

Clan MacMillan Society of North America (CMSNA) Business
Meeting

Friday, August 14, 2026, at 7:30 pm

The Simon Hotel, Celtic Room

Sydney, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia

Present: Michael Drotar (Loudon, NH), Chris Wittenberg (Loudon, NH), Neil Johnson (Roseville, MN), Rev. Dr. Christopher McMullen (New Brunswick, Canada), Gary Eno (New Concord, OH), Sid McMillan (Cordova, TN), Margie McMillan (Cordova, TN), Lee McMillen (Sarasota, FL), Jane Strauss (Northport, ME), Blanche McMillan (Burlington, Canada), Keith MacMillan (Cochrane, Canada), Deb Sirianni (Lowbanks, Canada), Anne Neuman (Stouffville, Canada), Mark Lemon (Owen Sound, Canada), Cynthia Lemon (Owen Sound, Canada)

Call to Order

The Business Meeting of the Clan Macmillan Society of North America was called to order at 7:34 pm by President Rev. Dr. Christopher McMullen.

Emendation and/or Adoption of the Agenda

A formal agenda was provided by Rev. Chris McMullen and approved.

Minutes of the October 26, 2024 Biennial Meeting at Jackson, Mississippi

Members of the clan reviewed the hardcopy of the 2023-2024 biennial business meeting minutes for the CMSNA Gathering held in Jackson, Mississippi. Keith MacMillan moved that the minutes be accepted, Neil Johnson seconded the motion. The minutes were voted on and approved by acclamation. Motion carried.

Business Arising from the 2024 Minutes

Clan MacMillan Honour Roll

A recommendation was made by Keith MacMillan to add Alexander S. MacMillan, the 13th premier of Nova Scotia, to the Clan MacMillan Honour Role. Keith's recommendation was discussed as favorable. Blanche McMillan moved that the recommendation be accepted to add Alexander Stirling MacMillan to the Honour Roll, seconded by Gary Eno. The motion was voted on and approved by acclamation. Motion carried.

Gary Eno recommended adding notable clan's people of demonstrated septs that bring honor to Clan MacMillan. Keith MacMillan moved that the motion be accepted, Michael Drotar seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved by acclamation. Motion carried.

Communications

Rev. Christopher McMullen discussed a piece of correspondence he received from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. The Society of Antiquaries has launched a £1.5m fundraising campaign to secure a permanent home in Edinburgh. The Society currently operates from a top-floor flat within the National Museum of Scotland. The Society hopes to purchase a building in Edinburgh's gateway area. The Society is hoping to raise £1.5m to secure the purchase.

Rev. Chris will write to them to explain that the CMSNA does not deem that financial support is something that is a priority at this time. Neil Johnson made a motion to publicize the appeal and reject financial support from the CMSNA at the present time, seconded by Michael Drotar. The motion was voted on and approved by acclamation. Motion carried.

President's Report

Reverend Christopher McMullen spoke of the honor he felt upon being elected twice to be the President of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America. Rev. McMullen was President of the CMSNA from 2000-2001 and again from 2024-2026.

Thanks were given for the CMSNA Secretary, Chris Wittenberg, Vice President, Michael Drotar, and Treasurer, Deb Sirianni.

Reverend Christopher mentioned that we are fortunate that membership for the CMSNA is on the rise again. The President is very pleased with the support for the clan.

Financial Report

Deb gave a short history of her ascension as Treasurer.

Deb's daughter, Candace Sirianni, is a signer on the bank account, and Anne Neuman is also a signer.

Deb reviewed the August 2026 Financial Statement.

Neil Johnson suggested that Deb and Anne explore other banks for the MacMillan funds.

Anne Neuman questioned the Term 11 GIC interest earned (Guaranteed Investment Certificate, a low-risk Canadian investment that guarantees your principal investment and offers a fixed or variable return over a set term). rolling over into the Operating account This is a Clan MacMillan Newsletter GIC of \$6000. All interest is supposed to be rolled over into the GIC on the maturity date of the GIC. This decision to roll over the interest was made during a prior business meeting.

Historically, the interest was used to mail, and possibly produce, the CMSNA newsletter. The roll-over has not been done at the present time.

A motion was made by Anne Neuman to roll over the GIC interest accrued when the GIC matures in September 2026. The motion was seconded by Gary Eno. The motion was voted on and approved by acclamation. Motion carried.

The sum of \$925, which consisted of \$853 from the Silent Auction held in Mississippi and \$72 from attendee's memberships paid was mailed to Hubert MacMillan, Past President in Mississippi for deposit in the bank account at the Clan Centre in Scotland. It is unclear if this transaction has occurred to date.

The Treasurer states she is unable to complete the 2024 financial report. The financial reports from the President at the time of the 2024 Gathering in Mississippi have not been received by the Treasurer, Deb Sirianni. The financial reports have, previously, been requested.

Keith MacMillan made a motion to have President Rev. Chris McMullen and incoming President Michael Drotar (2027-2028) request an income and expense statement of the 2024 Gathering from Hubert MacMillan and clarification regarding the transaction of the \$925 check mailed to him from the Treasurer, Deb Sirianni. Neil Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved by acclamation. Motion carried.

Update on Finances of the 2024 Gathering from Hubert MacMillan

The 2026 Financial Report of the Society was tabled to the 2028 General Meeting, pending the receipt of a financial report from the 2024 Mississippi Gathering of the Society from Past President Hubert MacMillan.

Estimates to Date on 2026 Gathering Finances

The 2026 Clan MacMillan Gathering was fortunate to have four favorable events occur: (See the preliminary financial report):

1. 30 people were needed to cover cost of the bus. Forty-one people paid the registration cost of \$600.
2. Park Canada offered free admission for the Alexander Graham Bell Museum and a lowered cost for Fortress Louisbourg.
3. The contribution from MacMillan Memorial Church of \$600.
4. Excess funds from donations.

Neil Johnson asked if we should send all excess funds to the Clan Centre or, possibly, send 50% of the excess funds.

\$450 was paid toward the accommodation for the “Lily Lakers” singers and \$1,2237.06 in honorariums went to the Lily Lakers Singing Group; the tour bus driver; Brendon Vicars of the Simon

Hotel, and Indigenous contact Arlene Stevens, including the traditional purchase of gift tobacco.

Gary Eno made the motion to save half of the remaining surplus of funds to be used for the upcoming Gathering of the CMSNA until, and if, further directions are received at future meetings. Keith seconded the motion to save half of the excess funds. The motion was voted on and approved by acclamation. Motion carried.

Estimates to Date on 2026 Gathering Finances

Rev. Chris McMullen stated that the full Financial Report for this 2026 Gathering will be forthcoming soon.

Election of President

Neil Johnson made a nomination to elect Vice President, Michael Drotar, to be the President of the CMSNA, with the term beginning on January 1, 2027. Jane Strauss seconded the nomination. The nomination was voted on and approved by acclamation. Mike accepted the nomination.

A gift of a New Hampshire tartan cap presented to Rev. Chris McMullen by incoming President Michael Drotar as thanks for organizing the Gathering and two years serving as President, and a Cape Breton baseball cap was presented to Neil Johnson as a birthday gift. All gave thanks.

Election of Vice President 2027-2028

Blanche McMillan suggested the wording for this officer position as “Pending an announcement.”

Rev. Chris McMullen stated that nominating Anne Neuman as Interim Vice President and organizing a nomination for a permanent Vice President.

Mark Lemon moved a motion that Anne Newman be appointed Interim Vice-President pending the nomination appointment of a CMSNA Vice President from the Glengarry and Ottawa Valley Branch of the Clan who will presumably host a 2030 Gathering in Ontario. Sid seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved by acclamation. Motion carried.

Tentative Plans, Ideas for 2028- Gathering

Michael Drotar, the in-coming President of the CMSNA discussed the possibility of having the Clan MacMillan be the honored clan at the New Hampshire Highland Games on Saturday, September 16, 2028.

Jane Strauss suggested a day with autumn leaf peeping. Anne Neuman asked if arrangements can be made to pay for Graeme’s flights to attend the Gathering in 2028. Michael Drotar stated that having Arthur and Barbara attend is particularly important.

Rev. Chris McMullen stated the Society may be able to cover part of the cost of the flights for Arthur and Barbara.

New or other Business

Keith MacMillan spoke about the 100 Challenge Coins that he commissioned. One of the Clan MacMillan “Challenge Coins” was presented to outgoing President Christopher McMullen, in recognition of his tremendous planning, preparation and work in hosting the 2026 Gathering. The coin was developed by Keith with input from Chief George on the wording on both the front and back of the coin. The front of the coin features the clan crest and the back of the coin features a sword (long a symbol of our clan) with the sword facing downward and near the top of the sword the “scales of justice” is attached to it to emphasize the Clan’s motto of learning to support the unfortunate.



The challenge coin is primarily used by the military in both Canada and the USA, mainly to show what branch of service, or what regiment you are part of. In more recent years it has been

adopted by police departments and some fire departments. The coin can easily be carried in a purse or pocket and shown as proof of affiliation to the Clan, or Scottish heritage in general. To the best of Keith's knowledge, this is the first coin ever made by a Clan. Keith made 100 coins of extremely high quality.

Neil Johnson has very generously agreed to take 28 of the coins to Finlaystone in Scotland in mid-September. He will present one each to Chief George, Arthur, and Barbara. The other 25 coins will be for the Chief to present to others or sell in the Clan store with 100% of the sale to be used for support of the Clan Centre.

It is Keith's wish to make the coin available to all MacMillan's, their Septs and their supporters. Unfortunately, he could not show it to everyone at the Gathering although some members did see it and purchase it. The cost is \$35. Canadian or \$30.00 USD, plus shipping. If it is more convenient, it can also be purchased at the Clan Centre in Scotland.

Gary Eno explained that the coins can be presented as a challenge to do better.

Deb Sirianni suggested inserting a time period for feedback regarding purchasing the coins.

Constitution

Jane Strauss suggested setting up a Governance Committee to review the CMSNA Constitution.

Neil Johnson made the motion that a Governance Committee be set up to work on reviewing the Constitution. Blanche McMillan seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved by acclamation. Motion carried.

Thanks

Rev. Christopher thanked his wife, Valda, and his two sons, Ian and Dan for helping during the Gathering.

Meeting Adjournment

The 2026 Clan MacMillan Society of North America Business Meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Chris Wittenberg
Loudon, NH
Secretary