



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 13 Number 1

WINTER ISSUE

March 2019

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Denise Lagundzin, Registrar



 Happy New Year Cousins!

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Thank you to everyone who renewed their Annual Memberships. Your new membership cards were held to mail out with this edition of the Green Banner. I apologise for any in

-convenience this might have caused. And sadly, we lost 3 members in 2018, Dr. Fiona Key on March 4, 2018; Dr. Alan Macpherson on October 26, 2018; and Jean Hill on November 12, 2018. Our sympathies go out to their families.

If you have any changes in email or mailing address or telephone number, please send me an update at Canda.registrar@clan-macpherson.org or calling 519-407-4465.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By Ed Smith



reetings Cousins:

This will bring everyone up to date regarding plans for the Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch 2019 Gathering and beyond.

Those of you who attended the 2018 gathering held in London Ontario know there were discussions regarding plans for the 2019 and 2020 Gatherings.

The event held in London was well planned and directed by Jan McCredie, Ewan Macpherson and a few other volunteers. Everyone had a great time.

My very sincere thanks for everyone concerned.

We had the pleasure of four guests from beyond our borders. CMA Chairman Bill Macpherson was accompanied by his wife Jan as they attended from Scotland. Also, Graham and Cindy Gillespie attended from The US Branch.

The 2019 Gathering will be taking place at Fergus, Ontario while the Fergus Highland Games are taking place. Over the past couple of years there has been a great deal of interest in holding the AGM/Gathering at a time when more people could attend with their families.

We are after all a Scottish based association. The timing is good because it does not interfere with the CMA gathering in Scotland.

For years we have held our event a week apart from that of the US Branch. The reasoning was that it would make it more inviting to Scottish based members to attend both.

We were sidestepped two years ago, and it has been years

70TH GATHERING



**CANADIAN BRANCH -
CLAN MACPHERSON
ASSOCIATION**

August 9, 10 & 11, 2019
Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton
Guelph, Ontario

since we have enjoyed the company of our US cousins, not even the previous CMA chair. This year the newly elected CMA Chair and the Gillespies did join us.

If we who are getting older by the year do not try to attract members to the AGM/Gatherings how long will it be before it ends?

The AGM/Gathering committee this year consists of Jan McCredie, Ewan Macpherson and Denise Lagundzin.

We are also taking a long range look at the Joint 2020 Gathering with an eye on Niagara on the Lake and Niagara Region. The date is yet to be determined.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

By John C. House



Thank you to those contributors who have provided articles for this edition of the Green Banner. Your submissions are sincerely appreciated.

I am hoping to encourage more input and submissions from a wider range of contributors. A variety of topics is encouraged. You could write about some fascinating place that you have visited, or some interesting thing you have experienced.

In the past we have seen submissions describing travels to Scotland and other places around the world. We are particularly interested in subjects related to Macphersons and Scottish topics generally.

Perhaps you can provide a piece about some Macpherson that has done something interesting in your area, or an account of how the Macphersons came to settle in your area. The sky is the limit!

If you are having doubts or concerns don't hesitate to reach out to me and we can discuss your ideas further.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge Ewan Macpherson for assisting me with information regarding his father, Alan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank to following for their excellent contributions and support to the September issue: Denise Lagudzin, William Macpherson, Robert T Macpherson, Myles Macpherson, and Ed Smith. I would also like to acknowledge my colleague Kevin Hartford for his advice and assistance with the Publisher software.

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:

Ed Smith CD, Chairman
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Janet McCredie, Honorary Secretary
Denise Lagudzin, Registrar

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William Macpherson PEng

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Lt Col Myles G Macpherson CD, Quebec and Eastern ON
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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 Canada.Editor@clan-macpherson.org

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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The hotel arrangements for the 2019 Fergus Gathering are the Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton in the city of Guelph.

The dates for the gathering are August 9 - 11, 2019. There is a group rate at \$249 per night (including a Handicap accessible room). Fergus is an approximately 20-minute drive from the hotel.

There is a calling of the Clans Friday evening, and a Parade of the Clans on the Saturday at noon.

There has been an arrangement made for a room in the Centre Wellington Sportsplex where our Council and AGM meetings can be held on the Saturday morning.

I have to contact Dave Radley regarding a few items, so more information will be available at a future date.

I have recently returned home from the inaugural meeting of the newly formed CMA European Branch held in Rotterdam. The event went well, with some sixty members in attendance including those from the UK, US and Canada.

I also managed to visit the Bergen-op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery where my uncle is at rest.

I am asking you for help in starting a Fund Raiser to assist in the much-needed repairs to the Clan Macpherson Museum at Newtonmore, Scotland (see page 3 of this edition).

It is managed by a trust and they need our help. George Macpherson in the US has something underway, but I would feel better if the Canadian Branch could also provide assistance (I made a contribution when last in Scotland).

The museum belongs to all of us and the artifacts are in peril. Some funds have been raised so far but not nearly enough to start.

Yours Aye,

Ed Smith

Chairman



DEADLINE FOR SPRING ISSUE

Articles, stories and photos for the Spring issue are due on the Editor's desk by May 15th, 2019. 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

SPRING FOR THE MUSEUM

By William Macpherson



A rallying call for all members of the Canadian Branch! As discussed at the branch AGM in London, Ontario our Clan Museum, in the heart of Macpherson territory, is in dire need of funds to support urgent repairs to the roof.

The pride of Macphersons (and the envy of other clans), the museum is situated near clan landmarks ‘Creag Dhubh’ and ‘Old Ralia’ (from where the Macphersons march on to the Eilan as part of the Association’s annual gathering).

The museum houses a collection of items of significant historical importance, plus displays on the contributions of many clans folk (Macpherson & Associated families) including academics, sportsmen, politicians, inventors, those that served their country in time of need and much more.

The library has a wealth of reading material for those with an interest in clan and local history, genealogy, heraldry and other topics. For more information and a virtual tour, visit the Clan Macpherson Museum website at <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/>.

After many years of temporary repairs to the leaky roof the situation at the museum is very bad. Some of the structural members have rotted and unless major repairs are made, we



Clan Macpherson Museum

risk damage to contents. As a much-needed fundraiser I am proposing that our members get active and have some fun in the process during the weekends of 27th/28th April or 4th/5th May 2019.

A few suggestions for the runners/joggers or cyclists - get out and do a few kilometers for the cause. Those less athletic can walk or stroll. Do it as a family or a group if there are other branch members in your area.

Make a morning of it and meet for breakfast or lunch. If you are not able to run, cycle or walk perhaps you can invite the group for breakfast or lunch at your place (and charge a dona-



Interior view of the Clan Macpherson Museum

tion to the cause). The distance or the menu are unimportant. (bacon on a bun or sandwiches and a mug of tea or coffee). The important thing is raising money for the cause, having fun and taking the opportunity to get together with family, friends and other members. All donations small or large are welcome.

If you can take the lead in organizing a group event in your area let us know and we can help to get the word out.

Donations should be sent to the Branch Treasurer clearly marked for the Museum Fundraiser.

Remember to take photographs and send them along to our Green Banner Editor John House.

Interesting Places



Centre of Scotland—This interesting place near Newtonmore, Scotland is considered to be the centre of Scotland. The actual spot is indicated by a stone placed in the drystone wall and marked by a carved “X”

QUEBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO

By Myles Macpherson



ello fellow cousins,

I am certain that we have all been working and playing hard over this past year enjoying life. I recently attended the annual Burns Supper in Montreal on 24 January 2019 (see picture inset). The dinner was a success where I had the chance to meet people from across Canada as well as the UK. I am

looking forward to some interesting Celtic activities coming up over the next months.



The 2019 Burns Supper in Montreal

Firstly, I am going to attend Curling for Dummies with the St-Andrew's Society on 16 March with my family. This should prove to be a good opportunity to mingle with other likeminded Scottish folk. As the highland games season ramps up for the summer I intend to go to Maxville East of Ottawa and the Montreal games. These two events are the same weekend 2-4 August this year. If any Clan Macpherson folk would like to join me this would be a great opportunity to get to know one another better and meet at an event held in our area. Please contact me at my home phone 514-967-7920 and we will work out the details to meet up. I hope to hear from you soon.

- Myles

**US BRANCH - AGM AND GATHERING
OCTOBER 10 — 15, 2019**

WESTERN CANADA

By Robert T. Macpherson



It has been quite a summer for us as we got our fill of our Scottish culture and heritage. My wife, Sylvia, and I manned our Clan Macpherson tent at the Red Deer Highland Games in June. It was a rainy day and our tent was in a rather poor location, but we did manage to visit with a fair number of people, though not many 'cousins'.

Then in July, we headed to Scotland where we spent almost four weeks. We travelled up the west side of Loch Lomond to Glencoe and on to Mallaig and across the sea to Skye.

Then it was back to the mainland and on to Dingwall and Inverness where, among other things, we re-visited the Culloden field and the impressive visitors' centre there. We then headed to Kingussie and Newtonmore



Bob and Sylvia, Red Deer Highland Games

where we attended the

Clan Gathering. It was a most enjoyable event and, having been before, it was a chance to renew acquaintances.

I was privileged to be asked to be one of the sword bearers in the march to the Eilan (the playing field) on the day of the games and I must say, I was tingling with pride! We wrapped up our weekend with a wonderful walk led by John Barton through the woods around Glentruim House near Craig Dubh.



Flag and Sword bearers at Newtonmore

Then it was on to a few days in Aberfeldy. While there, we drove over to Blairgowrie to join some of the 'cousins' for tea with Cluny and Lady Hilary at Newton Castle, a last chance for a visit and to say farewell. From Aberfeldy, we continued on to Edinburgh and the

Royal Military Tattoo, an incredible, unforgettable experience. Once back home, it was time to prepare for two more Highland Games. Again, Sylvia and I manned the Clan Tent at both the Calgary and Canmore games where we met many people interested in their own family ties with the greater Macpherson clan. At Canmore, the clan tents face the main field and the whole community is surrounded by majestic mountains making for a spectacular experience for all. Even the weather cooperated with lots of sunshine though it was often chilly and a reminder that fall was upon us.

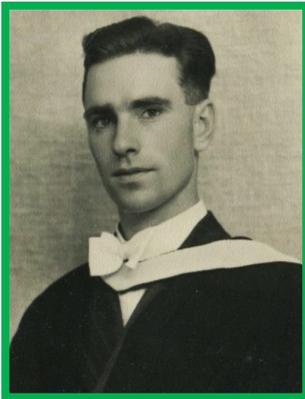
- Cheers! Bob

REMEMBERING ALAN G. MACPHERSON

By John C. House



In October 26, 2018 Dr. Alan G. Macpherson passed away in London, Ontario at the age of 91 years. Alan was Honorary Vice President of the Clan Macpherson Association and was appointed by Cluny as Seanachaidh (historian and genealogist) to the Clan Macpherson. It is noteworthy that the Clan Macpherson has had several distinguished Seanachaidh over the centuries, but certainly no one with such a global knowledge of the Macphersons. Alan was also Professor Emeritus of Geography at Memorial University of Newfoundland.



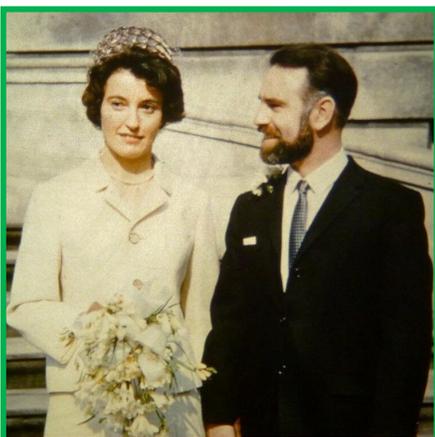
Born in Edinburgh, Scotland on September 28, 1927, Alan was the son of Andrew and Ethel Macpherson (nee Whayman). He grew up in there and in 1950 graduated with a M.A. (Hons) degree from the University of Edinburgh.

He carried on with post-graduate work which set the stage for his lifelong academic career involving scholarly work on historical geography and Clan history.

University of Edinburgh, 1950

From Edinburgh, Alan went on to lecture at St. Andrews University from 1953 to 1956. After this he immigrated to Canada where he accepted a teaching position at McMaster University. In 1959 he moved on to Montreal to pursue his PhD studies at McGill University. There he met his future wife, Joyce Brown, who was a Geography graduate student at the university (and fellow British ex-pat). They were married in 1964.

Alan taught at Central Michigan University from 1960 to 1961, and at the University of Rochester between 1961 and 1966, before relocating to St. John's, Newfoundland in 1966 where he and Joyce accepted positions with the Department of Geography at Memorial University.



Wedding Day, 1964

Anne and son Ewan, in St. John's.

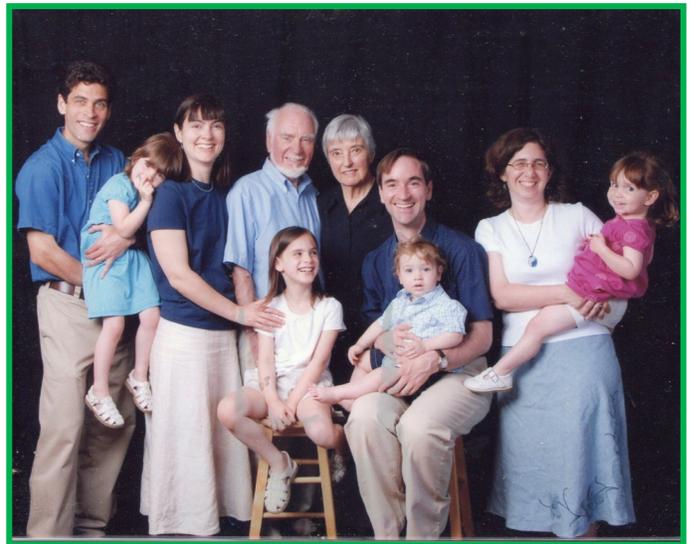
Alan gave generously of his time and resources to the Clan Museum. He and Joyce travelled from Canada and carried out a review of the exhibition, resulting in the display being upgraded during the winter of 2004/2005. He was responsible for improving the storage of books in the museum library. He also

donated to the Sheila, Lady Cluny Museum Endowment Fund and was a Dionadairean or Guardian of the Clan Museum.

In 2013 Alan and Joyce decided to make a substantial endowment to the Department of Geography at Memorial University, which is now used to fund two scholarships for graduate students whose research interests aligns with their own.

The inaugural Dr. Alan Macpherson Graduate Research Award in Historical and Cultural Geography was awarded to Nicholas Lymer, and Ariel Pollard-Belsheim was awarded the inaugural Dr Joyce Macpherson Research Award in Physical Geography. Alan and Joyce's professional legacy will continue to have a direct impact at Memorial in the years to come.

On a personal note, I am indebted to Alan for inspiring my own interest in the Clan Macpherson Association, and my later completion of a MLitt degree at the University of the High-



Alan and Joyce with their children and grandchildren, 2009

lands and Islands. I first met Alan in the early 1990s when I was researching my own Macpherson history.

My uncle Fintan MacPherson and cousin Roddie MacPherson recalled that my grandfather Charles MacPherson has been interviewed by a researcher named Alan Macpherson from Memorial University in the late 1960s.

I reached out to Alan (who was living a few minutes' drive away in St. John's) that day and he visited my house that very same day to meet Fintan, Roddie and I. We met and had a great conversation about what he and my grandfather had discussed many years earlier.

Alan filled in many gaps in the information that I had. Alan was a man who was extremely generous with his time and knowledge, and I was to learn a great deal from having known him.

I was immediately aware of Alan's intelligence and sense of humour, which are attributes of a great teacher, which Alan indeed was. Our generation has been fortunate to have benefited from the work and knowledge of Alan G Macpherson.

Penny and I were saddened to learn of Alan's passing.

He will be missed.