



The Green Banner Newsletter

Canadian Branch of Clan Macpherson Association

Volume 1, Issue Number 6

Winter Issue

December 2023

Greeting Cousins,

I hope that you are all well.

On Saturday October 28, 2023 our AGM was held by Zoom. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Cluny sent a message as he could not attend. The CMA Chairman, Bonnie McPherson attended the meeting. Both of their messages follow.

It was decided that the upcoming Robbie Burns weekend would also serve as our 2024 Gathering. In 2025 the Joint Gathering with our US cousins will be held in Niagara Falls using the plans from the Joint Gathering that had to be cancelled due to the COVID Out-break.



The positions of BC and Central Ontario Councillors, Treasurer and Vice Chairman remain open. The success of our Branch depends upon the participation of it's members. You will find details of the these positions in this edition.

As all of the written Treasurer, Registrar and Councillors reports were included in the last issue of the Green Banner, I have included a few new things of interest. I do hope that you enjoy.

I hope that you will consider attending the Robbie Burns/Gathering at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre. More details will follow in the pages of this issue of the Green Banner.

Until we meet again, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Mike and myself.

Warm regards,
Denise

CLUNY'S WELCOME!

Fellow Clan Members, Canadian Cousins and Friends, I send much love from a cold and wet Scotland!

As I look out of the window, and see the rain, I remember with fondness the Gathering at Newtonmore in August with over a dozen countries represented, among them some extremely die hard Canadian members, who were last to leave the bar on several occasions! I was told jet-lag was the main reason.....



Unfortunately, the ever present Ed Smith did not reach us, but we believe he is on the road to recovery after a bout of pneumonia. It was a very well attended rally and once again made easier by all the smiling faces, and the great companionship everyone showed each other. I look forward, and indeed encourage you all, at least once, to pop over to Scotland to the Gathering which is always planned around the 1st Saturday in August, and one day I hope to visit you!

It has been a sad year across the Clan Macpherson Association with a number of people passing away, and whilst I did not wish the CMA AGM to end on a sad note, I paid my respects to a few and by no means all. However, it must be noted that we have also lost some notable Canadian members, with particular mention to Gordon Macpherson (our heraldic expert extraordinaire), Bob Archibald, Lt. Col. Mark Macpherson, and Rev. James Macpherson Small - Clan stalwarts and gentlemen, all.

However, there were also milestone birthday wishes to Douglas Malcolm MacPherson and Jean MacPherson who celebrated their 99th birthdays – superb!

I continue to catch up with various news in the Green Banner and I enjoy being drip-fed various snippets of the goings on across Canada from Denise, who is the most wonderful Chairman, so keep up the good work of 'fostering relationships' and keep in touch with me if you can or on social media!

I finish only, in my traditional way and with regard to the Canadian Branch and to those people who have passed, we pray; to those people who have joined, we welcome you; and to those that do so much for your branch of the association, we give you thanks.

My wife Annie, William, Lucy, Angus and I send much love to you all.

Slainte
Cluny



From the desk of the CMA Chairman Bonnie A. McPherson

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Good morning.

I am pleased to report that at the gathering this year we had 182 members, family and friends who came to meet up with old friends as well as to make new ones. We spent time together and tried to manage a little business. The CMA Council, Museum Trustees, and the Museum Advisory Committee (MAC) have been meeting separately throughout the year to do business and ensure all is well. During the weekend the CMA Council, Museum Trustees and the MAC sat down together for the first time ever joint meeting. Allen Fletcher Macpherson, Bruce Macpherson, and I led the meeting together to address the Museum and how we as a group are going forward. Bruce Macpherson, the Museum Convenor, has sent a report about this discussion to bring the membership up to date on our plans going forward.

On Saturday despite pouring rain and a bad accident on the main A9 requiring two engines, an ambulance at the scene, all traffic was diverted to the route of the march. The march disbanded halfway down the hill but reassembled at the games field gates. The wettest march ever.

This year has been very challenging for the CMA as our costs continue to rise and funds are limited. We need to look at our flagship magazine, the Creag Dhubh, and how we can produce it at a lower, manageable cost. The Council has had much discussion regarding how to move forward. An electronic Flipping book will debut soon. The two CMA Council positions have been filled. Robyn Rein as the CMA Secretary and Annie LeRoy Lewis as Treasurer. We welcome them both.

Thank you for inviting me to your Annual General Meeting.

Bonnie

DR. DUNCAN MACPHERSON, 1812-1867

By
Michael Theilmann



Canadian clan members who have visited the Macpherson museum in Newtonmore, may have noticed in the galleries an imposing oil portrait of a stern and bearded Victorian in military uniform, posed in a chair with his arm resting on several loose pages on a small side table. The sword he wears in the portrait is also on display. That man is Doctor Duncan Macpherson, my great-great-grandfather. He was, in his day, a noted sanitarian, author and antiquarian and could claim the friendship of many noted Victorians, chief among them Florence Nightingale.

He was born in 1812 in Portree on the Isle of Skye where his father, John Macpherson, head of the Macphersons of Banchor, was chamberlain or factor to Lord Macdonald of Skye. After graduating from medical school at the University of Edinburgh in 1836, he began his professional life as a doctor in the Madras Army of the East India Company. He took part in the First China War or Opium War, 1840-42, and wrote a well-received book on the campaign that went to three editions. In 1855 he was appointed Inspector General of Hospitals to the Turkish Contingent. This was a 20,000-man Turkish army under English officers raised to fight alongside the British and French against the Russians during the Crimean War. Effectively, he was responsible for all medical services for this army.

In late 1855 the Turkish Contingent was sent to Kerch in the Crimea where it remained until peace was declared in 1856. During his time there, my grandfather conducted archaeological digs in and around Kerch. Back in England after the war, he wrote a book on his researches called *Antiquities of Kertch*. The pages under his arm in the portrait in the clan museum are actually coloured lithographs from this book, depicting some of his finds.

After the war he returned to India where he became Inspector General of Hospitals for the Madras Presidency. His work in this position took him on tours of inspection all over India, the Andaman Islands, what was then Burma and Ceylon, Singapore and Indonesia. He died in 1867 on coffee plantations that he founded in southern India.

This is just a bare bones description of Dr. Macpherson's life. The fuller story is much richer and more fascinating. In 1985, Doctor Macpherson's diaries from 1855-1867 and his journal covering the years 1858-1863, came into my possession along with dozens of pieces of family correspondence. Over the ensuing years, I gradually transcribed his cramped and often scarcely legible handwriting on to computer. It was a large task running to over 1,000 pages and it was not until 2013 when I retired from the federal government that I was finally in a position to start writing a book about his life and his family.

The research that followed has taken me to strange and unexpected places—the site of a brutal massacre in a dusty canyon in California, and the vaults of one of the world's great museums and an untold story of archaeological plundering to name just two. Along the way I have encountered a gallery of individuals who would do justice to a Dickens novel—rogues, rascals, eccentrics, pettifogging bureaucrats, eminent soldiers and some of the great personalities of the Victorian age.

Ironically, I discovered that Dr. Macpherson had greater freedom to travel than I did. President Putin's invasion of the Crimea scuppered a planned trip to Kerch and a meeting with an archaeologist from the Hermitage museum. Civil war in Myanmar ruled out a visit to that country. And soured relations between Canada and China over the arrest of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou made a trip to that country inadvisable. The pandemic and personal health issues have also proved delaying factors.

Despite these setbacks I have, to date, completed research trips to Scotland, England, California and Quebec City. And looking ahead to 2024, I plan to finish my research with visits to Turkey, India, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Indonesia. Once this is complete, my next challenge will be to find a publisher. The end goal is to share the fascinating story of Dr. Macpherson and his family with other clan members and the broader public.

As and when appropriate, I hope to share updates on this project in future issues of the Green Banner.



Help Wanted

There are currently several positions still open.

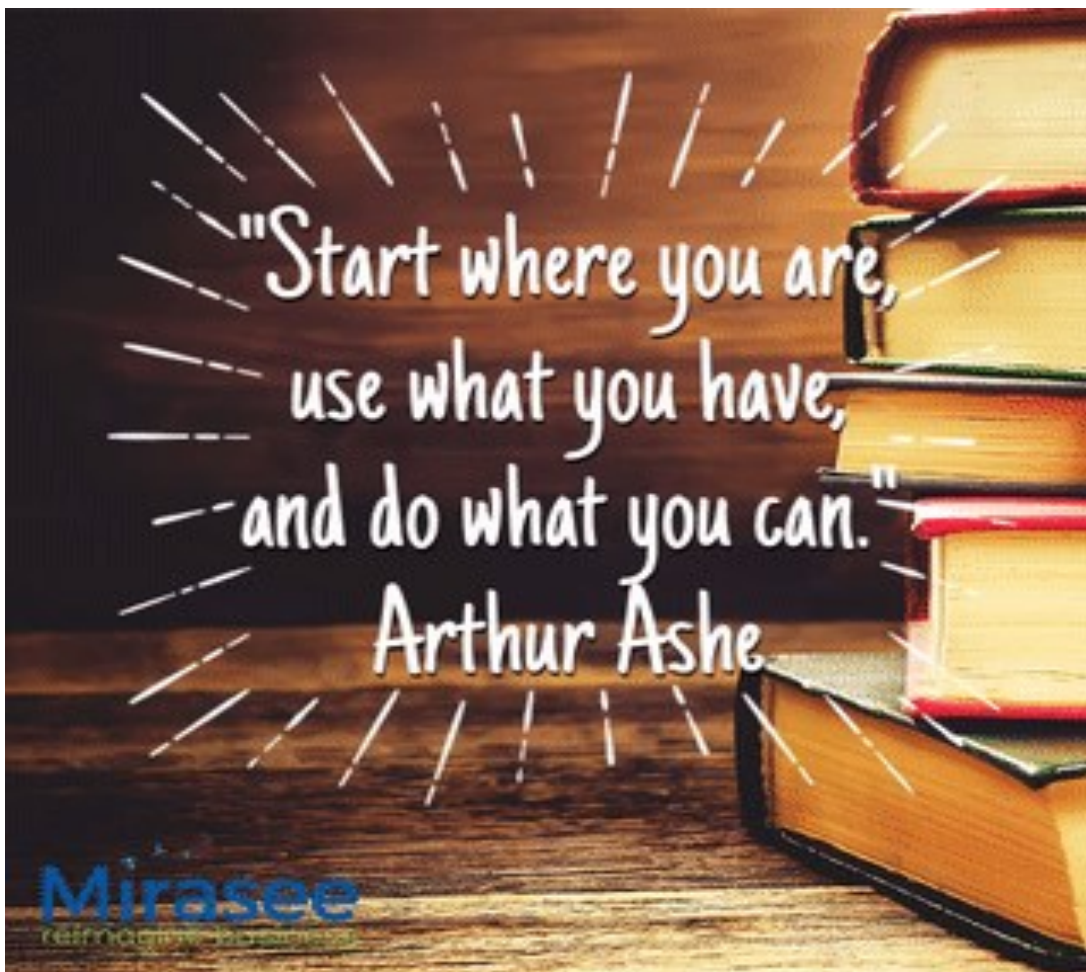
The duties of each position are listed below.

Our clan is a family and we all have commitments.

You will never be alone, we all help each other out and have fun!

The job descriptions posted on the following pages were prepared by the late LtCol Mark F Macpherson.

Please consider becoming involved.



Treasurer

1. Maintains a true record of the accounts of the Branch including revenues and expenses as well as assets and liabilities.
2. Pays expenses authorized by the Council, incurred on behalf of the Branch, receives funds due to the Branch, and maintains an accurate record of such transactions.
3. Opens a bank account at a chartered Canadian Bank in the name of the Clan Macpherson Association, Canadian Branch, and arranges for the recognition by the bank of signing officers authorized by Council.
4. Deposits all funds received on behalf of the Canadian Branch in the bank account and reconciles bank balances with the branch accounts each month. 5
- . Acts as a signing officer for the Branch in conjunction with the Chairman, and any other signing officers authorized by the membership at an Annual General Meeting.
6. Records and holds secure the property of the Branch including equipment and inventories for sale.
7. Prepares an annual budget with input from members of Council for approval at the Annual General Meeting each year
8. Prepares and presents an Annual Financial Report to the membership at the Annual General Meeting of the Branch.
9. Prepares and presents current financial statements to meetings of the Council as required.
10. Forwards the total amount of member dues received each year as required by the Clan Macpherson Association net of expenses for distribution of Creag Dhubh to Branch members.
11. Receives expense claims from members who incur expenses on behalf of the CMA, verifies them and arranges for prompt reimbursement of the claim.
12. Prepares a forecast of final revenue and expenses for the current Rally at the Annual General Meeting.
13. Receives member dues from new members and renewing annual members. Forwards copies of the application and renewal forms to the Registrar for further action.
14. Receives sales receipts from Highland games where Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch is represented and operates a Clan Macpherson stand.
15. Receives revenues from all other activities of the Branch including sales and raffles at Annual General Meetings.

Ken Gillis is planning on retiring from the Treasurer's position at the end of next year (2024) and the clan will require someone to take over the position. The job is not particularly onerous but it does require regular (monthly) attention. Most of the work is done by a spreadsheet which would be passed on to his Replacement.

The positions of Provincial Councillor are open in BC and Central Ontario.

1. The Provincial Councillor serves on the Branch Governing Council and is expected to contribute advice and knowledge to ensure the operation of the Branch.
2. Under the direction of the Chairman, represents the Association in a specific province, territory, or designated region of Canada.
3. Promotes the CMA in the assigned area and supports communications amongst the members
4. Recruits suitable candidates for membership in the Association.
5. Contacts each member in the area personally least once each year and works to maintain the interest of the members in the CMA.
6. Organizes each year at least one event or activity for members and potential members in the assigned area.
7. Assists the Branch Registrar to keep the Branch database current by advising of any changes in the status of a member such as address, telephone and email.
8. Prepares a short report on activities in the area for the Green Banner in each issue.
9. Assists the Branch Editor by encouraging members to submit interesting articles and stories to the Green Banner
10. Recommends to the Council ways to increase the visibility of the Association, in order to attract new members, and to retain current members.
11. Serves as a voting member of Council

Vice Chairman

1. Acts on behalf of the Chairman when delegated, or if the Chairman is incapacitated.
2. Recommends the time and place of the Annual Gathering at least one year in advance.
3. Recommends a member to be appointed as the Convener of the Annual Gathering who will fulfill the requirements of that office or assumes this role personally.
4. Assists the Chairman to prepare a list of candidates to be nominated for office at each Annual General Meeting.
5. Serves as a voting member of the Branch Council.
6. Serves as a member of the Nominating Committee for the Branch.
7. Succeeds to the office of Chairman.



The Canadian Branch
of the
Clan Macpherson Association
invite you and yours
to the 73rd Gathering
as we celebrate

Robbie Burns

at
Crieff Hills Retreat Centre,
Puslinch, ON



Check in at 4:00 pm Saturday January 27,
Departing 1:00 pm Sunday January 28.

Saturday

Cocktails & appetizers and live entertainment
beginning at 4:30 pm
Clan march starts at 7:15 pm to MacLean Hall for
Highland Dinner at 7:30 pm

Sunday

Morning Breakfast Brunch at 8:30 am
Gather for church service at 9:30 am
at Knox Presbyterian Church, Crieff.

Registration deadline: Jan 10th, 2024

Please email Denise Lagundzin for a Registration Form
Or visit Canada's page on our Clan website

Please note that the Canadian 2024 AGM will be held in October by Zoom.

We will be staying in our own 12 room lodge with large sitting room and a kitchette. All of the bedrooms have an on suite. There are no televisions in the lodge but a great Internet signal is provided.

Accommodation

Double Room—\$78.00 per person

Single Room—\$110.00 for one person

Entry Fee, if not spending the night, - \$10.00 per person

Meals

Saturday evening Highland Dinner
Including wine—\$85.00 per person

Sunday Buffet Breakfast—\$24.00 per person

Refreshments

We are permitted to bring our own liquor and soft drinks into Lodge. There will be bottled water, soft drinks and a non-alcoholic punch provided. Appetizers will also be provided, but feel free to bring your own favourite snacks.

Luke Lodges provides hotel-style rooms with private ensuite bathrooms. Sheets, pillows and towels are supplied and guests prepare their own bed.

Each building includes a lounge area and wood-burning fireplace with a small kitchenette including a microwave, 12-cup coffee maker and small refrigerator. Complimentary salt, pepper, sugar, and supplies for one pot of coffee and tea are provided.





Celebrating at a Baby Shower are Mary Edward, Mary's daughters Renee and Yvette, Mother-to-be Brynn Brown- and first time Grandparents Janet and John McCredie.

Janet McCredie and granddaughter Willow Ainsley.
Willow was born in London, ON on November 8





Always there.

Remember when times are tough.
And it's all too hard to bear.
You're not on your own.
I will always be there.

I'm only a call away.
So just lift the phone.
You never need to worry.
You'll never be alone.

I'm there by your side.
With every hill to climb.
Together we can make it.
No matter how long the time.

So I send to you my love.
My beautiful friend.
I just wanted you to know.
On me you can depend.

Historic milestone as endangered wildcats released into national park

The trial releases are the first-ever conservation translocation of wildcats in Britain.

After years of extensive preparations, 22 wildcats have been released into the Cairngorms National Park as part of landmark efforts to save the species from extinction within Scotland.

Led by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS), the Saving Wildcats partnership has released the cats into undisclosed locations within the Cairngorms Connect landscape of the national park where they will be carefully monitored using GPS-radio collars.

Approved under licence by NatureScot, the trial releases are the first-ever conservation translocation of wildcats in Britain in an effort to help restore Scotland's critically endangered wildcat population.

Approximately 60 wildcats will be released over the next three years.

The project, which has undertaken widespread engagement with local communities, has drawn on global conservation and scientific expertise to further understanding of wildcat ecology and behaviour.

David Field, chair of the Saving Wildcats project board and CEO of the RZSS, said: "We are delighted that the Saving Wildcats partnership has taken this historic step towards securing a future for the species in Scotland.

"The time is now to give the 'Highland Tiger' the best chance of survival and I am thankful for the work of our team members, partners and supporters in making this happen.

"I am also particularly grateful for the support of our local community in the Cairngorms as, without their engagement, we would not have reached this exciting milestone."

Lorna Slater, minister for green skills, the circular economy and biodiversity, said: "Wildcats are a much loved native species in Scotland and yet their very existence is under threat".

"This announcement is welcome news and is an important step in ensuring the survival of the species. Reversing the dramatic losses in nature that we have seen in recent times is one of the defining challenges that our country faces. The Scottish Government remains committed to this fight and is actively working towards protecting and restoring our natural environment and the animal. Within the lifespan of the project, it's envisioned that approximately 20 cats will also be released in 2024 and 2025 from the conservation breeding for release centre.

"I'd like to thank everyone that has been involved for their incredible hard work that has got us to this position. I look forward to seeing the progress of the wildcats as they settle into their new home in Scotland's iconic Cairngorms National Park."

The cats were born in a purpose-built off-show conservation breeding for release centre based at Highland Wildlife Park, near Aviemore, in 2022.

Despite detailed preparations ahead of the first release, one of the most difficult aspects of any conservation translocation is predicting how an animal will respond to being released.

Dr Helen Senn, project lead and head of science and conservation programmes for the RZSS, said: "We hope that this project will pave the way for the full recovery of Scotland's last remaining native cat species."

“Unfortunately, life is tough for wild carnivores and the sad reality is that some of the wildcats that we release will not survive due to threats such as road traffic. Their survival is contingent on their individual behaviour in a new environment. While the Saving Wildcats team have made every effort to prepare the wildcats by moving them into large pre-release enclosures which support natural development, informed by other successful carnivore recovery projects such as Iberian lynx in Spain and Portugal, they cannot ultimately control how the cats will react.

“However, we also know that inaction will result in extinction. As human activity is responsible for the wildcat’s decline, we have a responsibility to take action now to protect one of our rarest and most threatened mammals.

“Everything we learn from this closely monitored first trial release will help inform future releases.”

Shared with the kind permission of Caitlyn Dewar
written 15th Jun 2023 for Savingwildcats.org.uk/





During this year's Gathering, a new initiative took place that brought together members of the Museum's Advisory Board (MAC) with members of the CMA Council. The meeting was an informal one but provided an excellent opportunity for me to brief everyone on the then recent departure of our Curator, Aila, and what measures are being undertaken to find someone to replace her.

Our discussions were wide-reaching and touched on the challenges - and rewards - of running such a facility as our Museum. The Museum Trustees are acutely aware of how important members of the Clan regard the Museum, how much has been invested in it and of our responsibility in managing the Museum to the highest of standards.

The process of replacing our Curator has moved on significantly in recent weeks and today we will be publishing adverts across print media outlets and our various social media sites in our quest to find a new Custodian. The change of name from 'curator' to 'custodian' reflects discussions with Museums Galleries Scotland this past summer, these talks focussing in large part on future funding opportunities we may wish to pursue.

The Custodian we seek to recruit will be a resident volunteer occupying the three bed-roomed flat above the oldest part of the Museum. The Custodian will be supported by at least one paid Museum Assistant and, in time, we would hope to have a sufficiently large income that we can afford to pay the Custodian. In order for that to happen, next year we anticipate applying for a grant to enable us to employ a fund-raiser, responsible for developing and delivering a fundraising strategy. This has been the subject of recent trustees' meetings; earlier in the year our focus was on crafting a development strategy to chart where we hope to take the Museum in the foreseeable future.

During recent discussions with the Canadian Branch Chairman, we have spoken about how communications between the Museum and its many supporters across the world can be improved. We have come up with a number of ideas which we will work on during the winter months. If any branch members have particular ideas or thoughts of their own, please do not hesitate to contact me, likewise if you would like to contribute in some way to the running of the Museum. We are always looking for eager volunteers and are particularly keen to find someone at this time who can play a role in publicising the Museum.

One of the greatest Canadian champions of the Museum was the late Gordon. At a recent trustee meeting, I invited Ewen to pay tribute to Gordon. He did so in glowing terms - someone who donated more to the Museum than any other person and 'one of the nicest people you could ever meet.' We thank Gordon for his service to the Museum and salute his memory.

I conclude this short article by sending all of our Canadian Cousins our very best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous new year, and to thank you all for your support over the past twelve months.

Bruce Macpherson, Convenor, Clan Macpherson Museum Trust

convenor.museum@clan-macpherson.org



63 Percent Scottish Pod Cast



A few weeks ago, Bruce McPherson sent me the link to this pod cast and I have really enjoy listening to it.

Let me introduce you to the host—My name is Eamon O'Flynn and for 35 years I thought I was as Irish as they come. But then I did a DNA test and found out I was actually 63 Percent Scottish. This was an eye-opener!

I love talking to people and learning new things, and I am especially fascinated with history, heritage and ancestry. While it seems ludicrous that I'd be so ignorant of my Scottish heritage for so long, I'm not a total dummy - I have a degree in history (and another in political science!).

This podcast is about exploring Scotland's past, present and future. This show was developed for anyone with an interest in Scottish history, culture or food, no matter whether you're from the United States, Canada, Australia, Caithness, Lewis, Glasgow or Dunfermline.

Every other week, we speak with top-notch journalists, best-selling authors, podcasters and distinguished academics about everything from Wallace and whisky to Irn-Bru and Independence.

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Our episodes are available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts and wherever you listen to podcasts. All episodes are also available on [The Scottish Banner](#) - the premier publication for Scottish people and those of Scottish heritage in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States.

<https://63percentscottish.com/>

<https://mailchi.mp/1358db130fdc/tartan-thistle-april-5411034?e=24c7604d16>

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THE GREEN BANNER is Published three to four times each year to bringing
Information of interest to the members of the
Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and thank you to following people for their contributions
and support to this issue:

Bill Macpherson, Beverly McPherson Letford, Michael Thiemann,
Eamon O'Flynn , Pauline McCredie, Janet McCredie, Caitlyn Dewar
and Bruce Macpherson