



# The Green Banner Newsletter

Canadian Branch of Clan Macpherson Association

Volume 17, Issue Number 1

Winter Issue

February 2023

Greetings Cousins,

This year started out with a lively Robbie Burns Weekend with 16 members gathering to celebrate. It was delightful to have Aaron and Jessie Macpherson, son and daughter of Ewan and Nancy join us.

The plans for this year's Annual Canadian Gathering are almost complete. This year we are trying something new—the Gathering will take place Saturday June 17 and Sunday June 18 in Cobourg, ON in conjunction with the Cobourg Highland Games. The AGM will take place Saturday October 14, 2023 via Zoom.



Booking for our rooms will be made directly with the Best Western. A block of rooms have been set aside and the link is posted on our Clan website page. The Registration form for the Highland Game tickets, bus transportation and Saturday Highland Dinner will be posted separately with e-transfer payment being sent to our Treasurer Ken Gillis.

Costs are continually increasing everywhere but we were able to save on the Highland Game tickets and on our block of rooms. The Gathering is only 2 days instead of the usual 3 to keep costs down as well.

I hope to see you there. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel to contact any member of the Council.

Best wishes,

*Denise*

Denise Lagundzin, FSAScot  
Chairman



Beverly McPherson Letford  
Registrar

I don't know about any of your thoughts on this matter, but I know that global warming is playing havoc on all our weather patterns, at least here in the Niagara Peninsula area. Lately, I can't decide whether to take out my toboggan in the snow or sit in my Adirondack chair and suntan in my backyard! The weather here in Niagara has been so unusual lately that when I go out somewhere, I take along two sets of clothing because of the surprise temperatures either too hot or too cold!

But, life does go on, and things do change just as with the weather. So does our Clan Macpherson Association memberships. I cannot report in this Green Banner that new registrations are on the rise, as I did in the last report.

We have one new annual membership since last Green Banner, who I am very proud to register in our Association's Western Region. Helen, we welcome you and are very happy to have you join our Macpherson Association!

Thank you to all members who have now renewed their memberships for 2023. This is just a gentle reminder we are still waiting for a few more renewals to come in. Please know there are other membership options to consider if you wish to change from an annual membership. Recently two members changed their annual to a 10-year membership.

On an important Registrar's business note, I would like to stress the importance of keeping us informed of your current contact information. Please contact either myself or our Chairman, Denise Lagundzin, with any change of address, email address or telephone number.

We are providing a list below of those whose mail has been returned. We don't want anyone to miss out receiving the Creagh Dhubh or Green Banner.

Missing Contact Information for :

Robert Barrett, formerly of North York, ON

John A. MacPherson, formerly of Saskatoon, SK

James M. McPherson , formerly of Scarborough, ON

Robert G. McPherson, formerly of Almonte, ON

Blessings, with warmest regards to all of you.

Beverly McPherson Letford

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING  
ANNOUNCEMENTS, SPECIAL EVENTS,  
YOUR STORIES OR POEMS  
TO APPEAR IN THE NEXT GREEN BANNER  
IS  
May 30, 2023**



## Ontario East and Quebec Report by Chantal McPherson

Greetings Dear Cousins,

Last November I attended, along with 400 guests, The Montreal Saint Andrews Society ball held at the elegant Windsor Ballrooms. The event did not disappoint and quickly reminded me of the Montreal "Joie de vivre". What a Grand way to celebrate my return home than with the Black Watch Pipes & Drums leading the reeling and a full band keeping the dance floor grooving between sets. Everyone was so friendly and happy to chat, but I would especially like to thank Mr. Steven Logan, Clan Logan Society Commissioner, Ball Patron of the Montreal St-Andrew's Society for welcoming me to his table and sharing his precious time!

I hope next year I can fill a table with Clan Macpherson members because it truly is a special night. Please feel free to keep in touch if you are interested in attending.







Jacqueline Murdoch

Central Ontario Councillor

On January 14, a small number of Clan Macpherson members met at the Spadina Museum. In 1866, the property on which the Museum now sits, was purchased by businessman and financier, James Austin, founder of the Dominion Bank and president of Consumers Gas. Derived from the Ojibwa word "ishpandinaa" meaning "to go uphill" "Spadina" was the name chosen for the property that sat at the top of the escarpment. The Austin's and their children used their 80 acres for farming until James, and later his son Albert, subdivided and sold most of the land. The remaining 5.7 acres include an orchard, a grape arbour and a kitchen garden.

Normally Spadina Museum provides a glimpse into the life of this affluent family of Irish ancestry. It offers a look back at the history of Toronto and what it might have been like to live and work in Toronto at this amazing time of historical and cultural transformation. The art, décor and architecture of the house reflect the styles of the times, including Victorian, Edwardian, Art Nouveau and Colonial Revival styles.

However, currently the museum has been reimagined for the immersive Dis/Mantle art exhibit. The Dis/Mantle art exhibit was inspired by the efforts of Black abolitionists, and transforms Spadina Museum into Mrs. Pipkin's\* Manor, a remarkable woman from Maryland, USA, who escaped slavery and later worked as the laundress for the Austin family. Utilizing an Afrofuturistic narrative, this work depicts Mrs. Pipkin as the homeowner, reimagining the house as a haven for those who travelled safely to southern Ontario via the Underground Railroad.



Detail of: Refashion (Mrs. Pipkin), oil on wood panel, 2022 by Gordon Shadrach

The multi-sensory installation includes soundscapes, ceramics and visual art by Canadian artists from the Afro Caribbean diaspora, most notably from Gordon Shadrach, who's work features local and notable figures in the Black community who have shown leadership and who contributed to art, sports, commerce and culture, including Toronto Raptors players.



Image 2 "Guidelines" by Gordon Shadrach

Throughout the tour, our guide provided immense insights into slavery, those escaping from slavery, and the heart-wrenching stories shared by those trying to find their family or bring their family north to the relative safety of Canada. When the British Imperial Act of 1833 was passed in Britain, it ended the enslavement of Africans in the British Empire, which included Canada. Effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1834, it was the first global human rights legislation impacting the situation of Africans and other enslaved peoples.

Our next get-together will be Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for ideas or suggestions for what you would like to do so please drop us a note and let us know. In the meantime, please hold that date in your calendar and we will send out an email with the details.



## Ontario West Report By Bruce McPherson

I am happy to bring greetings from Ontario's west coast again.

We started 2023 off with some great momentum. I heard about many successful Robbie Burns Night celebrations which were observed both privately in small family units and in larger groups. No matter where it was celebrated, Burns night always offers a wonderful opportunity to toast Scotland's Bard with a wee dram or two, enjoy the sound of the pipes and indulge in some Haggis, Neeps and Tatties.

Now that January is behind us and we are starting to experience some warmer weather, I'm sure many of us are starting to turn out minds to this summer's Highland Games.

News reached me this week that my local Highland Games, located in Kingsville, Ontario on the shores of Lake Erie, was being threatened with cancellation. The Games launched in 2019 and allegedly welcomed over 6000 visitors that year. The games were regarded as a major success and resulted in revenues being generated for the town.

Then the COVID pandemic hit and the games were cancelled for several years. The town returned to hosting the games last year in 2022. Unfortunately, the Pandemic took its toll on ticket sales and the Games were said to have lost over \$18,000. Although some of this was covered from reserves from the prior games, a net loss of a little over \$6,000 was still reported. For a small town (or really any community), this is extremely significant. As a result, the town decided to discontinue the event and its very existence was questioned. Luckily, a decision was made by the Jack Miner Sanctuary located just outside Kingsville to give the Games another chance.

This truly brings to light the need for us as a Clan to support our Highland events if we wish to see them continued. Clearly, no event could justify existence if reporting net losses of over \$18,000 . I am also aware that Caledonia Highland Games made the difficult decision to discontinue after the pandemic. This summer, why not try taking in a Games, especially if you haven't been to one before. I can assure you that you will not be disappointed and your attendance may help the smaller games such as Kingsville continue for years to come!

For those interested, especially those residing in Southwestern Ontario, the Kingsville Games will take place on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary located at 332 Rd 3 W, Kingsville, Ontario.

Who knows, perhaps I will see some of you there!

Sainte!

Here is a link to the 2023 Highland Games Calendar

<https://highlandgamesandfestivals.com/scheduled-events/>







## Treasurer's Report Ken Gillis

The clan association is in good shape financially as we begin the new year.

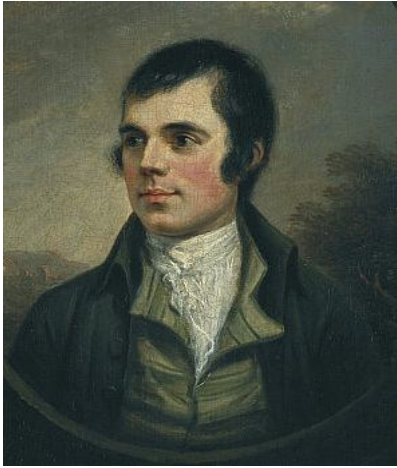
We have \$9,246 in our current account and \$11,631.00 in our Life Membership Fund. We are showing a gain of \$391.00 year to date in the current account.

We held our first Burns Supper at the end of January. The supper turned a small profit of \$2.28, but more importantly was a lot of fun and everyone who came seemed to enjoy themselves.

The deposit for our annual gathering has been paid.

Our clan gathering will be held in Cobourg, Ontario on Saturday June 17— Sunday June 18 at the Cobourg Highland Games.

I look forward to seeing everyone there!



**Memories of my  
First Robbie Burns Dinner  
By  
Beverly McPherson Letford**

As an attendee of our first Robbie Burns dinner held in Puslinch, Ontario, I want to say what a great time was had by all! The Macpherson traditions did not go unnoticed. We were so happy we had a good number of Macpherson members and guests attend. We had young people join us too and that made this event so extra special and inspiring. Thank you to the young people for shining a brighter light on the event!

By the way, this Robbie Burns Dinner was my very first ever! I so wished that many more would come out to our events so we can meet you in person and share these wonderful times and memories. We even broke out into a sing-along. John McCredie did an amazing lead for us on the piano. The fire in the fireplace was inviting, the dinner was prime, and our amazing piper, Ewan, so magical to hear him play those pipes. It was wonderful to share the evening with our cousins.

Most memorable of all, was "Mississauga" Bill Macpherson's Address to the Haggis. Personally, I have only witnessed Bill's Addressing to the Haggis once before at our 2022 Gathering. Oh, that first time I'm afraid that I could not understand the language very well in most of the address but his strong enchanting, Scottish Accent kept me spellbound.

I want to express how masterful our Bill Macpherson displayed his knife skills. That outstanding address he made with that primeval Scottish accent was inspiring and I was there to witness this spectacular ritual. Bill was a star; as equal to any professional actor (Sean Connery?). Bill, you did an amazing performance! I will buy and even sell tickets to see you over and over again each year. Thank you for putting an ancient spin with that amazing Scottish accent on an event that is done every year around the world.

We are so blessed to have you do the Addressing the Haggis here with us in Canada.

## Robbie Burns Weekend 2023



Ella and Ken Gillis seated. Janet McCredie, Ewan Macpherson, Nancy Davie and Beverly McPherson Letford catching up



Ella Gillis, Janet McCredie and Beverly McPherson Letford pinning their sashes.



Ella Gills, Denise Lagundzin and Beverly McPherson Letford enjoying one Of Mike Lagundzin's jokes.



Duart Letford and Ken Gillis enjoying the warmth of a wee dram at the fire.





Our handsome kilted clansmen  
Ken Gillis, Bill Macpherson, Duart Letford  
Ewan Macpherson and Aaron Macpherson



The most important part of any Burns  
Dinner—The Piper, The Chef and the  
Toaster! Thank you!



Here comes the Haggis carried in  
by Chef Matthew Cooke!



Bill Macpherson making  
The Immortal Toast.





Let's Eat!



Janet and John McCredie enjoying  
Catching up



After all his hard work, Bill Macpherson  
Is ready to eat.



Aaron and Ewan Macpherson





Beverly McPherson Letford  
and Duart Letford sharing a tender moment



Bob and Joey-Anne Gawn,  
Denise's cousins, and first time attending



Mike and Denise Lagundzin



Nancy Davis, Jessica, Ewan and  
Aaron Macpherson



Our current Chairman Denise Lagundzin

and

Past Chairman Bill Macpherson

would like to thank everyone in making our

first Robbie Burns Weekend a success.

## *Flowers of the Forest*



Robert William Archibald

In his 88th year Robert passed peacefully on December 22, 2022. Survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Sondra (nee Ewart), children Laurel (John Craig), Shelley (Hugh Brown), and Duncan (Lisa Davies). Loved by his grandchildren Melanie and Jack Brown, Sam and Katherine Hall, and Ellen and David Archibald. Also survived by sister Marian Badgery (Alan) of Aurora and brother-in-law David Ewart (Vivian) of Calgary. Predeceased by his sisters Dorothy Hesser, Joan Reed, and brothers John and Frederick.

Bob was born April 6, 1935, in Oshawa, the fifth child of Arthur and Jean Archibald of Whitby, Ontario. He studied engineering at Queen's University and earned a Master of Business Administration at McMaster University in Hamilton where Bob and Sondra raised their family. He returned to full-time studies in Business Administration at the University of Western Ontario, completing his doctorate in 1976. He began his career in civil engineering at Archibald Gray & McKay in London, then spent six years in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick with National Parks of Canada. Returning to Ontario, he worked in the cement industry. However, his true vocation was teaching, and he held various positions including time in Dar es Salaam, the University of Guelph, and finally at Lakehead University.

In 2000, he retired to Brantford spending his time vigorously supporting the community, volunteering at the Brantford Hospital, the Brantford Club and the Board of Enterprise Brant. He was a member of Probus Club of Brantford and Brant Valley Engineers. Bob and Sondra loved to travel and especially enjoyed their visits to Scotland, the home of his ancestors, as members of the Clan Macpherson Association.





LCol Mark Francis Macpherson, CD, GCLJ, GOMLJ, MBA, BComm, BSc(EE), Ing. FSAScot

April 1, 1932 - January 14, 2023

Mark Francis Macpherson passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 90 at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal after a lengthy battle with a blood infection. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, June Macpherson, and sons Robert, Ian, and Myles, and 5 grandchildren, brother to Rod Macpherson and Margot Whitford. He was born in St Thomas, Ontario to father Robert, and mother Maxine Macpherson, but was raised in Winnipeg, MB, where he met June. He graduated in 1956 with a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Manitoba which complemented a lifelong passion for amateur radio and telecommunications. He was a life member of Radio Amateurs of Canada starting in 1979 and also a life member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

After moving to Montreal in 1956, he worked in radio, and later the new field of television with the CBC. Subsequently, he joined RCA and worked in aerospace on satellites and ground tracking stations. Identified as a key management employee at RCA, he was selected for the prestigious Robert A. Sarnoff fellowship and earned a MBA degree in 1971 from Sir George Williams University (now Concordia U). He then joined Esso, Building Products Division in LaSalle, Quebec where he rose to become the VP and General Manager of the division. He continued his career working in his own company selling telecommunications products where he travelled worldwide visiting numerous countries across the globe. Prior to his final retirement, he relocated to Hemmingford, Quebec in 1988, where he served on the board of the Hemmingford Golf Club, started the Covey Hill Amateur Radio Club, and also served a term as a Municipal Counsellor, Township of Hemmingford, QC.

Mark also had a full military career starting as a Signaller in the RCME in Manitoba in 1950 during the Korean conflict. He was commissioned in 1952. When his work took him to Montreal, he wanted to be part of an elite unit, and so joined the Canadian Grenadier Guards in 1957 and was appointed the Lieutenant Colonel Commanding from 1965-1968. He continued his association with the regiment from 1968 onwards as a member of the Canadian Grenadier Guards council, was the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel from 1985-1991, and President of both the Guards Club and the Association at various times.

Mark was always noted for his service before self through his passions and many volunteer engagements. He had a long association with the Corps of Commissionaires as a Governor of the Quebec Division, from 1987 onwards and was recognized as one of its longest serving members. He was the First Vice President of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 244 Hemmingford from 1999-2017. In addition, he held the rank of Captain-Lieutenant in the 78th Fraser Highlanders from 2000. He was a Sustaining Member - and former Prior, of the Grand Priory in Canada; former Commander Montreal Commandery: Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, from 1998 until his passing. His passion for the outdoors and teaching young people led him to start the Cote St Luc Wolf Cub Pack, Scouts Canada in 1965. This in turn steered the family to many canoe and camping trips in various parks and wilderness areas in eastern Canada and the USA, teaching his sons about the outdoors in both summer and winter.

Mark was intrigued with his family history and ancestry, and was a life member of the Clan Macpherson Association - Canada Branch, and served as its President for many years and represented Canada with many trips to Scotland. He also did much research into his family lineage which led him in 1999 to becoming a life member of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada and the President of its Laurentian Branch in 2004.

On a personal level, he was always known as a staunch family man with unassailable integrity, high intelligence and perseverance. He was respected by friends, co-workers, and all who associated with him in both military and civilian life. He was known as trustworthy and impeccably fair to all, no matter their station in life.



We were sadden to recently hear of the passing of Edith Louise Higgins of Oxford, NS who passed away November 25, 2022.





### The quiet of a new day.

It's in the quiet of a new day.  
When I can think and plan.  
All my dreams I gather.  
Roll them tightly in my hand.

The silence washes over me.  
It cleans and heals.  
The sadness from yesterday gone.  
Well that's how it feels.

It wipes the slate clean.  
Allows me to start again.  
To rise with the morning sun.  
My daylight friend.

In the hush of the gentle breeze.  
I see the world come alive.  
A day to be explored.

The wrongs can be righted.  
The good enjoyed.  
Friendships formed.  
To avoid that void.

The silence of the morn.  
Promises a future so bright.  
As I await the sun.  
In the dead of night.

Pauline McCreadie  
Stewarton, Scotland  
November 21, 2021

Used with kind permission of the Author

**THE GREEN BANNER** is 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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