

J. Angus MacLean (1914 - 2000)

On 14th September 2013 the Trust joined with Clan Maclean Atlantic Canada (CMAC), the local Belfast Historical Society and the Caledonian Club of Prince Edward Island, as well as members of J. Angus MacLean's family, to unveil a plaque and a storyboard commemorating his achievements.

The Hon. J. Angus MacLean PC, OC, DFC was born in Lewes, Prince Edward Island (PEI), on 15th May 1914. He served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II. The story of his bomber being shot down over Holland in 1942, how he evaded capture for three months, despite having injured his back when landing by parachute, and his return to the UK via Belgium, France and Spain, is told in his memoirs, *Making It Home* (1998).



J. Angus MacLean

He was first elected to Parliament as a Progressive Conservative Party of Canada member in a 1951 by-election, representing first Queens (1951-1968) and then, when that district was abolished, Malpeque (1968-1976). He held his seat continuously until he resigned in 1976, having been re-elected nine times. He served as Minister of Fisheries from 1957 until 1963.

He was elected Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Prince Edward Island in September 1976 and resigned from the House of Commons in the following month. He was elected to the PEI Legislative Assembly at a by-election in November that year and was re-elected in 1978 and 1979, when he led his party to victory. He became Premier of Prince Edward Island on 3rd May 1979. He retired as Premier on 17th November 1981, after which he devoted his time to blueberry farming.



George MacLean, President of Clan Maclean Atlantic Canada, and Ian MacLean, Trustee

He died in Charlottetown PEI, on 15th February 2000.

The plaque is fixed to a sandstone boulder, a short distance from the Croft House Museum in Belfast, PEI. Surrounding it are four recently planted holly bushes. A storyboard has been erected nearby. At the ceremony, two pipers, one of whom was a MacLaine, together with a member of CMAC, led the party along the short path from the Museum to the clearing where the stone bearing the plaque is situated. The flags of Canada, Prince Edward Island, Scotland and Clan Maclean flew proudly behind the stone.

Over 150 people attended. Those present were welcomed by a representative from the Belfast Historical Society, who spoke of the Croft House Museum and the Selkirk settlers in the area, from whom Angus MacLean and his family are descended. Ian MacLean, representing the Trust, delivered the Chief's regrets that he could not be present, spoke about the Trust and mentioned the connection of Angus MacLean to Skye, specifically to the

family of Sorley MacLean, and to the Macleans of Dochgarroch. George MacLean, President of Clan Maclean Atlantic Canada, spoke of Angus's support for CMAC as one of its initial members and his ongoing involvement with the Association. Wilbur MacDonald, representing the Caledonian Club, told some humorous stories about Angus's political career. Rob, one of Angus's sons, delivered the main speech, proudly wearing his father's Maclean kilt.

The plaque was unveiled by representatives of the four participating organizations and by Rob representing the family. J. Angus MacLean's widow, Mrs MacLean, together with another son and daughter and two grand-daughters were also in attendance. Following the unveiling, the party proceeded to the St John's Presbyterian Church for an informal reception. It was a nice coincidence that this is the church where A. Maclean Sinclair was the minister when he wrote the famous Maclean history, *Clan Gillean*. There, both Rob and his mother thanked everyone who had participated in the commemoration.



l to r: Ian MacLean, Trustee; Darlene Compton, Belfast Historical Society, Rob MacLean, son; Wilbur MacDonald (seated), Caledonian Club of Prince Edward Island; George MacLean, President of Clan Maclean Atlantic Canada; Gwen MacLean (seated), widow; Allan MacLean, son