



# The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Walt Elliot

This report will contain three parts

1. Membership renewal
2. Accessing newsletter on website
3. A report on Anne's and my 21 day trip to China in September

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Our membership year ends October 31<sup>st</sup>. Consequently, a membership renewal form is included in this mailing. Please fill out the renewal form making any necessary changes and return it with your cheque made out to the Elliot Clan Society. We encourage you to rejoin for more than one year as this helps us by reducing our bookwork. A timely return of the renewal form is much appreciated.

### ACCESSING THE NEWSLETTER ON THE WEBSITE

We understand that members are finding it really easy to access the newsletter on the website since we decided to do away with a password. If you haven't tried it, please do and then volunteer to receive all but the October newsletter in that fashion to save us mailing costs. Any savings will be used to help defray the costs associated with the visits by Chief Margaret to Canada. The Chief is planning to visit Nova Scotia next year for the international gathering of the clans. More about this visit in our February newsletter.

**Note:** Our website is: [www.elliotclan.com](http://www.elliotclan.com). This gets you to the home page. Follow the newsletter link. All

Canadian newsletters since 2005 are available, as well as the Scottish ones for the past two years.

### YOUR OPINION IS REQUESTED

We are seriously considering only having two newsletters per year in October and February (not having one in June). We require the one in October for membership renewal and the chapter reports in February should outline chapter events for the following year. Any comments about this proposed change would be appreciated.



*Anne and Walt Elliot with one of our new members, Justin Trudeau, in Georgetown, Ontario.*

## CHINA TRIP

Anne and I had a fabulous, relatively inexpensive, trip to China from September 13<sup>th</sup> to October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. It was five star hotels, boat rides and spectacular shows all the way. We began our trip in Beijing visiting the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, The Ming Tombs, The Great Wall and the Summer Palace. As well, we took in an opera, had a rickshaw ride in the old city and sampled Beijing roast duck.

We then flew to Xian to experience the Terra Cotta Warriors, the Tang Dynasty Dancing Show and a dumpling banquet. Next, a flight to Shanghai to cruise the Huangpu River, shop, visit the Shanghai Museum and enjoy an acrobatic show. We then flew to Wuhan, had a city tour and took a coach to Yichang to visit the Sinorama Day Care Center in Jingzhou, a day care sponsored by our tour company.

That night, we embarked on the MV Century Sky for a four-day cruise on the Yangtze River. This cruise was the highlight of the trip. We saw the 5 stages ship lock, the Three Gorges Dam, the Lesser Three Gorges, Snow Jade Cave, the Wu Gorge and the Quitang Gorge. Some of this was done in smaller boats. We disembarked at Chongqing then drove to Beishan to see the Dazhu Rock Carvings and then back to Chongqing to visit the Panda Zoo.

Then we flew to Guilin to tour the most beautiful city in China, continuing on to Yangshuo to take in "Impression Liu San Jie," a show which earned the director the job of choreographing the opening ceremony

of the Beijing Olympics – a fantastic river show with a cast of more than 1000 volunteers! We then cruised the Li River back to Guilin to see Elephant Trunk Hill the trademark feature of the city.

The final flight of five was to Guangzhou to see the ancestral temple of the Chen family and have a city tour. This was also the location from which we took the ferry to our final destination, Hong Kong, on October 1<sup>st</sup>. October 2<sup>nd</sup> was a national holiday in China so we combined a shopping trip with seeing the fireworks and a laser show for a very eventful free day on the 1<sup>st</sup>, as we were scheduled for a full day city tour on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our flight home left Hong Kong on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:10 pm their time and arrived in Toronto at 6:05 pm our time the same day (a 15 hour non-stop flight), so we gained back the day we lost going to China.

I didn't mention the various shopping stops we made while on city tours to a jade factory, a freshwater pearl outlet, a seawater pearl outlet, a silk factory, markets and jewelry outlets. There were lots of opportunities to spend money for goods at reasonable prices.

Note: This tour was organized by Sinorama Holidays Inc. of Montreal and Toronto. They advertise in the Toronto Star every Saturday in the travel section. We still can't believe what a super vacation we had for the cost involved. Our group had 23 members with a Chinese English speaking guide from Guilin China. As well, in each location we had a tour bus driver and a local guide who spoke pretty good English.



*Above: Marilyn and Amos Elliot with Walt and Anne Elliot touring China in September, 2010.*

*Right: Anne and Walt Elliot in Beijing China.*



# CHAPTER REPORTS

## NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

*Chapter Secretary Barry Buckman reports:*

Hello to all Elliot clansfolk wherever you may be. Here in Nova Scotia we have experienced one of our most pleasant summer seasons in quite some time. Now the beautiful autumn colours are near the peak of splendour.

Our chapter has been saddened with the passing of long-time member Harold Elliott on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Harold was a former chapter Chair who initiated our Annual Spring Fling event back in 1991. On top of all this, his wife Lillian fell and broke her hip late in the month. She is in the hospital as I write this report and our best wishes go out to her for a speedy recovery and return to her residence.

The Picnic/Auction took place at Port George on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Although cloudy skies and rain prevailed, the twenty-eight people who assembled in the Recreation Centre enjoyed the variety of pot luck offerings. The auction managed to raise enough money to cover rental fees.

Our Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held at the Best Western Glengarry hotel in Truro on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The skies cleared in time for our event which drew eighteen members and guests. The meal commenced at 2:45 p.m. and featured a full course roast pork selection. Just prior to this, our chapter's inaugural bursary award was presented. Just days before, it was named the Harold B. Elliott Memorial Bursary to honour our aforementioned deceased member. The Bursary Committee felt that it was a fitting tribute to a man who was very accomplished in the field of academia. The recipient is Robyn Bachynski of Sackville who is attending St. Mary's University in Halifax with a goal of being an anthropologist. The award is in the amount of five hundred dollars. Tom Wallace, President of the Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia joined us for the meal and he addressed our group afterwards. Tom spoke about Federation affairs and presented an update on plans for the upcoming International Gathering of the Clans which returns to Nova Scotia next year. A General Meeting followed with several items being discussed. Jim Feetham assumes the role of Vice-Chair with the other officers remaining in place.

I am pleased to announce that our Clan Chief, Margaret Elliott, has accepted an invitation to join us in Nova Scotia for next year's Gathering in early July. It will be her first visit to our province in a number of years and we are looking forward to her visit. Please note that postings and updates are available at the Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia website. It is not too early to start making plans if you are considering a visit next year for the Gathering. More information on our Chapter's participation will be available in the next newsletter report in early 2011. Until next time, best wishes for continued health and happiness to all.

## EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

*Vice President J. Ross Elliot reports:*

Once again, our Chapter suffered a great loss. Jim Elliot who was a founding member of the Elliot Clan in Canada in the middle 1980s, passed away after an extended illness. Jim was active in Ontario East - Quebec West Chapter and then took on the role of Manitoba Chapter Chair for several years before moving back to the Ottawa area. His gruff voice and his impish smile will be missed. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Elizabeth.

We had some good news as well. Ross Elliot and his long time "main squeeze" Helene Quesnel were married on June 5<sup>th</sup>. We (Helene and I) spent six weeks poking around Europe. Helene is now back at work and I am continuing to live the life of a kept man!

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 beginning noonish, ten stalwart members of the clan and another six friends gathered at the rural home of Bob and Eve Elliott near Carp, Ontario. Held a week later than usual for the past umpteen years and for the first time not hosted by Ross and Hélène in Navan (who were off touring Europe), the weather was somewhat overcast befitting our continued dampened spirits from the loss of our wonderful colleague Helen Elliott-Doshen less than a month earlier. Despite the reduced numbers with John and Collette cruising the west coast, the food was delightful and tasty with the fellowship convivial. All looked forward to meeting again in November at the Trents in Wakefield.

## ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

*Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:*

2010 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Ontario West Chapter of Elliot Clan Society. So this has been a year of celebration for us. We started off with a very successful Spring Lunch at the Harmony House Buffet in April with a very good turnout.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, members gathered at the home of John D. Shaw and Catherine Elliot Shaw for a Pork BBQ. John and Catherine, our wonderful hosts, greeted us with flags flying on the front lawn. We were able to sit out in their lovely garden and enjoyed meeting with old friends. Unfortunately, just as the pork was ready, the rain began to

fall so we all scurried inside. A delicious array of salads, desserts and John's famous BBQ pork awaited us on the table. Everyone enjoyed a great meal and the camaraderie. Many thanks to John and Catherine for their generous hospitality. We were pleased to have Walter and Anne Elliot with us for this occasion. The raffle was, once again, a great success. Thanks to all who donated prizes.

The next event to wind up our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration will be the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at St. Andrew's Memorial Church, London, Ontario. We will be having a guest entertainer and many surprises.

All the best for the upcoming holiday season.



*John Shaw and Peter Elliott with Walt and Anne Elliot.*



*Barbara Elliott, Catherine Elliot Shaw and Walt Elliot cutting the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake.*

## MANITOBA CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair John Peach reports:*

During the summer, President Walt Elliot asked me to be the contact for the Manitoba Chapter. I said that I would, even though it sounded as though he had more than being a contact in mind. The chapter has been inactive for several years.

I have been a member since the mid 1980s. My grandmother was an Elliott. We can trace our family back to Northamptonshire, England. Some of the information we have was gathered by cousin Ted Elliott who was the clan historian until his death.

My wife Charlotte and I have a farm not far from Winnipeg. Its main product is hay for cattle and horses. Now that we are through this year's long and rather difficult haying season, it is time for me to contact current and former members of the Manitoba Chapter to revive out little band of Elliots.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Jim Elliot, a former chair of the chapter. Some of us often referred to him as "The Dean," mainly because he served for ten years as the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, University of Manitoba. We also felt the title was appropriate because of his leadership of Elliots in Manitoba and our respect for him.

## SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair Clifford Elliott reports:*

Hello from Saskatchewan. There isn't much to report this time again because of the poor weather on the prairies and especially in this province this summer.

The farmers were really worried about not getting their crops harvested. We had a two-week period where we didn't have any rain and it was fairly warm, so they were going 24/7 if they could.

Gardens were poor this summer also because of the excess moisture. The potatoes and tomatoes had blight, so were inedible in most parts. They had to be pulled up and destroyed by either burning them, or chopping them up and putting them into plastic bags.

I didn't go out much this summer because of the inclement weather. As reported before, I went to a high school reunion in my old hometown of Beatty on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. I was only able to attend one day of the three-day event, but most of the activities were on the second day anyway and I got to see a lot of my old schoolmates. It was great to see them again. Some, or I should say, most, of them I hadn't seen for many years.

I suppose the next report will be around Christmas time, so I'll wish everyone a great fall and hope everything will be okay until then. Goodbye for now.



*Left: Stephanie Herdman at her high school grad in Calgary. She is the daughter of Doreen and Neil Herdman, two of our members. The material for the dress was purchased in Scotland and the dress was made locally in Calgary. Stephanie is presently in 1<sup>st</sup> year at the University of British Columbia.*

*Above: Max, the Herdman's Cairn Terrier wearing an outfit made by Doreen Herdman.*

## ALBERTA CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair Allan Elliott reports:*

Once again, we had a busy summer attending Alberta Highland Games. Bob Elliott and Allan Elliott attended the Red Deer Games at the end of June. The High River Games were moved this year to the high school grounds in Okotoks and our Elliot tent was prominently displayed at one of the main entrances. We had a great deal of interest this year from many attendees who were interested in their own Scottish family history and we were able to point many of them towards various family history resources where they could pursue their interests.

The Calgary Highland Games also moved to a new location this year in Springbank, just west of Calgary. There were large crowds in attendance and the Elliot site was manned once again by Walter and Mary Elliot with Neil Herdman and Allan Elliott helping. We made contact with a number of Elliots, including one whose uncle, James Elliott of Australia, had written a book on his family. It was self-published and is a marvellous way of recording family history for future generations.

One of our long serving, active members, Kathleen Elliott (1912 – 2010), of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta passed away this summer. Our condolences go out to her daughter, Ruby Coulson, our Vice-President, and her family.