



# The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



Volume 17, Issue 1

March, 2011

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Walt Elliot

My report this issue will contain three parts:

1. Information about Chief Margaret Elliott of Redheugh's upcoming visit to Nova Scotia;
2. A commentary about getting new members; and
3. An article outlining the duties of our newsletter editor with a request for a volunteer for the position.

### CHIEF MARGARET ELLIOTT'S VISIT TO NOVA SCOTIA

Our Chief, Margaret Elliott, has accepted an invitation to visit our Nova Scotia Chapter in July. She will arrive on July 7th and return to Scotland July 11<sup>th</sup>. Those members who would like to join our Nova Scotia members during her visit should read Barry Buckman's Nova Scotia report, as it highlights her visit.

The International Gathering of the Clans in Nova Scotia lasts about a month and various activities take place in a variety of locations about the province. Halifax is hosting the Tattoo during Margaret's visit. Those members with roots in the Maritime provinces will be particularly interested in the International Gathering of the Clans.

### NEW MEMBERS

Julia Palmer Elliott and the Ontario East Chapter are to be congratulated on their initiative in holding a meeting with a view to encouraging all chapters to be aggressive in cultivating new members. Each of the attendees at the meeting volunteered to contact at least one chapter chair to discuss methods of attracting new members.

We always have an increase in new members around the time of the gatherings at Newcastleton in Scotland (the next one is tentatively scheduled for 2013). Some new members join because they are interested in their own family's genealogy.

It is important that current members strongly encourage their family members and other Elliots to join us because our fees will not allow us to aggressively advertise for new members. Now that a membership application is readily available on the website it is really easy to join. Most of our recent new members have joined in this fashion.

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR VOLUNTEER REQUESTED

Please read the article in this newsletter about the duties of the newsletter editor. Tina Elliot, our present editor, is available to help any member who volunteers for this position. Tina has been doing an excellent job for the past ten years and would like a break as she is now a full time teacher.

### OF INTEREST TO MANITOBA MEMBERS

Our sincerest condolences go out to former chapter chair Shawn Ankenmann and his three children, Sam, Hannah and Rebecca, on the death of his mother Belle (Elliot) Ankenmann of Stratford, Ontario in January, followed by the death of his older brother Scott in February. His father Sam Ankenmann, an OPP officer, was killed in an accident while on duty in 1968. Shawn moved to Flesherton, Ontario in August 2010 to take up a new ministry in his capacity as a United Church minister. Belle was also the eldest sister of our President, Walt Elliot, and Scott was his nephew. We wish the family well at this extremely trying time.

# REMEMBERING HELEN ELLIOTT

*The following is a lovely biography sent to us from Allan (Curly) Elliott, Vice President for Western Canada, in memory of his wife, Helen. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Curly.*



Helen was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, 1927, in Detroit Michigan where her father was working for the Ford Motor Company. Her parents returned to Canada when Helen was nine months old. She grew up in a log house on a homestead near Salt Prairie, Alberta, with her sister Jeanie and brother Frankie. She moved

to Peace River, Alberta in 1939 when her father, Frank Atkins, was invited back into the RCMP at the beginning of the war.

She finished her High School in Peace River. Her beloved dog Happy was a feature of the town, as he would charge through traffic every day when he heard the noon whistle sound to get to the High School to walk Helen home.

She attended the University of Alberta in Edmonton for one year, where she received a Teaching Certificate, and started a long and rewarding career in a one-room schoolhouse at Irma, Alberta. Helen found eligible bachelors to be non-existent in Irma after one of her classmates from University married the only one available. She moved back to Peace River, where in the spring of 1950 she met the love of her life, a young RCMP Constable named Allan (Curly) Elliott. They were married on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, 1952 in the Anglican Cathedral in Peace River.

After their marriage, they moved to Grand Prairie, Alberta where their sons Danny and David were born in 1954 and 1956 respectively. Helen then followed her husband in his career to a posting in the remote village

of Fort Vermilion, Alberta. It was here that their third son, Robert Lee, was born in 1959. In Fort Vermilion Helen returned to her teaching career as a substitute at the Indian Residential School.

Helen again followed her husband in his career to Cochrane in 1960. It was there that she continued to pursue her life-long love of learning by taking an Education course at the Calgary campus of the University of Alberta, as it was then known. She returned to teaching at Cochrane Elementary on the day her youngest son, Robert Lee, started Grade One.

She moved to Calgary in 1967, the Centennial year. Helen continued to teach while pursuing her own schooling, receiving a Degree in Education from the University of Calgary in 1970, followed by a Diploma in Curriculum and Instruction in 1972.

Helen taught at a number of different schools in Calgary over a period of 19 years. She finished her successful and rewarding career as the Principal of Acadia Elementary School. Helen always considered herself an educator, and loved teaching whenever possible. She was an active member of the Alberta Teachers Association, serving for a number of years as the Calgary Social Convener.

Helen retired from the Calgary Board of Education in the spring of 1988, starting a long and active retirement. She Square and Round danced with the Banff Trailers dance club for 35 years. She was a great traveler and with her husband Curly, visited over 60 countries, touching on every continent except Antarctica.

Helen also renewed an interest in painting, which had been interrupted by her career, and became an accomplished watercolour artist. Quilting was another one of her interests, where she excelled at piecing together intricate designs from an array of fabrics and colors. Among her diverse quilting repertoire, she greatly enjoyed both quilting for her grand daughters and teaching them how to quilt on their own.

Helen filled her life with love for her family and friends. Her dignity, grace and kind wisdom will be greatly missed, but her love lives on in the hearts and minds of all who were blessed to have known her.

# CHAPTER REPORTS

## NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

*Chapter Secretary Barry Buckman reports:*

Greetings to all clansfolk and I hope that the winter hasn't dampened your spirits too much.

It is with regret that I announce the passing of our eldest member, Rosena Outhouse, at the age of ninety-five. She died in late November following a bout with meningitis. Rosena was active in chapter affairs to the end and she attended our AGM and Dinner at Truro last October.

The Annual Spring Fling will be held sometime in May with a potluck meal and auction scheduled.

As I have written before, the International Gathering of the Clans returns to Nova Scotia this year and our Clan Chief, Margaret Elliott, will be visiting us for the occasion. On Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, our chapter will host a Clan Elliot Dinner at the Citadel Halifax Hotel; the time is set for 4:00 p.m. Any visiting Elliotts and their guests are invited to join with us as we celebrate Margaret's visit. Later that evening, the final performance of this year's Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo will take place. The night is billed as "Clans' Night at the Tattoo," whereby any visiting clan chiefs will be piped into the Metro Centre, which is located very close to the Citadel Hotel. Our chapter will be purchasing a block of tickets for the performance and will sit as a group. As with the Clan Dinner, we welcome any visiting Elliotts who wish to join us. If you are planning to attend these events, please contact me at the following:

Phone (902) 839-2965

Email bdeanbuckman@hotmail.com

I can also assist with booking accommodations etc.; just let me know.

On behalf of our chapter, I extend best wishes for improved health to longtime member, Madelyn Cooley, who is presently a patient at Dartmouth

General Hospital. We hope that warmer weather finds you feeling better, Madelyn!

So long for now and I hope that a fantastic spring and summer awaits you all!

## EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

*Vice President J. Ross Elliot reports:*

The Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec chapter had a great pre-Christmas Pot Luck Dinner at the home of John and Collette Trent. At the end of the dinner, Julia raised an issue that has been a concern for some time - How do we attract new members to keep the group viable as we lose our regulars to health issues or "moves to be closer to grandchildren?" We went around the table a few times without firm suggestions. Finally, Julia offered to host a "group of eight" committee and assigned members to contact other chapters to collect ideas for recruitment. About a month later, we met at Julia's home to report. In general, other chapters didn't have any magic suggestions, but Robert agreed to prepare a summary report of all the ideas for review. We left the lunch with a challenge from Julia to "think of ideas outside the box – off the wall." The next meeting will be held soon to pursue this problem.

The next event will be our usual Father's Day Saturday BBQ at the home of Eve and Robert Elliott. Any member planning to be in the Ottawa area is welcome. Chapter members will be contacted by e-mail to plan the menu.

## ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER

*President Walt Elliot reports on behalf of Chapter Chair Marshall Elliott:*

Marshall is having health problems and is planning to have surgery this spring to alleviate a hiatus hernia condition. We wish him well and hope that he has a speedy recovery.

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 we had our annual luncheon at the Harrop House Restaurant in Milton. It was well attended and an interesting discussion by the members present who had visited China was the main feature of the after-luncheon conversation. A surprising number of those present had been to China, and those who haven't found the discussion most interesting.



*Ontario Central Annual Luncheon*

Keep open the second full weekend in August for The Fergus Highland Games. Saturday is the best day to attend if you want to see the dancing, bands and games. An opening tattoo on Friday evening is always exceptional. If you are so inclined, on Sunday a Kirkin of the Tartans is usually held in a Fergus church.

The date for the fall luncheon has not been set as yet. Because the date is usually around the time of our fall newsletter, we usually send out a special invitation to our Central Ontario members in September. All other members are welcome. If you wish to attend, send Walt Elliot an email and I will make the arrangements for you.



## ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

*Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:*

The Annual General Meeting of the Ontario West Chapter was held on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Church of St. Andrew Memorial, London, Ontario. Twenty-six members were in attendance to enjoy a delicious Turkey Dinner catered by Belmont Catering. We were pleased to welcome Walter and Anne Elliot to help us celebrate the final event of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. Many thanks to John D. Shaw for arranging the catering services.

Our guest entertainer was Fred Moyes with his accordion. Fred led us in a good old fashioned sing-along, including several Scottish tunes, as well as some good old standbys. This was enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to Catherine Elliot Shaw for organizing the entertainment.

After serving many years on the Executive Committee, Peter Elliott and Glen French stepped down. A Certificate of Recognition was presented to these gentlemen along with our heartfelt thanks. We are pleased to announce that Loretta Kerslake and Jeff Elliott have joined the Executive as Directors. A presentation was also made to Al and Carole Nickels for their ongoing work on behalf of the Chapter in attending Highland Games, editing the Newsletters and attracting new members.

Upcoming events for 2011 include:

- Spring Luncheon, April 16 - place to be determined
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Elliot Clan Golf Tournament, May 29 - Golf Course to be determined
- Picnic on July 10, 2011 - Waterworks Park, St. Thomas
- Annual General Meeting on November 5, 2011 - The Church of St. Andrew Memorial, London

More information will be forthcoming on these events in our Chapter Newsletter. Don't forget to wear your tartan on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011, National Tartan Day.



*Photos from Ontario West AGM: 1. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake; 2. Fred Moyes and his accordion - our Entertainment; and 3. Walter Elliot bringing greetings from Chief Margaret*



## MANITOBA CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair John Peach reports:*

We are going to gather in the spring after the weather warms up, the university term ends and members return from warmer climes. We will get acquainted or re-acquainted, tell stories of our families and enjoy each other's company.

## SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair Clifford Elliott reports:*

Greetings from Saskatchewan on this rather snowy day (February 22<sup>nd</sup>). It has been snowing most of the day so we'll have a new covering of snow. I heard some people complaining today about it being difficult to see where the sidewalks were. Even without any sun out it was rather bright. It'll be more so when the sun comes out. One good thing is that it isn't that cold.

I had a quiet Christmas and New Year's. I had Christmas with friends and at New Year's Eve and some of us went out and watched an excellent display of fireworks. It was rather chilly out but no-one seemed to mind much. Since the New Year, not much was happening because of exceptionally cold weather. There were a lot of events cancelled because of it. Some were moved to a later date.

This seems to be all there is to report for now. May everyone have a great rest of the winter and may everyone keep fit and healthy. Bye for now!

## ALBERTA CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair Allan Elliott reports:*

After a quiet, cold winter on the Alberta Clan front, we are getting ready for a busy Highland Games summer once again. This summer's Highland Games in Alberta are as follows:

- Red Deer – June 18
- Foothills Highland Games (Okotoks, AB) - August 27
- Calgary Highland Games – September 3
- Canmore Highland Games – September 4

We will be holding our annual meeting in Calgary in April and are looking forward to a good turnout.

I recently signed up for the Elliott (and Border Reivers) DNA project. The process and the results were interesting. My closest DNA matches were a group of Elliott families in Northern Ireland and I had an exact match with an Elliott family in the US who came to New Jersey in 1837, directly from Scotland. If anyone is interested in learning more about the process, you can contact me directly by email [allan.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:allan.elliott@gmail.com) (or our President Walter who has also participated in the project).

It saddens me to report that two of our long serving members passed away since the last newsletter. Helen Elliott, wife of Allan (Curly) Elliott of Calgary passed away in October 2010. Helen, along with Curly, was one of the original founders of the Alberta Branch. On January 18, 2011, Redmond (Red) Elliott, husband of Frances of Camrose, Alberta passed away. Redmond, along with Frances, was a long time member of our Society. Redmond was a farmer and a vet in the Camrose area for 28 years, as well as being involved in many community activities, Rotary Club, and the agricultural community. Our condolences go out to their families.

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S JOB

Since we have not been successful in finding a replacement for Tina, we thought it might be helpful to provide an outline of the job description for this position.

The newsletter editor begins each issue by requesting articles, reports and photos from all executive members and chapter chairs. After receiving almost all the submissions by e-mail, the editor compiles them into a newsletter. Tina uses Microsoft Word, but other publishing programs could be used. Once a draft of the newsletter is ready, it is e-mailed to the president and the assistant editor for proofreading. After making any suggested corrections, she e-mails the newsletter to the president, who looks after the actual printing and mailing of the newsletter, and the webmaster, who posts the newsletter on the website. The job is not overly onerous, since we now distribute only two Canadian newsletters a year.

Tina has really enjoyed her time as newsletter editor, and is hoping somebody will take over her job who will share her enthusiasm for helping Elliots connect with each other and keeping our history alive. Please give Walt or Tina a call if you are interested.