



# The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



Volume 18, Issue 1

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Walt Elliot

Two very important matters will be the focus of my report. The first is a piece of exceptionally good news. Catherine Elliot Shaw, who has been a co-chair of the Ontario West Chapter for many years, has consented to become the new president of the Elliot Clan Society of Canada effective November 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. An article written by Catherine introducing her appears elsewhere in this newsletter. I have had the pleasure of working with Catherine for more than 10 years. She is a most capable woman and will do an excellent job, assisted by her equally capable husband, John Shaw, who has been a long time treasurer of the Ontario West Chapter.

The second item is an amazing accomplishment by a group of volunteers who over 25 years raised more than 2 million dollars to establish a Scottish chair at the University of Guelph. Harry Ferguson, the founding chair of this dedicated group, was the guest speaker last fall at our Central Ontario annual luncheon. I requested a copy of Harry's speech so that we could include it in our newsletter. It is an interesting history of how this terrific feat was accomplished. This amazing story again accurately reflects what Scots have done worldwide. They have been a significant force in the development of the civilized industrial world. Marshall Elliott, our Central Ontario chair, expands upon Harry's presentation in his report.

As I enter my transition year to leave the presidency I would be remiss not to mention how much I have enjoyed the job. Anne and I travelled to Eastern and Western Canada twice during my time in office. As well, we attended as many of the three Ontario chapters' functions as we could. We travelled to Kentucky and have visited with US commissioners at other events. My trips to the gatherings in Scotland

with Anne in 2005 and with my son, Paul, in 2009 were very special. Meeting Elliots from all parts of the world was exciting and rewarding. We were always impressed with the wonderful Elliot Clan members that we met.

In conclusion I would like to thank those members who renewed their memberships in a timely fashion. This makes my job easy and enjoyable. There are still about 20 members who have not renewed and it would be appreciated if they did so before the end of April since I plan to issue the rebates to the chapters and Scotland in early May.

I will be continuing with all my duties until the end of this October.

### **The Elliots – The Origins of the Family Elliot and Their Place in Scotland's History**

(ISBN 185217062X)

Author - Archie McKerracher

Your president received this small booklet as a gift from Harry Ferguson's cousin, Anne Elliott, and recommends it highly. Harry received it in Scotland while visiting the new Burns Museum. It costs about £2.5. It is published by Lang Sang Publishers Ltd. Clydeway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow G3 8JU.

### **Assistant Newsletter Editor Required**

Evelyn Elliot has done a fantastic job as assistant newsletter editor for ten years. She would appreciate another member volunteering for this position. The main job is to proofread the final copy of the newsletter, correcting any errors and making other suggestions. If interested, please contact Walt.

## Welcome to Our Incoming Canadian Region President, Catherine Elliot Shaw

A member of the Society for twenty years, Catherine Elliot Shaw shared Co-Chair responsibilities with Barbara Elliott in the Ontario West Chapter from 1999 to 2011. Highlights over this period included attending with Chief Margaret when the Elliots were the featured clan at the Fergus Scottish Festival in 2003 and when she was the honorary Chief of the Scottish Games held in Glasgow, Kentucky in 2006. She and her husband John also travelled to the International Gathering in Edinburgh in 2009. This was preceded by the Elliot Gathering at Redheugh where they enjoyed meeting Elliots from around the world including fellow Scottish Country Dancer and then President of the U.S. Clan Society Patricia Bell.

Both Catherine and John have been avid Scottish Country Dancers for over 31 years. Catherine received her full teaching credentials from the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in 1990 and has been an active teacher in her home Branch of London, Ontario ever since. She has also taught weekend and weeklong dance workshops across Canada and the United States. Catherine has also served on the Executive of the Teachers' Association (Canada), an international organization for teachers of Scottish Country Dance. During that time, she and John were Director and Treasurer respectively for two years to organize and administer the annual international Summer School, including a course for Teacher Candidates. Catherine and John have also managed a worldwide Scottish music service that ensures the availability of recordings for the teaching of Scottish Country Dance.

One of Catherine's earliest memories related to being an Elliot was the discovery in a Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario Anglican Church of a plaque raised to the memory of a Colonel Elliot who had been governor of that district during the Rebellion of 1837.



This coincided with a family story of Elliots immigrating to the Niagara area from the United States during the Revolutionary War.

It has been a longtime dream of hers to establish that her family could have United Empire Loyalist status. She would welcome any information that might assist in that pursuit.

Catherine holds two degrees from Western University (formerly The University of Western Ontario): an Honours BA in Art History and Criticism (for which she won the University Gold Medal) and an MA in Public History. She has been the Curator of the McIntosh Gallery at Western University for over 29 years, responsible during that time for over 350 exhibitions, some of which have travelled throughout Canada and the United States, and for a permanent collection of over 3,500 art objects.

The position of President of the Canadian Region is a challenging one but Walt and Anne Elliot have made many innovations to streamline its administration. With their help, Catherine knows that the transition will be much easier. She looks forward to meeting her fellow Canadian Elliots over the next few years during travels across the country or at the next Elliot Clan gathering in Redheugh in 2013.

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# Chapter Reports

## NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

*Chapter Secretary Barry Buckman reports:*

Hello everyone and I hope you have spent a good winter wherever you may be. Here in Nova Scotia it has been a non-event, weather wise, for the most part. Our Chapter's AGM was held in the Community Hall at South Rawdon on Saturday, October 15th. A wonderful meal was enjoyed in the early afternoon with sixteen in attendance. Special thanks are extended to Jim and Sharon Feetham as well as Jim's aunt, Donna McLean, for preparing the food and decorating the hall.

Following the dinner, the General Meeting was held with several items being discussed. It was decided that the Annual Spring Fling will be held in the Campbell Center, Cole Harbour, Saturday, May 12th

at 12 noon with Murray & Carole Elliott in charge of arrangements.

An election of officers was held with two changes in the slate. Jim Feetham assumes the role of Chapter Chair and Darlene Richard is the new Vice-Chair. A special thanks to Murray Elliott for his duties as Chair during his four year tenure.

That's all for now; I send best wishes to all for a wonderful spring season which is fast approaching!

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## MANITOBA CHAPTER

*John Peach reports:*

We appreciate the leadership of Walt Elliot as our Canadian president. Also thanks to Tina Elliot for her work as our newsletter editor.

We welcome Catherine Elliot Shaw as our new president and Tanya Elliott Hendsbee as our newsletter editor. We appreciate their taking on these positions.

Some of our Manitoba members are basking in warmer climes to the west and south. The rest of us are enjoying the mild Manitoba winter – hardly any minus 30 degree mornings and not much snow.

During the season of short days and long nights some of us are delving into the stories of our ancestors – Elliots, Elliotts and others. I am sure that all of us are looking forward to the longer days of spring.

## ALBERTA CHAPTER

*Allan R. Elliott reports:*

We will be attending the Alberta Highland Games again this summer with our Clan Elliot booth and look forward to meeting any members who are traveling to Alberta this year.

The dates and locations are as follows:

Red Deer Highland Games – Saturday June 23, 2012

Foothills Highland Games (Okotoks) – TBA  
<http://www.foothillshighlandgames.com/>

Calgary Highland Games – Saturday Sept. 1, 2012

Canmore Highland Games – Sunday Sept. 2, 2012

## ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER

*Marshall Elliott reports:*

A real treat this year at our fall Clan Elliott Luncheon was our guest speaker, Harry Ferguson. Harry has championed the funding of a permanent Chair in Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph. A successful businessman and a native Scot, Harry spent incredible volunteer time and energy to develop a network of energetic folks to support this worthwhile academic centre! There were some Elliots at the fall luncheon who are well acquainted with Harry as his daughter Evelyn is married to President Walter Elliot's son Paul. Paul and Evelyn are well known in our chapter as regular supporters of the Clan Society, regular attendees at the fall luncheon at Harrop House in Milton (a former Elliott homestead which is now a delightful restaurant) and also great participants at various highland games. Both Harry and his delightful wife were warmly received at the luncheon and it is only hoped that will continue to join us.

Last year Bonnie and Greg Ball were again instrumental in the running of the Georgetown Highland Games and ensured a strong Elliot presence that we can all be proud of! Great work Bonnie and Greg. Every year I suggest to the reader that attending any one of more than two dozen Scottish Festivals or Highland Games in Ontario is a grand way to reenergize our sense of culture.

Also in past newsletters I remind Elliots to consider approaching their municipal government (city, township, region, county) with the request to proclaim a day in the second week in April as World Tartan Day. I have done this for years in Peterborough as a way for the municipality to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of Scots to our community. If anyone needs any more information please email me at [marshalllelliott@cogeco.ca](mailto:marshalllelliott@cogeco.ca) and I will gladly provide the correspondence that I use locally. It is also great to see Scotland's national flag (Flag of St Andrew) flying beside our Canadian flag at city hall, as part of the proclamation, for a week and certainly gathers attention from the community.

Lastly we need to thank Walter Elliot and his gracious wife Anne for all that they have done as our President for years now. Walter has always paid very close attention to the needs of the Society and each of the regional chapters in Canada and has 'done all of us proud' as our national representative. Likewise, with confidence, we look forward to Catherine Elliot Shaw picking up the reins as our President. Catherine has been very involved in Southwest Ontario as the Chair and will provide leadership as Walter so capably did.

Hope to see some of you at:

Georgetown Highland Games – June 9, 2012

Fergus Highland Games – August 9, 10 and 11, 2012



*Attendees at the Harrop House luncheon, October 2011.*

*Photo by Paul Elliot*



## Ontario West Chapter Report

*Carole Nickels*

*Co-chair, Ontario West Chapter reports:*

The Elliot Clan Society, Ontario West Chapter held its Annual General Meeting November 5, 2011 at The Church of St. Andrew Memorial, 55 Foxbar Road in London. Twenty-five members were present to enjoy a turkey dinner catered by the Belmont Town Restaurant and Catering. We were pleased to have Walter and Anne Elliot and many out of town members join us at our annual meeting.

John Davidson of Jesse's Journey was our guest speaker. Jesse Davidson, John's son, was diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy as a child. In 1995 John pushed Jesse across Canada in a wheelchair to raise money for Duchenne muscular dystrophy research. Three years later, in 1998, he walked from St. John's, Newfoundland to Victoria, British Columbia without Jesse to raise funds for the Jesse's Journey Foundation. John recalled his solo journey and how many Canadians he had met walking day after day across Canada.

This was not an election year; however, many changes in the Executive Committee were announced. Co-chair Barbara Elliott has retired from the Executive Committee, Catherine Elliot Shaw has assumed the position of Secretary, Co-chairs will be Allan and Carole Nickels and Jeff Elliott is Membership. John Shaw will remain as Treasurer. Loretta Kerslake and Sally Hemming are Directors. The Ontario West Chapter wishes to express its thanks to Barbara Elliott and Catherine Elliot Shaw for their dedication and support for the many years they served as our Co-chairs. Our popular raffle raised \$149.00.



*(L to R) Present co-chairs, Carole and Al Nickels, with Barbara Elliott and Catherine Elliot-Shaw at the 2010 Annual Meeting. Photo by Anne Elliot*



*2011 Annual Meeting: (L to R) Walt Elliot, co-chair Carole Nickels and Catherine-Shaw Elliot. Photo by Anne Elliot*



*Catherine Elliot-Shaw and Barbara Elliott receiving plaques for dedication and support after many years as co-chairs of Ontario West Chapter.*

## SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

*Clifford Elliott reports:*

Greetings from Saskatchewan.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. It was a good one here because it was warm and there was little snow. Some parts of the province didn't have any at all! We have had a marvelous winter here. We've only had two short weeks of really cold weather so far. Hopefully this will continue as spring is just around the corner. It has been a pleasure to live in Saskatchewan this winter and it looks like there won't be any flooding due to the lack of snow. The farmers will be happy about that! They will be able to sow more grain this year. I hope everyone will have a Happy Easter and that families will be able to gather to enjoy the season and that everyone that has to travel will have a safe trip going and returning home. Until the next newsletter, I hope everyone will have a good spring.



### Upcoming Events for 2012

April 6, 2012	Tartan Day
April 14, 2012	Spring Lunch
May 27, 2012	Annual Golf Tournament to be held at the Dorchester Golf and Country Club
July 22, 2012	Annual Picnic
November 3, 2012	Annual General Meeting to be held at the Church of St. Andrew Memorial

### Eastern Ontario, Western Quebec Chapter

*J. Ross Elliot reports:*

The Chapter held the regular pre-Christmas pot luck dinner at the home of John and Collette Trent at Chelsea in the Gatineau Hills north of Ottawa. It can be a winter wonderland but recently there hasn't been much snow. Their home is still a gorgeous location and most members are glad not to have to face a snowy drive.

Attendance was down a bit this year because of travelers, but the 12 who were there were all able to sit around the extended dining room table and partake of the goodies and have a good chat.

We had a sad loss on January 19, 2012 when Prudie Elliott passed away. Prudie had been quite ill for some time and unable to participate in our functions in her usual quiet, reliable smiling way. She will be sadly missed.

Our summer pot luck will be held in June. Details to follow soon.

## FUNDING THE SCOTTISH STUDIES FOUNDATION *Part 1 of 2*

*Transcript of speech presented by:*

*Harry Stewart Ferguson*

*First President of the Scottish Studies Foundation*

*Annual Elliot Clan Gathering Harrop House, Milton*

*October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011*

Just recently, my wife, Kathie and I were invited to Guelph University for a celebration since all of us at Guelph had just recently seen the last instalment of money toward the Scottish Chair and as founder and first President of The Scottish Studies Foundation at that University I was invited by my old friend Professor Graeme Morton, Chair of Scottish Studies at Guelph, to give an address on how this had all started and what work we had all put into the endeavour those many years ago.

It was something to celebrate, for the pledge that my colleagues and I made 25 years ago to the Scottish Chair at this University had been fulfilled and then some, we had committed to raising 1.5 million, but instead had raised 2 million towards the Chair, which is a proud achievement for any organization. One million was raised by the Foundation and the other came from Corporate and other donors. There are two things which are rather unique about this milestone achievement. First it is the only donation of this size to be made to the College of Arts at this University and secondly it is the first privately endowed chair in Scottish Studies in North America.

I would just like to give you a brief sketch of the quality of some items in this large collection and how some of it was acquired. A major new addition to the collection was made in 1991 with the purchase of the Foulis Press collection of John Grant, an antiquarian Scottish book seller who died in 1990. It was amassed in Edinburgh over a 35 year period, and consists of 338 titles in more than 500 volumes, representing more than half the titles listed in a bibliography of this 18th century printer. Foulis Press, a Scottish printer- publishing operation that existed from 1739 to 1800, was printer to the University of Glasgow. It published texts, dissertations and classics as well as volumes on philosophy, theology and the sciences. The collection represents some of the finest publishing in Europe in the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



*Harry Ferguson, John Shaw and Catherine Elliot-Shaw  
Photo by Paul Elliot*

As well as the Foulis collection, there is now a massive and rare Jacobite collection of original manuscripts and letters, many documents and pamphlets on the 19<sup>th</sup> century disruptions in the Church of Scotland, a large collection of Scottish chapbooks and a fairly large collection of 600 19<sup>th</sup> century Scottish parish records. There is also a vast amount of material on the Scots in Canada. This is truly a marvellous resource of international standing, which is open to all Canadian scholars and students and one of which the country can be justifiably proud.

It is a wonderful thrill to hold in your hands, as I have done, an original letter from the old pretender to his son, Bonnie Prince Charlie. To realize that the hand which had held this piece of paper and written these words had belonged to him who had caused such a tremendous upheaval in history and through his son had impacted upon the Scottish nation and world affairs to such a degree that the reverberations are still felt to this day. A reading of these letters shows that, before the start of his great adventure, the Prince was a brave young man who gave no thought to his personal safety, a quality that would no doubt endear him to the hearts of the brave highlanders whom he was later to lead to destruction.

***Our fall newsletter will contain the conclusion of this article.***