



# The Green Banner Newsletter

Canadian Branch of Clan Macpherson Association

Volume 1, Issue Number 5

Summer Issue

September 2023

Greetings cousins,

Please accept my apologies for the lateness of the Green Banner. I was in Scotland and England for 6 weeks. My husband, Mike, caught pneumonia on the final days of my holiday and there was much to do when I got home.

This year's Gathering was held Saturday June 17 to Sunday June 18 in Cobourg, Ontario. The Canadian Branch was honoured at the Cobourg Scottish Festival & Highland Games. Twenty members participated in the Clan March piped in by Ewan Macpherson. An informal dinner was held in the Arthur's Pub Saturday evening where we celebrated Jessica Macpherson's 17th birthday. Pictures will be posted later in the newsletter. Thank you to everyone who attended.



Our AGM will be held by Zoom at 10:00 am Saturday October 28, 2023. The Agenda and Reports are included with this Green Banner. Please let me know if you have any questions, 519-507-4465

**Topic: CMA Canadian Branch Planning Meeting**  
**Time: 10 am Saturday, October 28, 2023**

**Join Zoom Meeting**  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87605221789?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87605221789?pwd=MVdueDZnWktUWG1YMi9EeXhzMklJUT09)  
[pwd=MVdueDZnWktUWG1YMi9EeXhzMklJUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87605221789?pwd=MVdueDZnWktUWG1YMi9EeXhzMklJUT09)

**Meeting ID: 876 [0522 1789](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87605221789?pwd=MVdueDZnWktUWG1YMi9EeXhzMklJUT09)**  
**Passcode: 152200**

Plans are underway for our next Robbie Burns Weekend at Creiff Hills. Please watch the Fall Issue of The Green Banner for more details.

Best wishes,

*Denise*

Denise Lagundzin, FSAScot  
Chairman



Bob and Marlene Archibald chatting with Bill Macpherson in Clan tent.



Nicole Cordeau and Jeff McPherson in clan tent



Ewan Macpherson, our Clan Piper, competing.



Standing on field at the Cobourg Highland Games after being piped on by Ewan Macpherson.



Canadian Branch of Clan Macpherson  
72th Canadian Gathering  
Cobourg , Ontario



Enjoying our evening meal after a busy day  
At the Games.



Nancy, Aaron, birthday girl Jessica and Ewan  
enjoying birthday cupcakes.

Photos from the 2023 Gathering  
Kingussie and Newtonmore, Scotland  
Canadian Branch members attending were Bill Macpherson, Scott and  
Jacqueline, Elle McPherson, Louise Quinn and Denise Lagundzin



Arriving in Scotland, first stop was the Clan Museum where Bill Macpherson and I met Cluny.



Scott and Jacqueline MacPherson from Morden, NS



Cluny, myself and Bill Macpherson at the Highland Ball, Duke of Gordon Hotel



The Pipes and Drums Band from Mt Dora, Florida played for us.

Western Canada Report  
Bob Macpherson



Aside from the terrible fires in Northern Alberta and the drifting smoke from the north, British Columbia and the northwest US, it has been a pretty enjoyable summer. I hosted our Clan tent at two highland games this season: Red Deer and Canmore AB. Canmore, of course, is the big one with professional athletes, pipe bands and dancers.

At both events I had a good number of visitors who were either Macphersons by name or in their family tree. My large map of Scotland and the clans displayed at the front of the tent is always a big attraction to so many people who, at least for one day, are very interested in their Scottish heritage. I even had some association members stop by (some apparently with lapsed memberships) and others interested in signing up. Hopefully, the interest doesn't fade after they go home!



The attached pictures (one from Red Deer, the other Canmore) show our clan tent with me and some of my family in front of it and the magnificent Rocky Mountains in the background. My daughter's family is MacGillivray which, as we know, is one of our clan partners in the Clan Chattan confederation.

Sylvia and I look forward to the summer of 2024, not only for the highland games here but for a return visit to Scotland and the Clan Gathering in Newtonmore/Kingussie.

Once again, we extend our greetings to all our Macpherson "cousins" in Canada and wish them all the best in the coming seasons.

Yours aye,  
Bob Macpherson  
Cochrane AB



## Ontario East and Quebec Report

by Chantal McPherson

I was happy to participate in my second Montreal Highland Games, August 6, 2023, on the grounds of the Douglas Hospital, as host of the Clan Macpherson tent.

A huge thank you to Bob Archibald for his generous gift! His beautiful handmade sign "The Associated Families' of Clan Macpherson – Once again it was a hit with onlookers who eagerly read the list of names, exclaiming with enthusiasm when their surname was found.

I was spoiled with friends visiting as well as Mathew McPherson, whom I had met at last November's Montreal St-Andrew's Ball.



This year's St. Andrew's Charity Ball is returning to the Marriott Château Champlain on Friday November 17, 2023. I will be attending with my husband Oh Jang and Tickets are now on sale!

<https://www.standrewsball.com/tickets.html>



## Central Ontario Report Jacqueline Murdoch

### Greetings Cousins

It's hard to believe it's been a year and that we are once again heading into the holiday season. It's been a busy year, and a lot has happened both personally and with the Association.

We had good intentions to try and arrange two or three small get togethers. We sent around a couple of email to garner the type of activities that members within the greater Toronto area would be interested in. With covid still in recent memory, we were cognizant that health concerns were quite real, and members were still uncertain about in person events.

That said a few of us braved the elements on a Sunday in January and met at Spadina House to walk through the immersive Dis/Mantle art exhibit. We learned about the history of the house, life in the mid nineteenth century and early twentieth, and the hardships of immigrant families to Toronto – the black communities in particular. It was a wonderful day.

We had hoped to have an event to connect again in May, but unfortunately the universe conspired against us and for a few reasons I had to cancel any plans for the spring. That said, there was an incredibly successful Gathering in June. And by all accounts, it was an amazing weekend, and one that I am sorry to have missed.

It was a difficult year for us all, with the loss of three amazing men, who were so pivotal to the Association, and who played important roles to me and my involvement with the Association:

When I learned Bob Archibald was sick, I was so saddened. Bob to me was a gentle giant. He, and his wife Sondra, were among the second Canadians that I met from the Canadian Branch. They were in Scotland in 2009 for the Gathering in Edinburgh and welcomed me whole-heartedly. Both were always up for a great adventure, loved to laugh, loved to dance, and were always game to participate in almost anything. Bob forgave me for the many times I stepped on his toes dancing. His knowledge of The Canadian Branch was deep - he was a veritable dictionary of all things Clan Macpherson and helped me in my various roles throughout the year. He will be dearly missed by myself, and the many people who knew him.

Mark MacPherson's passing is such a loss for me and everyone who knew him. Mark, and his wife, June, were my very first connects with the Canadian Branch when I mailed enquiring about membership, and were the first people I met, coincidentally, also in Scotland in the summer of 2009. Mark was instrumental in getting me involved in the Branch, in welcoming my family and I in, and keeping me connected. He was one of the smartest people I knew, and if he didn't know something, he dug in and learned everything. Mark had a special way about him, and really tried to modernize the Branch through the introduction of the Facebook page, among other things. He had a gift for connecting the right people to accomplish tasks, and while I had not seen him or June in recent years, he will be fondly remembered.

On my recent hearing of the passing of Gordon Macpherson, I was reminded of my many conversations I had with him at many Gathering events. Gordon always had a smile for me, and everyone he met, was so kind-hearted and warm, and was such a gentleman. Like Bob and Mark, his history with the Branch was deep, and he was always so very eager to tell me of that history and pass on knowledge that he had whenever we met. Gordon was highly respected, and I will always smile whenever I think of him.

With 2024 around the corner, Denise, and the branch leadership, are actively planning many events to make the year a great success. For several reasons, I have decided not to continue in my role as councillor for Central Ontario. I have not been able to commit the time that I want to in this role, and don't feel that I am serving in the manner that I expect of myself. It has been an honour to serve with Denise, and work alongside Ken, Janet, and all the other senior leadership and regional councillors. And I hope to see everyone some time soon.

Kindly,  
Jacqueline



## Ontario West Report By Bruce McPherson

I am once again happy to provide an update from Ontario's western region.

The summer months welcomed the return to a normal season of Highland games and competitions. Our Clan was once again well represented as my local games in Kingsville. Attendance from my understanding was much stronger this year and they have confirmed a date for the 2024 season, although the Games will now be held nearby in Essex.

I know that the other longstanding Games in the region continue to be successful including Embro and Kincardine. Perhaps we may be able to entice local members to attend those games and represent our Clan. I believe there has been no significant changes in membership in this area of Ontario one way or another.

Slainte



William and James McPherson helping Dad Bruce to set up Clan tent.



## Beverly McPherson Letford Registrar's Report

Most activities with outside clan interest in joining has been slow, almost at a standstill. I was unable to attend the highland games in Cobourg Ontario this year. I confess I have been inactive for most of this year due to a number of personal responsibilities and commitments and deaths in my family, pulling me away from participating in Clan activities. But, I am ready to get to work now and happy to start my new approach to those out there interested in joining our world famous Clan Macpherson.



Treasurer's Report  
Ken Gillis

The clan association is in good shape financially as we approach the end of September. We have \$9,099 in our current account and \$11,631 in our Life Membership Fund. We are showing a gain of \$244 year to date.

The annual membership funds will be forwarded to the association after the end of September as per their request. I am not expecting any major expenses until the new year.

**I am planning on retiring from the treasurer's position at the end of next year 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 my Replacement.**



Douglas Malcolm MacPherson is a proud Canadian, a proud MacPherson and proud to have served his country!

He was a salesman, when he came back, he married Betty Lorena Cary- who (will be 94 on her birthday) and is father of 3 children (Malcolm Duncan MacPherson (1<sup>st</sup> born); David Douglas MacPherson (2<sup>nd</sup> born) and Carolyn Janette MacPherson (3<sup>rd</sup> born).

He was a Scout Leader for many years (his name was Baloo) and an active member of St. Marks Church and leader of the Men's Club (who had the best Roast Beef suppers when Doug was the cook!) He eventually owned his own business (Building Services Ltd.) and then sold it and retired. He was a Commissionaire in his retirement and his favourite job was working at the Moosehead Room at Moosehead Breweries where small groups could have parties. He said that no matter how they went in they came out happy!

He is the last living child of George and Margaret MacPherson but he hopes to make it to at least 100! Outside of his army experience-(quite the story!) which took him to Camp Utopia, Ontario, the British Isles (including a chance to see his Grandfather and Aunt in Scotland), and Germany- Doug has always lived in Saint John and couldn't imagine living anywhere else.



## Happy Birthday Jean MacPherson

Mysie Jean Yuill was born on March 27th, 1923. She was the youngest of four children born to Marion and James Yuill, the first person in her family to be born in Canada. Her Scottish parents were lured to Leask in the new Province of Saskatchewan by the land grants offered to World War I British veterans willing to try their hands at farming.

As a youngster Mysie (who later chose to use her middle name Jean) was an accomplished equestrian, riding for miles on the fields and backroads of the farm - Passchendaele, accompanied by her beloved dog Nellie. She was known in the family as a crack shot, later accompanying her husband on many a duck hunt.

Once the family built a house in Prince Albert, Jean attended high school at PACI. There she met Donald who she would later wed. In her spare hours she learned Highland Dancing and developed her lovely soprano voice and piano skills with Mrs. Watson, becoming a founding member of the Watsonaires ladies chorus.

When WW II ensued Jean felt compelled to "do her part" like her father and brothers before her so she joined the WAAFs and was sent to Halifax for pilot teacher training. Upon returning to Saskatchewan she was assigned to work for her dad, who was an administrator at RCAF Prince Albert. Sadly, he died early on in the war so didn't get to direct Jean and her fellow WAAF flight instructors for long. Over time Jean did share some of her harrowing flight training experiences with the family.

After the war Jean and Donald were married and started their family. They would have five children over the years, including Hugh, David, Barbara, Laurie and Morag. Donald became a locomotive engineer, working for the Canadian National Railroad. Jean became a writer for the Prince Albert Daily Herald and later moved into the fledgling television industry, working for CKBI TV in Prince Albert. Some years later the family moved to Saskatoon where Jean was recruited to write columns for the Saskatoon Star Phoenix. Many of the columns she wrote would be syndicated by the Canadian Press and were published in newspapers across the country. With only one child left at home, Jean and Donald retired and moved to London, Ontario where Morag finished school and Jean was a free-lance writer for the London Free Press.

When Donald died Jean moved closer to her two eldest daughters spending the summers in Duluth, Minnesota with Barbara and the winters in Virginia Beach, Virginia with Laurie. Eventually Jean moved back to Saskatoon to be closer to her youngest child, Morag. In 2006 she moved to Abbeyfield House where she remains as she begins her 100th year of life as a beloved mother, grandmother to 9 children and great grandmother of 13.



## Sycamore Gap.

Your roots were planted a lifetime ago.  
When Romans walked the wall.  
Who knew your time had come.  
For your boughs to fall.

An iconic spot so serene.  
To wander at your leisure.  
So many admirers loved you.  
You gave them so much pleasure.

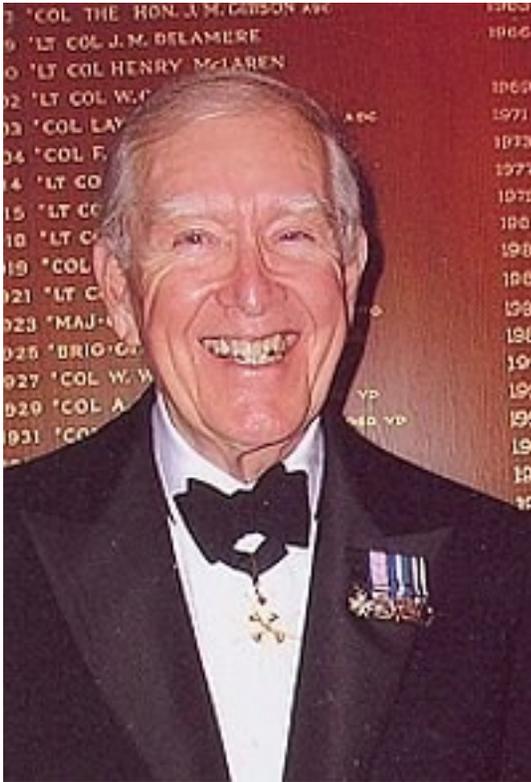
We mourn our loss with sadness.  
Wonder what stories you could tell.  
History lost.  
On the night you fell.

Will they realise the damage.  
And the heartache they have caused.  
These senseless vandals.  
Who obviously didn't know the cost.

It beggers belief to us.  
That they could not see.  
That they've ripped out the soul.  
Of a very special tree.

Poem Used with the kind permission of Pauline McCredie, Stewarton Scotland  
and image used with the kind permission of Lee Fowlie Images.

## *Flowers of the Forest*



Late of the City of Burlington, passed away on September 1, 2023. He was the son of Rev. Dr. A. Gordon Macpherson and Mary Strathcona Macpherson (MacBeth). Predeceased by his wife, Nancy (nee Chart 2017), and his brother, Colonel Bruce Macpherson (2001). Survived by his sister Betty (Mrs. Lawrie Taylor). Cherished father of Alexander (Sandy) Macpherson and Pamela McPherson (Kirk).

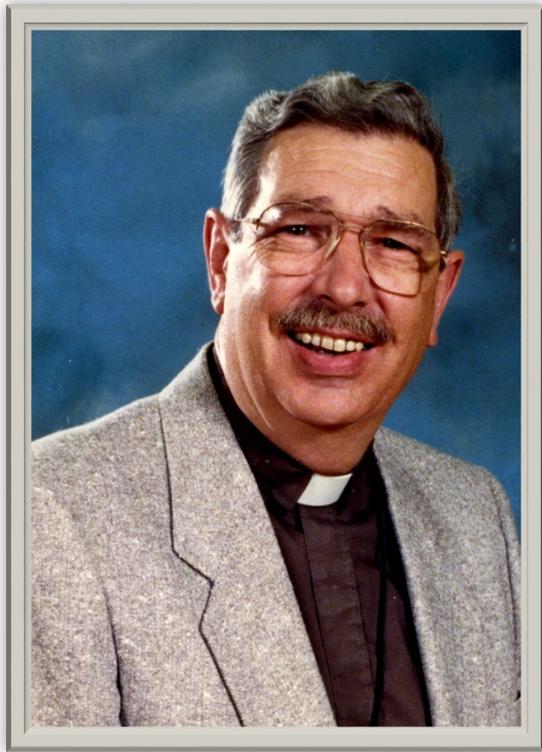
He was the proud grandfather of Heather, Colin, Andrew, and James, and of four great-grandchildren.

Gordon had a distinguished career in the investment business, retiring as Vice President of RBC Dominion Securities in 1987.

In his "spare" time, he painted coats of arms and made heraldic bookplates. When he stopped a few years ago, he had received numerous accolades, culminating in being named a member of the Order of Canada in 2008.

Prior to that, he was appointed Niagara Herald Extraordinary by the Governor General in 1999. He was also a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA), the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (FSAScot), the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada (FRHSC), the Knights of Justice of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (KStJ), the Silver Jubilee Medal of 2002, and the Diamond Jubilee Medal of 2012.

Gordon was also passionate about the Clan Macpherson, serving as Canadian Branch Chair and then as International Chair. Special thanks to the staff at Brant Centre Aldershot Wing for their love and care over the last two years. Above all, Gordon loved his Lord, loved his family, and was the kindest person to be around. He will be missed on Earth, but he will no doubt be thrilled to join his wife and family members in heaven. A private funeral has taken place, and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.



**Rev. James Macpherson Small, 86,** of Falmouth, Hants County, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 in the Q.E.II Infirmary Site. Born on September 3, 1934 in Montreal, he was the son of the late Richard and Mary (Martin) Small.

James was ordained as an Anglican Priest at the age of thirty and served in many parishes in both Ontario and Nova Scotia. He was active in Scouts Canada for many years. He enjoyed woodworking and his special German Shepherds.

Surviving are his wife, the former Joan Blackwell; sons, Gordon, Quebec; Keith, Falmouth; grandson, Mathieu, Quebec; brother, Richard, Ontario; Niece, Virginia (Greg) Galipeau, Ontario; nephew, Dr. Dave (Diane) Small, Ontario.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Lindsay Windsor Funeral Home, 194 King Street, P.O. Box 2218, Windsor, NS B0N 2T0.

Cremation has taken place.

Celebration of James' life will be held at a later date. Rev. Tom Henderson will officiate. Burial will be in St. George's Anglican Church Cemetery.

Donations may be made to St. George's Anglican Church, Falmouth (c/o Susan Aylward, 589 Town Road, Falmouth, NS, B0P 1L0)

**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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