



# The Green Banner Newsletter

Canadian Branch of Clan Macpherson Association

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Summer Issue

July 2022

*Message from the Chairman  
By Denise Lagundzin*



Greeting Cousins,

It has been awhile since we have caught up with what is going on with the Clan. As you may or may not know, we have changed our website hosting provider and with that comes the learning of new technology. I apologize for this.

Highland Games have returned to Canada and we have wonderful volunteers who will be manning tents at the Montreal, Maxwell, Cobourg and Fergus Games. Thank you ever so much for your time.

Our Clan Gathering is planned for Friday September 30 to Sunday October 2 in Puslinch Ontario. The theme is Back to Our Roots. When some of our ancestors first arrived in Canada they settled in this part of Ontario. We have a cousin, Carol MacPherson Butler, speaking to us about her family croft in Newtonmore Scotland and sharing photos on Friday evening. Saturday, after the required AGM we will go on a Cemetery walk with Gwen MacRobbie, whose Mother was a Macpherson. Saturday evenings entertainment is a Lynn Crow from the Puslinch Historical Society who will speak about the early Macpherson settlers and where they lived.

We will be staying at the Crieff Hills Retreat in Puslinch. We will be staying in two rustic lodges with a large living room and kitchenette. We will have cable, indoor washrooms and a large wood fireplace. Pictures are posted on the Clan web page. Meals are all buffet style except for our Saturday evening Highland Dinner and are served in the McClean Hall.

The Committee has worked very hard to create a safe and comfortable Gathering with lots of interesting activities. Registrations and information are available on the Branch page on the Clan website, <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/rally.html>

I hope to see you there.

Denise Lagundzin FSAScot



## *From the desk of the CMA Chairman Bonnie A. McPherson*

Hello to our Canadian Cousins,  
July is upon us and so are the wonderful outdoor events for the Macphersons. Highland Games are back with large audiences. Put on your favorite Macpherson tartan and get out and enjoy the fresh air and enjoy spending time together. If you can't make a Highland Games, then perhaps meet up with some local Clan Macpherson members and friends for lunch or dinner. There are many Pub Nights that could be a meeting place too.

This Summer, after two years of on-line meetings, the CMA is holding its 75th AGM and Gathering in Scotland, in person! Everything is coming together nicely. We are also happy to be honoring Jamie, our 28<sup>th</sup> Chief of the Clan Macpherson throughout the weekend. Do be sure to look for him and have a chat.

Our focus this year is on the Museum and all the changes it has gone through. For the Grand Re-Opening ceremonies, we'll gather in the garden for a group photo and enjoy a toast to a job well done. Private tours are being arranged will give everyone a firsthand look. We welcome Alia Schaefer, the new Curator. She is excited to bring her talents to the Museum and welcome all guests and members.

If you want to join us it's not too late! Go to the Clan Macpherson website [www.clan-macpherson.org/gathering/](http://www.clan-macpherson.org/gathering/) to register for the AGM and Gathering. If you have questions, please get in touch with me via my email address [CMA.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:CMA.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org). I'm happy to help.

Now is the time to get outdoors and gather together! Post your photos on the "Clan Macpherson Association" Facebook page. I look forward to seeing how everyone is doing in Canada.

My door is always open. Call, write, email, or even stop by!

Slainte,

*Bonnie*



## Words from our Registrar Beverly McPherson Letford

Greetings to all our cousins across Canada!

It's been a busy year so far! Even with Covid still hanging around us, we continue to register new and renewing memberships in our Canadian Branch.

It was an exciting time registering ten new memberships into our association in the first quarter of 2022. Welcome new cousins! We look forward to hopefully meeting and uniting with you soon in the months to come, and, when it is safe to do so! Anyone with questions, comments, or concerns about your membership, please do not hesitate to reach out to me anytime for help.

We hope to see you this year at our Gathering in September.

Warmest regards,

Beverly McPherson Letford  
Registrar  
Canada Branch  
Clan Macpherson Association

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## Welcome to our new members



**Mike Theilmann** is a retired federal public servant living in Ottawa. His grandmother was Margaret Macpherson of the Macphersons of Banchoir. His two great-uncles, LCol Allan and Duncan Macpherson, were very active in the early days of the Clan Macpherson Association. He is also working on a book about his great-great-Grandfather Dr. Duncan Macpherson, friend of Florence Nightingale, antiquarian and author.



**Carol Macpherson Butler** spent every summer at the family croft near Newtonmore, Scotland. The 500 + yr croft was renovated by her grandparents James Cruickshank & Betty Macpherson. On the hill above the croft is the Clan Macpherson Memorial Cairn, unveiled in 1996, designed by her brother Robert and built with stones sent by Macphersons from all across the world.

Carol moved to Canada in 1997 with her Canadian born husband and has 3 grown up children and 4 grandchildren. She has been the Executive Director of a Pregnancy Care & Family Centre for 18 years and lives in Fenwick on a small farm where she enjoys spending time with her family, animals and in the garden.

Carol's interests include photography, cycling, gardening and yard work, family history and anything else that strikes her fancy at the moment.



Carol's sister and brother above the croft (left to right – Carol, Robert, Gillian) and just to the side of where the Cairn is now located.

**Jeff McPherson** is a law student at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

I'm descended from John McPherson who, along with his brother Daniel McPherson, emigrated from Glasgow to Almonte in 1821. Thank you for welcoming me to the CMA, and I look forward to meeting everybody!



### **Donald Murray Macpherson**

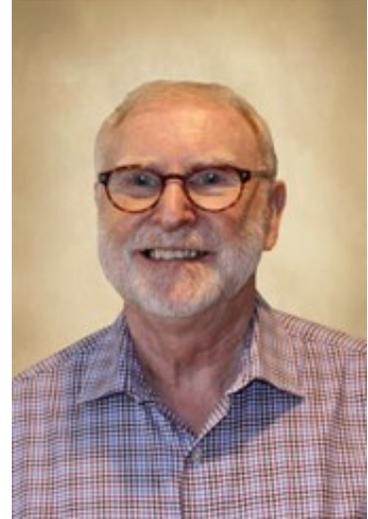
Angus "Elder" McPherson of Kingussie, Badenoch, Inverness-shire Scotland, emigrated to Canada with his entire family in the summer of 1844. The family settled on what is now Lot 24 of the Gore of Puslinch. The eldest son Donald purchased what became the family farm where I now reside on Macphersons Lane. My 3 brothers (John, Ken and Bob) and I were raised on this dairy farm.

Donald's working life was spent in various scientific and engineering occupations. My final jobs were in the area of software development and design.

**Douglas Murray Macpherson** was born in Perth, Scotland, youngest son of James Anderson Macpherson and Margaret Macpherson October 1944. Doug married Una Bryson Robertson and emigrated to Canada in July 1965. Securing a job at Stelco in Hamilton he joined the United Steelworkers Union and became active in union affairs'. Working his way through many positions until elected President of local 5328 in 1982. In 1985 Doug was appointed to a union staff position in Peel

Halton, Ontario, becoming area coordinator in 1987, he was appointed to assistant to the Director of District 6 of the USW. Retiring in 2010 from the USW Canadian National office in Toronto, Doug continues to serve the retired union members in both the United States and Canada as the Vice President and Canadian Coordinator for the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees ( SOAR )

Doug lives in Burlington Ontario, Una, his wife of 57 years died, May 8,



## HELP WANTED

Looking to become more involved in your Clan?

The positions of Vice Chairman and Editor  
are open.

For more details on the job descriptions  
please contact a member of the Executive

## Western Canada Report By Robert Macpherson



Finally, we are at a place where we can get back to celebrating our "Scottishness" and Macpherson heritage! Last summer, there were only a couple of Highland Games in the west, one of which was the famous Canmore games which I was able to attend once again with our Clan tent. Somewhat subdued but pretty close to the full show. This year, there are at least four games scheduled in Alberta. Saskatchewan has already had their Highland Gathering and Celtic Festival in Regina in May. Manitoba will, after two years, be holding their event in August in Winnipeg but I don't have the specific dates at this point.

With our clan members so far apart in the west, it is difficult to arrange any gathering of our own. We rely on the Highland games as our chance to meet with other "cousins". This summer we will take our clan tent to Highland gatherings in Sherwood Park, AB and Canmore, AB.

Sylvia and I are also looking forward to a return visit to the Macpherson Clan gathering in Newtonmore/Kingussie, Scotland this summer (August 4-8) where we will be able to celebrate the welcoming of our new Chief, Jamie, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Clan association, and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Macpherson Clan museum in Newtonmore (I'm quoting bits from the recent Creag Dhubh magazine).

We would extend our greetings to all our Macpherson "cousins" in Canada and hope that they can find opportunities this summer to celebrate being part of this great clan.

## Ontario West Report By Bruce McPherson



Once again, I bring you greetings from Ontario's western region! I am happy to be back again for 2022, serving as a councilor. Already this year we have watched the return of Highland Games to the summer season. Most recently in my region, Kingsville Highland Games, Kincardine Highland Games and Embro Highland Games have occurred with some success. There have also been increased opportunities to listen to the Pipes at parades along with local community events. I hope that you all have a wonderful summer season, full of activities and opportunities to enjoy our shared heritage and love of the Scottish culture.

Slainte!

Bruce McPherson  
Ontario West Councilor

Ontario East and Quebec Report  
by Chantal McPherson



After a long cold winter, summer is finally here and I look forward to meeting new & old friends at our Clan Macpherson tent, so let the games begin!

I will be attending the Glengarry Highland games in Maxville, Ontario, July 29-30

Followed by the Montreal Highland games on July 31.

Please find the web site link bellow:

<https://glengarryhighlandgames.com>

<https://www.montrealhighlandgames.com>

**CALLING ALL WRITERS!**  
**SUBMIT YOUR STORIES OR POEMS**  
**BY AUGUST 20, 2022**



**Congratulations and Best Wishes**  
**to**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Jared Brown**



How much fun can a wedding during Covid be? In the case of Brynn McCredie and Jared Brown's celebration, it was a long awaited day. They planned well so it was not dampened by rain or restrictions. The ceremony and dinner were held at the lovely Ivey Spencer Conference Centre. The limits for numbers and dancing on site seemed daunting. Finally, on August 7th 2021, after two postponements they were joyfully married! Brynn is the daughter of John and Janet McCredie. Jared is the son of Estel and Kevin Brown. They had friends and family there to celebrate their day. There was sunshine, great music, a vegan banquet, and a traditional drink from the family wedding cup. They finished the evening heading to a friend's for a barn dance! It was a grand day!



The bride, Brynn. and the Mother of the Bride Janet McCredie



Janet McCredie, Ellen Ilic, Brynn McCredie, Jared Brown, Ariel Ilic, John McCredie, Sean McCredie

## MacPherson DNA Project

By Bruce McPherson



For those who do not know, along with being involved in our Clan Association as the Ontario West Councilor, I also am actively involved in the Family Tree DNA project as one of the co-admins. My journey into the world of genealogy started approximately 20 years ago now. I suppose I am what you may call an early starter as I began researching my family tree when I started University. Since this time, I have built a substantial tree on ancestry along with testing DNA on 23andme, ancestry and family tree DNA. In June 2021, the admin for the Macpherson DNA project, Beth Frost approached me to see if I may consider taking on a co-admin role. It has been a very rewarding experience thus far. For those who do not know, Family tree DNA hosts family DNA projects, the Mac/McPhersons being one of them. To date, we have over 600 members along with a social media presence with over 1 700 members world-wide. Although the backbone of our DNA project is male y – chromosomal testers, you can also join if you have completed an autosomal test. Additionally, even if you have tested on ancestry or 23andme, you can transfer the test results to family tree at no cost. The current volunteer admin team is comprised of myself, Beth McPherson Frost (Admin from United States) and John Harper (Co-admin from Australia).

Just a few basics on DNA testing for genealogical purposes. There are 3 main types of tests, autosomal DNA tests which are offered through most companies, y-DNA tests which are only offered via family tree DNA and m-DNA tests. Each of the tests have some advantages and draw backs. Autosomal DNA testing can be completed by either females or males. This type of test covers all your family lines. The main draw back to this test is that it starts to miss cousin matches at around the 3-4<sup>th</sup> range. This is due to the fact that by this point, you start sharing very little DNA with each other, so deep ancestry can be difficult to determine or confirm.

YDNA focuses specifically on a male line. The Y chromosome changes very little from generation to generation, so as a male, if you are a Mc/Macpherson, you are testing only this line. The clear disadvantage for this testing is it is only available for males and must be your father's line you are researching. The advantage is that you can go much deeper in your research and draw connections to sixth, seventh etc. cousins where your autosomal DNA will likely not pick this up.

The third type is M-DNA – this is available to both males and females and covers your mother's mother's line. The tricky part about this type of DNA is you can not connect it to a specific family line considering your surname typically changes every generation on your maternal side.

If anyone has any questions about the project, you can send me an email at [brucedmcperson9@gmail.com](mailto:brucedmcperson9@gmail.com). Although I am not a professional, I am more than happy to try to navigate the world of DNA or genealogy with our members.



I am Aila, the new curator of the Clan Macpherson Museum. I have already been in touch with some of you and cannot wait to talk to everyone else, or even meet in person at the gathering.

I am writing with exciting news. As you may know, Ewen has written a book about the clan, based on the exhibition we've had in the museum for many years and on the painstaking research that went into it. The title of the book is : 'The Clan Macpherson: Trials, Triumphs & Treasures'. It is a wonderful read and we are just days away from placing the printing order, July 3, 2022. This is a first for the museum, a book published through us, very exciting!

<https://linktr.ee/clanmacphersonmuseum>

I hope there will be plenty of orders and many people around the world who will enjoy this brilliant clan history.

Best wishes,

Aila Schaefer  
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## *Flowers of the Forest*



### **Biamonte, Shawna Kathleen**

Shawna Kathleen Biamonte passed away from us on Sunday January 30, 2022, surrounded by the love of her mother Margaret, sister Christina, and Chris, her lover, soulmate and husband.

Born in 1975, Shawna was Margaret's first child. She grew up in Edmonton, which was always home to her, no matter where she lived or travelled. As a child she was always smiling and easy going, with an occasional stubborn streak. [The day she ran away from her mom at Sears and was found calmly watching TV was an early sign of her independent nature.]

Margaret, Christina, Chris, and Shawna road-tripped all-over Western Canada and the US together, visiting family in the Okanagan and Vancouver Island, and bringing home delicious fresh fruit and wine.

Shawna had many passions, including cooking, wine, learning, music, travel, art, fashion, and architecture. She lived those passions in her work and volunteering, becoming a radio DJ at CJSR with her own show 'Magpie Music'; acting as a Canadian Folk Music Awards juror; new music reviewer for 'Penguin Eggs' magazine; and volunteering at the Calgary Folk Music Festival.

She and Chris loved to travel together, with New York and London becoming two of their favourite destinations. At home they hiked, climbed, did yoga, enjoyed time with family and friends and made delicious vegetarian food together.

Shawna studied Geology at the U of A for three years, before finding her career path as a Registered Massage Therapist, which she practiced for 18 years in Edmonton and Calgary. In 2016 she returned to academic learning at University of Alberta to pursue a degree in Chemistry with a minor in Biology. Her tenacity led to achieving the distinctions of the honour society and the Dean's list.

She was a voracious reader and lover of the Edmonton Public Library. She had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, and this informed her attitude to her cancer diagnosis in 2012. She met this challenge with all her wits, and a pragmatic, optimistic outlook.

Shawna's cheerful, infectious laugh, her intense interest in those she loved, her love of company while sharing good food and wine, and her incisive wit all made for memorable gatherings and adventures with friends and family.

Her family and friends will miss her forever.

Donations in Shawna's memory may be made to Wellspring Cancer Support



**MacPherson, John Alexander**, of Halifax and formerly of Antigonish passed away on September 19, 2017, in Parkland at the Gardens, Halifax.

John Alexander MacPherson was born in Windsor, Ontario, June 1, 1931, the eldest son of Hugh L. MacPherson and Lenore Pratt. His father was a columnist and literary editor at the Windsor Star, a native of Cloverville, Antigonish County, and a graduate of St. Francis Xavier University. His great uncle was the Rev. Dr. H.A. MacPherson, President of St. Francis Xavier University from 1906 to 1936.

On his mother's side, John was an 8th generation Canadian, descended from Jean Duprat who arrived in Canada in the late 1600's settling in Trois Rivieres, Quebec. A grandson, Francois Prat made his way to the area of Windsor, Ontario in the mid 1700's and was among the first families to settle in that region.

John obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Western Ontario (1953), a Master of Arts from the University of Windsor (1955) and a Doctorate in Philosophy in English cum laude from the University of Ottawa (1967). John began his teaching career at Xavier College, Sydney (1955-61), and then enjoyed a long association with St. Francis Xavier University as an Associate Professor (1961), and then as a full Professor in the Department of English (1968) until his retirement in 1995. He specialized in Shakespeare and Renaissance literature.

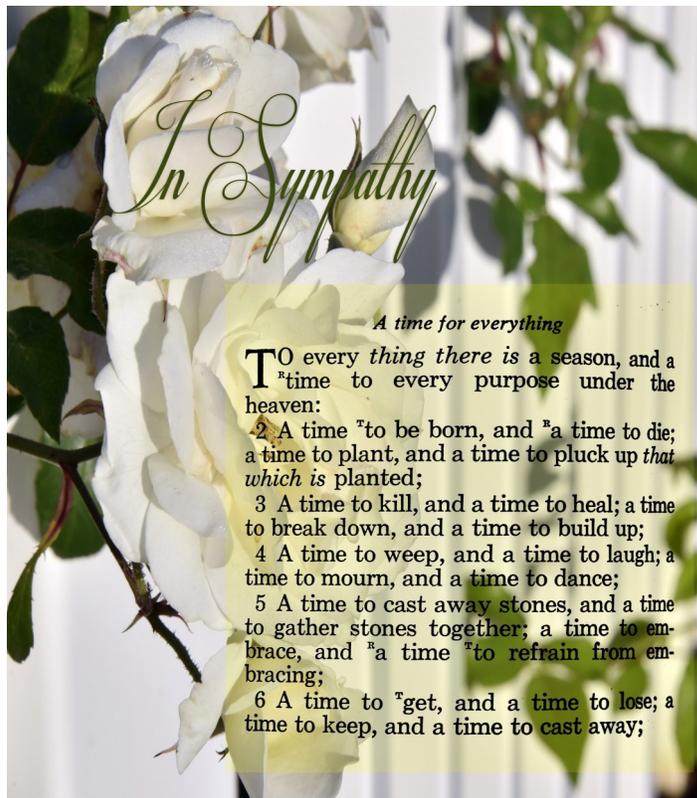
John served as University Ceremonial Officer from 1965 until 1995 and was instrumental in establishing a more formal ceremony for the feast day of St Francis Xavier and the formalization of the X-Ring ceremony. He received an honorary X-Ring, voted on by students, in 1994.

As a long time, Faculty Advisor to the StFX Student Council, John acted as a mentor to many students. Several of them became lifelong friends whose messages and visits he appreciated, particularly as his health declined in later years. Outside of the University, he took a very active part in civic and cultural affairs, notably with the Dominion Drama Festival, the Canadian Red Cross, Nova Scotia Division, and World University Service, to mention only a very few. He had a particular interest in gerontology - writing, lecturing and contributing volunteer services to many charitable organizations devoted to this discipline.

A devoted Roman Catholic, John was admitted to the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta as a Knight of Magistral Grace in October 1973, becoming a Knight of Grace and Devotion in 1976 and a Knight in Obedience in 1982. He became a Novice Knight of Justice in 1992 and professed his simple vows in 1993. John became a professed Knight of solemn vows in 1996 and was promoted to the rank of Grand Cross of Justice in 2001. In June 2004, he was promoted a Bailiff Grand Cross of Justice and, in 2009, he was awarded the Order's Grand Cross Pro Pio Melitensi.

John was elected President of the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta in 1988 and served until 1992. During that year, he hosted the visit to Canada of H.M.E.H. Fra' Andrew Bertie, 78th Prince and Grand Master of the Order, along with his retinue. From 1994 to 2009, he was a member of the Sovereign Council, the governing body of the Order, and from 2001 to 2010, he was President of the Committee for the protection of names and emblems of the Sovereign Order of Malta.

During his long and distinguished service to the Church and to the Order, John was awarded several high distinctions, chief of which were Gentleman of His Holiness (1991), Grand Officer of the papal Order of Saint Gregory the Great, and a Cross of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre which had awarded him its Cross of Merit. He was also a Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of Italy and a Grand Officer of the Order of Civil Merit of Spain. He served on the Supreme Council of the Sacred and Military Constantinian Order of St. George. John retired to Halifax where he died on September 19, 2017. He is survived by his brother, Neil MacPherson of Montreal, his sister Helen (Gordon) Wainman of London, Ontario and a niece Megan (Kerry Ambrose) Wainman of Toronto. He was predeceased by his parents and a sister, Dorothy MacPherson.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS thank you to following for their contributions and support to this issue: Denise Lagundzin, Bonnie McPherson, Beverly McPherson Letford, Ewan Macpherson, Bruce McPherson, Bob Macpherson, Janet McCredie and Aila Schaefer .

**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.**

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**THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR THE  
SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF  
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