,

The long cold snowy months of winter are drawing to a close so how about joining in a fun activity.

Do you remember playing “I spy with my little eye something named Macpherson”?

Let us all look for Macpherson (any spelling) in street names, parks or buildings to name a few possibilities, but they must be located in Canada. Although we cannot travel at this time, we can all enjoy seeing places that carry the Macpherson name.

In order for us all to enjoy the pictures, I am going to create a public Facebook page that you can upload your pictures to - “I spy something with my little eye named Macpherson in Canada”

Please mention where and when you took your pictures. I hope you have fun sharing your wee bit of Macpherson places in Canada.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at [Canada.chairman@clan.macpherson.org](mailto:Canada.chairman@clan.macpherson.org) or 519-507-4465.

We express our condolences to Cluny’s family. He truly was an extraordinary gentleman.

Please join me in welcoming 1 new Life Member and 3 Annual Members to our branch.



Ken McPherson

**Kenneth Edward McPherson**, our newest life member was born in Oshawa, Ontario to Keith & Diane McPherson. During his youth, the family was on the constant move, house to house, town to town.

In the mid 1970’s he settled back in Oshawa where he joined the Ontario Regiment Cadet Corps, and then in 1981 at 17 years he joined the Ont R’s

as a “Boy Soldier”.

In 1984 Joined the Royal Canadian Navy as a Naval Combat Information Operator, NCI-OP for short (RADAR), where he learned I.T. and Tactical Operational Control including Aircraft, ships and subs.

After his service he jumped from job to job, settling with Telus and moving to Alberta where he restarted a dying Amateur HAM Radio Club, arranged grant monies, and rebuilt the club.

In addition to this Ken was volunteering at the local Fort McMurray Legion where he became interim 1st VP for almost 2 years while also assisting with renovating the property and securing grants.

Today Ken volunteers at The St. Albert Legion and helps out when and where his health lets him.



Ken McPherson

**David Kenneth Hale** was born and raised in New Zealand. He is a descendant of Duncan Macpherson, who immigrated from Scotland with his brother Hugh to the the Wanaka region in the late 1800s. While on a working vacation to Canada, he met his wife and they now live on Vancouver Island with their three children.



Ken McPherson

**Anne Frances Deacon** (nee McPherson) lives in the small community of Ladner, part of the greater Vancouver lower mainland in BC. She is the oldest of three children. Her father was Douglas Cluny McPherson of Vancouver, and her grandfather was James Cluny McPherson also of Vancouver and originally from Eastern Canada.

She is the proud mother of three sons and grandmother to three girls. Anne is happily retired from real estate and is currently trying to learn to play the ukulele and catch up on family history, while unable to follow her passion which is travel. In 2013 she was lucky enough to travel to Scotland with her youngest son and they were thrilled to visit Newtonmore and the Clan Museum.



Ken McPherson

**Sheryl Annette Cook** was born in Paris, Ontario to Mary Lorraine Reynolds and Kenneth Noel Smith. Sheryl is the niece of former Chairman Edward Smith, and is the mother of five children and grandmother of two grandsons. Cheryl spent many years as personal support worker and had the privilege of providing end of life care to many seniors throughout Brant County and the surrounding areas.

She is currently a full time mail delivery agent with Canada Post, walking 28 kilometres a day and enjoying meeting new people daily. Her hobbies include metal detecting, painting, researching ancestry, as well as learning some new interests like playing the Bodhran Drum. We also had another Life Member, Paul McPherson join our branch, as well as two more annual members, Bruce C McPherson and Ronald S MacPherson. We look forward to seeing their smiling faces and learning about them.

Flowers of the Forest

Lawrie Hugh Taylor, beloved husband of Elizabeth Macpherson passed away on March 21, 2019. Lawrie resided at the Union Villa, Ontario Shores. The service was held at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church. Lawrie leaves behind his wife Betty and brothers Gary and Neil.

Denise Lagundzin, Chairman

## TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The clan association is in good shape financially as of the end of January. We have \$9,795 in our current account and \$11,131 in our Life Membership Fund.

We are showing a gain of \$1,886 for last fiscal year. The gain is largely because we could not have any activities due to COVID-19. We also received 3 registrations for the 2020 joint gathering and have rolled them over to the 2021 joint gathering.

We have done some initial planning for a joint gathering in 2021 and have paid \$300 in deposits. However; we do not know if we can gather and we do not know if the border will reopen so things are very much up in the air.

I am hopeful that we will have a gathering and I look forward to seeing all of you at it.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank to following for their contributions and support to this Spring issue: Denise Lagundzin, Penny Abraham, Ken Gillis, Mairi MacPherson, D'Arcy McPherson, Pauline McCreadie, Bill MacPherson, Bob Macpherson, and Bruce MacPherson.

## 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,

**Officers:**

Denise Lagudzin, Chairman  
Ken Gillis, Honorary Treasurer  
Janet McCredie, Honorary Secretary  
Denise Lagudzin, Registrar

**Immediate Past Chairman:**

Ed Smith CD

**Regional Councillors:**

John C House, MOM, FSA Scot, Eastern Canada  
Bruce McPherson, Western Ontario  
Robert T. Macpherson, Western Canada  
D'Arcy McPherson, British Columbia

**Webmaster:** Ewan Macpherson PhD

**Editor:** John C House MOM, FSA Scot

**Editor Emeritus:** Mark F Macpherson CD, FSA Scot

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

## POEM BY PAULINE MCCREADIE

Stewarton, Scotland



She strolls in the tree lined avenue.  
Heels clicking on the path.  
Sheltered under her broolly.  
From the last showers aftermath.

An artist paints the picture.  
Of raindrops made of autumn colours.  
As she hurries home.  
Just like many others.

No time to take in the beauty.  
Or to sit and think for a while.  
As the rain pitter patters.  
On the glossy tiles.

She's surrounded by colour.  
Each stroke tells the story.  
Of how much of nature she's missing.  
In its passing glory.

So, when the sunlight catches her eye.  
She is stopped in her tracks.  
Enthralled by this perfect scene.  
Wrapped up in her stunning red Mac.

## DEADLINE FOR SUMMER ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the Summer issue are due on the Editor's desk by May 31st, 2021. 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

## MESSAGE FROM CMA CHAIRMAN

By Bill Macpherson



Burns wrote:

“ The smiling Spring comes in rejoicing,

And surly Winter grimly flies;

Now crystal clear are the falling waters,

And bonie blue are the sunny skies.

Fresh o'er the mountains breaks forth the morning,

The ev'ning gilds the ocean's swell;

All creatures joy in the sun's returning,”

...but all I see when looking out the window is snow! But this is the Spring edition of The Green Banner, so let us hope that it is with optimism that we can look forward. It is now the middle of February and in Scotland we have been in lock-down since Christmas.

My daughter (in Australia) tells me that people there are complaining of a 5 day lock-down! I cannot but think that the last lines from Burns' 'To a Louse' is appropriate "Oh wad sae power the giftie gie us, to see oursels as ithers see us" (Oh would some power the gift they give us, to see ourselves as others see us). In fact it would be a wonderful gift to have, and lead us to a better understanding of ourselves.

One can but hope as you read this that life is beginning to return so some degree of socialising.

Jan and I were really looking forward to coming over for the joint AGM in Canada last Autumn. We both hold a soft spot for Canada and have always enjoyed our visits there and last year we were going to go up to Winnipeg after the AGM.

My family originate from Strath of Kildonan and 'Red River Kate' was one of ours. It would have been an interesting trip. Jan was the organiser of such ventures, without her I suspect the chance has gone. It is looking forward that we must – to the annual CMA Gathering in Badenoch in August. The Council met (virtually, of course) at the beginning of January to consider whether we should try to hold the Gathering in 2021.

After some deliberation it was decided that the Gathering should go ahead if at all possible. We realise that it is likely that it will be smaller than usual (150-200 people is the norm) and there are likely to be few from overseas (although there are European bookings already) but if conditions allow we should hold a Gathering.

The regulations in Scotland current at the time of the Gathering concerning the pandemic will be strictly adhered to. In the event that makes it impossible to operate the Gathering, or if anybody books and then has to cancel (before July 1st) due to travel restrictions, the CMA will refund all event booking fees (not travel or accommodation).

On the assumption that the Gathering with all the usual events will happen, the AGM will be held as a physical event as usu-

al. If the Gathering doesn't happen, look out for a similar virtual event as last year.

We will, however, publish papers on the Internet even if a physical AGM is held.

The forthcoming Creag Dhubh will have all the event and booking information. It was delayed this year so we could include the result of the Gathering decision and should be shipped early in March.

The same information is also available online at <https://www.clan-macpherson.org/gathering>.

Let us hope that the Gathering in 2022 will have no need of such uncertainty and we can Gather and celebrate together in wild abandon!

Until we meet again,

Yours aye

Bill



## CLAN MACPHERSON ASOCIATION



JOINT  
CANADA-USA  
GATHERING



CAIRN CROFT HOTEL  
NIAGARA FALLS ONTARIO

**September 24-26, 2021**

## BRITISH COLUMBIA REPORT

By D'Arcy McPherson



**G**reetings cousins,

And a special welcome to the new members.

Although in-person events are not possible right now, Robert Burns Day was nonetheless celebrated in an appropriate virtual fashion this year. ScotFestBC and Simon Fraser

University's Centre for Scottish Studies hosted a special online celebration that was sold out once the 500-person limit was reached.

There was piping from world champion Jack Lee, accordion sing-alongs, a presentation from SFU's Dr. Leith Davis, the Address to the Haggis, and prizes for the best dressed and best home decorations.

The British Columbia Highland Games are scheduled to begin on June 18, 2021, at Lafarge Lake, Coquitlam. The date is to be confirmed and will depend on the public health recommendations at the time.

However, in anticipation of a green light, the organizers are proceeding with plans for a Tartan Run through the city, professional piobaireachd (piping), vendors, and a ceilidh under the big tent. Of course, there will also be caber tossing, highland dancing competitions, Celtic music, workshops, a whisky school, artisans displaying a variety of products and a variety of activities for children.

A booth space for the Clan MacPherson is also available with advance registration and the traditional marching in of the clans is always a special thing to see. Please check out the website at <https://scotfestbc.com/> for more information and updates as the event draws nearer.

Other highland games in British Columbia are still in the process of organizing and are waiting to see what will happen with the pandemic directions.

Everyone seems very eager to hear the pipes blowing and see the kilts swirling again in 2021.

All the best from B.C.



Old stone bridge in the Scottish landscape

## MACPHERSONIANA PROJECT

By Mairi MacPherson



**T**he Clan Macpherson Museum was in the forefront of making its collection available in a digital medium, maybe even the first.

The Macpherson Electronic Museum, designed by Rod Clarke as an online tour of the Museum, was officially opened on our website by our Chief, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie, in August 2005.

Building on that groundbreaking start 15 years ago, Macphersoniana: A Digital Exhibition of Objects and Stories is the first digital exhibition curated by the Clan Macpherson Museum.

This project was funded by Museums Galleries Scotland. It began in 2020, and has had contributions from the UK, the US and Australia.

Macphersoniana is all about Macpherson-related personal objects and their stories, and it complements the permanent and temporary exhibitions at the Clan Macpherson Museum in Newtonmore, in the Scottish Highlands.

Anyone with Macpherson connections is welcome to contribute an object – whether you're just down the road from Newtonmore or over in Australia.

The exhibition tells the stories of people and their prized objects and explores what it means to be a Macpherson. In doing so, it connects 'cousins' from around the globe who might not be able to visit the Museum in person.

We ask all contributors to answer four questions:

1. What is your object and how did it come to be in your possession?
2. Why have you chosen this object for the Macphersoniana project?
3. Why is this object important to you and what does it mean to you?
4. What does this object tell us about what it means to be a Macpherson?

See more at <https://macphersoniana.org/>.

There is one more thing, too - we have put out a call for photographs via our social media (which I hope you're all following - on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!).

We're asking for photographs of 'clan activities' at home and abroad for display in the final room in our new permanent exhibition.

The response has been great - we have received over 350 photographs from cousins in Scotland, the US, Australia, Canada, Spain and Peru - but we would really appreciate more contributions, from yourselves or your members.



## WESTERN CANADA REPORT

By Bob Macpherson



In the early 1980's, every January my wife, Sylvia, and I would celebrate Malanka with our Ukrainian friends.

One year I decided we should be celebrating our own heritage as well. Starting in 1984, we began having Burns' suppers, small gatherings at first. Every year we

would have friends over and would incorporate the main features of a Burns' supper.

We often attended the local Burns' supper put on by the Highland Games association as well. On occasion, we would do the toast to the lassies and the reply and one year I did the Immortal Memory. This was when we lived in Grande Prairie, Alberta. When we moved to Cochrane, we continued the tradition but with family and a new group of friends and often had over 20 guests. Always a good time.

Covid-19 put a cramp in our plans this year as it did everywhere anyone wanted a gathering. We had put on the dinners for 37 consecutive years and were disappointed we couldn't keep it going.

Then my daughter suggested doing something with Zoom. A great idea! Rather than a supper, we would have a Burns' Happy Hour which we did. We shared toasts, a few Scottish jokes and lots of laughs. Some of us had haggis' ready for that evening so I was able to address it after all. On Zoom it was hard to see the tartan on those who were wearing it but I at least felt good in my kilt.

With no opportunities to celebrate our Scottishness, no activities and little communication, it was great to find a chance to do so thanks to Zoom. We all need to look for ways to keep our spirits up (Slainte!) during these challenging times. Covid is at least making us think creatively of ways to move forward and not be defeated by this thing.

It is my hope that my Macpherson cousins across the land are staying healthy and safe. Just in case whisky and haggis have protective benefits, be sure and try them along with your vitamins!

We will get through this.

### 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 [Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org) for more details and multi-issue rates

## ONTARIO WEST REPORT

By Bruce McPherson



Hello cousins!

My name is Bruce McPherson and I am pleased to serve as your Ontario West Counsellor.

We had all hoped that by the summer of 2021, the COVID – 19 pandemic would be in the past and we would be able to return to gathering with our family and friends. Unfortunately, as the pandemic continues to affect all facets of our day to day life, it appears as though we will once again be limited as to our ability to safely participate in activities together.

Unfortunately, this has meant that several Highland Games have already made the challenging decision to cancel their competitions again this year. So far, here in Ontario, I am aware that Kingsville, Caledonia, Glengarry and Fergus have delayed their Games until 2022.

I reached out to Embro, Cambridge, Kincardine and Coburg however have yet to receive a response. Considering the considerable amount of planning that it takes to organize these events, it seems a foregone conclusion that these games will also need to be delayed until next year.

It is regrettable as the games offer a great opportunity for us as a Scottish community to gather together and celebrate our shared culture.

Additionally, the games offer our Association an outlet to recruit new members, individuals who may not actively seek out membership, but may walk by the Clan tent and stop in as they know that they have a family member connected to the MacPherson family.

It is, however heartening to hear that most of these Games are attempting to organize virtual celebrations so that we can watch demonstrations, listen to the Pipes and celebrate from the safety of our living room.

Although this form of gathering has its disadvantages, it does open up the opportunity for us to log on and enjoy celebrations from coast to coast or even from other nations where geography, time and money would generally restrict us from doing so.

I encourage you all to take in at least one Highland Games this year, and where opportunity permits, let us have a presence as a Clan at as many of these celebrations as possible!

### LEGION OF THE LOST

We have lost contact with the following members:

Elizabeth Macpherson Taylor, formerly of Hidden Forest, Cedar Valley ON

Mr. Robert McPherson, formerly of Hill St., Almonte ON

Mr. L A Lee, formerly of Baseline Road West, London ON

Judge Hugh J. McPherson, formerly of Antigonish Co., NS

If any member knows where any of these lost members is presently residing, please send an email or note to Denise Lagundzin.

## EASTERN CANADA & EDITOR

By John C. House



In the Spring 2018 issue I wrote a piece about the annual Culloden Memorial commemorated at Knoydart, Nova Scotia.

Unfortunately, like many cancellations resulting from the ongoing pandemic, the memorial will not be held this year and has been postponed until 2022. Since writing that last article, I have learned more information about the three Jacobite soldiers commemorated on the memorial at Knoydart.



Culloden Memorial, Knoydart

The cairn was constructed in 1938 to memorialize Angus MacDonald, Hugh MacDonald, and John MacPherson.

Although little is currently known about Hugh, it is known that Angus MacDonald and John MacPherson came to Nova Scotia from Kinlochmoidart, Scotland.

They crossed the Atlantic as old men on a ship named Dunkeld along with other Scottish immigrants.

They fought on the battlefield at Culloden, and were imprisoned in Kelso and Edinburgh before being released under the general pardon of 1747.



Culloden Monument, Culloden, Scotland

After arriving in Nova Scotia, they settled in a place they named Moidart, in Pictou County, Nova Scotia (today known as Knoydart and McArras Brook).

After their deaths these men were buried in an old graveyard at the west side of the cairn.

It is interesting to note that my own family tradition (as well as genealogical DNA) has linked my own MacPherson and MacDonald ancestral roots to this same small area of Scotland, although I am presently unaware of any direct link to these families.

The remembrance ceremony has been held at this site since 1982, and I am looking forward to when they are able to resume this ceremony.

In other news from the region, the Greater Moncton Highland Games and Scottish Festival are planning on hosting the 2022 Masters Heavy Athletics World Championships next year.

The Greater Moncton Highland Games features highland dance, pipe, drum, and pipe band competitions as well as dozens of workshops & demonstrations covering everything from

Gaelic language and song to falconry and sheep dog herding to historical elements.

The Scottish Masters Athletics International, (SMAI) is organized and operated to foster international amateur sports competition for charitable and cultural purposes.

They are the exclusive sanctioning authority and host for the Masters World Championships (MWC) for the traditional Scottish Highland Games athletic competitions called the "Heavy Events."

I will pass along further details in an upcoming issue.

On March 4th, the New Brunswick Highland Games Festival planning committee made the difficult decision to postpone the games that were to be held this summer in Fredericton. They look forward to having things up and running in 2022.



Newtonmore Highland Games, 2016

Like Bill and Denise, I also wish to express our sadness at the news of the passing of Sir William Macpherson of Cluny. I had the honour to have spoken to him a couple of times at the gathering in 2016, but was very much aware of his work and achievements long before that. Having had the opportunity to spend just a short time speaking to him left a great impression on me. He was clearly a credit to his nation and to the Macpherson Clan. He will be missed.

I wish to thank the contributors to this current issue of the Green Banner. I am looking forward to working with them and others in the future.

In closing, we were all saddened to hear of the loss of Irene Mary Macpherson, beloved wife of past Chairman William Macpherson. Bill and his boys wish to pass on their appreciation to the members of the CMA by sharing the memories on following page. She will certainly be missed.

# Irene Mary Macpherson

1955 - 2020

*Spirit lives on forever*



*In Loving Memory*

# A Teacher's Prayer

James J. Metcalf



I want to teach my students how--  
To live this life on earth,  
To face its struggles and its strife  
And to improve their worth.

Not just the lesson in a book,  
Or how the rivers flow,  
But to choose the proper path ,  
Wherever they may go.

To understand eternal truth,  
And know right from wrong,  
And gather all the beauty of  
A flower and a song,

For if I help the world to grow  
In wisdom and grace,  
Then I feel that I have won  
And I have filled my place.

And so I ask your guidance, God  
That I may do my part,  
For character and confidence  
And happiness of heart.



# A Special Lady

Andrew Macpherson

A special lady was Irene Mary  
Who's lessons to us always varied  
But never were they ordinary  
Singing to your three wee boys  
You'd teach us to tidy up our toys  
We still can hear your joyful noise  
Your laughter and song what's keeping us strong  
Your teachings of life will live ever long  
Your example of courage helps us carry on

A special lady taught us well  
To always be kind and the truth to tell  
Never on hurt or pain should we dwell  
You were a beacon of positive energy  
Your outlook on life was exemplary  
Although it may have seemed elementary  
Your wisdom was deep yet you taught from the heart  
These reflective words are only a start  
Of the wonderful memories that set you apart

A special lady we'll see again  
Let's remember her joy until then  
When our laughs and smiles will never end



*Mum and her boys*

