



# The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



Volume 23, Issue 2

Fall 2017

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Catherine Elliot Shaw



Hello everyone,

By the time you read this, 2018 will be upon us. My apologies for the delay in this newsletter; it has been a rather hectic fall for both Tanya and me so we are endeavouring to catch up as quickly as possible.

Thank you all for your membership renewals. If you haven't already done so, the printable form is available on the Elliot Clan website at: [elliotclan.com/docs/ElliotClanSociety\\_Membership\\_Canada.pdf](http://elliotclan.com/docs/ElliotClanSociety_Membership_Canada.pdf), or you can just drop a cheque in the mail and I will find you on the database. If you prefer, you can make payment by e-transfer through your bank; I only need an email telling me the security word or phrase needed to complete the transaction.

Inside this issue are chapter reports with news and future events. We also have a large feature on this year's Gathering at Redheugh and the Edinburgh Tattoo where we were an honoured clan. My thanks to Alan and Heather Donovan, Bob Elliott and Andrew Patton for sending their photos, and to Andrew for his insightful impressions as a first-time attendee.

Finally, our National Newsletter Editor Tanya Hendsbee has informed me that, due to some health challenges, this will be her last issue. It has been a pleasure to work with her over the years as she initiated several design changes and made valuable suggestions for the publication. Thank you, Tanya, for a job well done!

Wishing you all the best for a New Year of good health and joy,

Catherine

## ONTARIO WEST

*Carole Nickels, Co-Chair reports:*

The Ontario West Chapter held its Annual General Meeting November 4, 2017. The theme of this pot-luck meal was the celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. Members wrote their names on red maple leaves and names were drawn for door prizes. During the meal, trivia questions about Canada were tossed out to members. Everyone enjoyed this casual get together.

The Ontario West Chapter has five events planned for 2018.

### APRIL 7, 2018

**Elliot Spring Lunch** to take place at the Mandarin Restaurant, Hyde Park location, London.

### MAY 12, 2018

**Elliot Clan Fundraiser** at St. Anne's Anglican Church Annual Spring Sale. We participate in this event to raise funds for the chapter. Tables are rented at the St. Anne's Spring and Plant Sale located at 1344 Commissioners Road West in Byron. The sale will be held May 12, 2018 from 9:00 am to 1:00. This is an excellent opportunity to meet the public and attract interest in the Elliot Clan.

### JULY 15, 2018

**Summer Gathering** at a location to be announced. The 2017 Summer Gathering was held at a golf course near Chatham and featured a buffet dinner. This gathering was enjoyed by everyone attending and we are considering other events such as this one.

### SEPT. 24, 2017

**Elliot Annual Golf Tournament** to be held at the Dorchester Golf and Country Club. All members and their families are welcome to join us.

## NOV. 3, 2018

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** to be held at the Church of St. Andrew Memorial, 55 Foxbar Road, London.

The Ontario West Chapter would like to extend an invitation to all Elliot members and their family to join us at any of our events. Please contact Allan and Carole Nickels for more information regarding our events.

**Phone: 519-455-9076**

**Email: al-carole@bell.net**

## ONTARIO EAST & QUEBEC WEST

*Bob Elliott, Chair reports:*

Calendar 2017 saw two events for the Ontario East/Western Quebec chapter of the Canadian Region.

On January 28th, 2017 Bob and Eve hosted extended family members and friends at the Robbie Burns fundraising dinner for Roger Neilson House and the Sens Foundation at the Ottawa Hunt & Golf Club. Bob and Eve's son Andrew Elliott chaired the event on behalf of sponsor Live 88.5FM and Ottawa's Scottish & Irish Store. Entertainment included the RCAF Pipe and Drum Band and the dancers from the Champagne School of Highland Dance. See the last Newsletter for two photos from the event.

The 2017 Lambfest was held on Saturday June 17, once again at the home of Bob and Eve Elliott in Carp. Approaching the 30th year that this event has been held, Eve and Bob were delighted to welcome their granddaughter to the event. The photo below shows all who attended except the photographer Emma Dunkley Elliott.



L- R: H       and Ross Elliot, Eric Elliott, Jonas Elliott, Eve Elliott with Zoe, Bob Elliott, Dorothy Elliott and Helen Elliott.

Plans for calendar 2018 remain vague as we open up some communication links. Tentatively we will look for a Lambfest on Saturday June 16, 2018.

## MANITOBA

*John Peach reports:*

On a fine September Sunday afternoon, we gathered at the home of Lisa Elliot in Winnipeg. We offered condolences to Lisa and her father, Jack, on the death of Sharon, Jack's wife and Lisa's mother.

In addition to visiting after a long time apart, we told stories about our Elliot and Elliott families. We found that some of us could trace our families back to the Borders of Scotland; others to Ireland or England. We each shared some of what we had learned through stories passed down through the generations, from old letters and other documents, photos and family Bibles. We also told of learnings through newer means including on-line repositories and communication with cousins by email.

We had a great afternoon of sharing.

## NOVA SCOTIA

*Tanya Hendsbee reports:*

The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo takes place in Halifax each year. Check website for more information.

<http://www.nstatattoo.ca/>

If you are interested in social gatherings of NS Elliots, you can contact me at: [thendsbee@eastlink.ca](mailto:thendsbee@eastlink.ca) or 902-435-6111.

### Scottish Highland Games & Celtic Festivals Canada Spring & Summer 2018

Did you know...?

The Elliot Clan Society of Canada is a member of CASSOC (Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada), a national organization which encourages the celebration of Scottish heritage. It serves as a central clearing house for Scottish cultural events such as Highland Games and Celtic Festivals (see pages 7, 8, 9). Its website, [www.cassoc.ca](http://www.cassoc.ca), offers a wealth of information on all things Scottish.

### Newsletter Editor Needed

As you read in the President's Report at the beginning of the newsletter, the Canadian region needs a new national newsletter editor immediately. We normally publish two issues a year of approximately 8 pages. If you have desktop publishing skills and are interested in this position, I'd love to hear from you.  
CES

## NEW BRUNSWICK

In Memoriam - J.Allison Elliott



J. Allison was one of our earliest members (card #C008) and was the retired chair of the New Brunswick Chapter of the Society. For many years, he spearheaded the clan booth at the annual Highland Games on the grounds of Old Government House in Fredericton. His son John recalls his strong interest in family heritage, perhaps due in part to the fact that he was born and lived his entire 86 years on the farm purchased in 1874 by his immigrant great-grandfather James Elliott.

Our condolences to his family and Chapter friends.

## GATHERING/TATTOO

As mentioned in previous newsletters, 2017 was the year of the Clan Gathering at the Chief's home in Scotland. As usual, she and her team did a superb job of organizing a variety of activities for the attendees including our appearance as a featured clan prior to an Edinburgh Tattoo performance. We proudly marched onto the field behind Margaret with banners flying and were greeted with a great roar from the crowd. A night to remember.

First-time attendee Andrew Patton (Ontario Central Chapter) offers the following impressions:  
Elliot Clan Gathering 2017 – Our First of Many  
“And please... try and look alive!” pleaded our very own Garrison Sergeant Major, resplendent in full dress uniform and sardonic grin.

The Great Hall, where chieftains and monarchs have met for more than 450 years, crackled with anticipation. Or maybe that was just me and my wife Judy. It was our first time attending the Elliot Clan Society Gathering, and this was a truly spectacular way to kick off.



(photo courtesy CES)

Representatives of the Elliot Clan Society from around the world were assembled in the Great Hall of this ancient fortress, built on top of a volcano, to prepare to parade into the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Here we were, in Edinburgh Castle, and these were our final marching orders for our entrance this evening, assigned after much fun and good-natured guidance.

We marched en masse, as the sun set over the Firth of Forth, down Hawk Hill along with representatives of Clan Agnew. Led into the pomp and pageantry of the Tattoo at the Castle by our enchanting Chief Margaret Elliott of Redheugh, DL, we were inspired and moved by the spectacle. Boldly and rightly, indeed!

Off to Newcastleton, on the edge of the Borders, for more Elliot festivities the following day. The Elliot Clan Society shared hosting duties for an evening performance of the popular folk rock band Scocha in Newcastleton. The night included a pint or two, some fabulous playing and some special Border Reiver folk songs planned especially for the Elliots in attendance





(photo courtesy Bob Elliott)

Friday dawned a little rainy in lovely Newcastleton, where every second shop seemed to boast a charming connection to an Elliot. We caught the shuttle bus for the brief ride to Redheugh for the start of the Gathering and a relaxing morning wandering around the garden and Clan Room. We were dazzled by, among others, John Elliot and his dry-stone wall expertise.



(photo courtesy CES)

At lunch, under clearing skies, we were treated to a delicious barbecue of lamb and great international Elliot friendliness in the field just below the house. A very loud bang, the blast from the cannon, reminded us it was 2:15 pm and the Chief, with her piper, marched onto the field with international branch presidents, including our beloved Canadian President Catherine Elliot Shaw, looking debonair in her tartan and tam.



(photo courtesy Alan and Heather Donovan)

After a blessing and a few short speeches, Elliots and friends were entertained by a team of stunt Reiver riders on (and, quite frequently, off) horseback.

We were also treated to an opportunity to draw a longbow with expert guidance from members of Ettrick Forest Archers. Despite their valiant support, Robin Hood, we ain't!



(photo courtesy Alan and Heather Donovan)

The rest of the weekend featured a stop at the Heritage Centre in town and a visit to brooding and romantic Hermitage Castle, just 8 km up the road. On Sunday, Elliots were treated to a bus tour that included a church service at Bedrule Church, lunch at Dryburgh Abbey and an afternoon tour of Abbotsford, once home to the immortal Walter Scott.



(Abbotsford photo courtesy CES)

The Gathering in 2017 was so beautifully organized and rich with warmth and friendliness. This was a rare opportunity to explore our heritage, discover new friends and pause to remember ancestors who chose to leave this idyllic place. Our visit to the Gathering this year delighted and enlivened us and, true to our Sergeant Major's instruction, we'll "look alive" until we get back!



Hermitage Castle (photo courtesy Bob Elliott)



Elliot Clan Room (photo courtesy Bob Elliott)

## THE CASE OF THE MISSING GIFT
























At the past few Gatherings, the Canadian Region has presented Margaret with a gift to commemorate the occasion. These have included a glass inukshuk, and a piece of 19<sup>th</sup> century pressed glass in the Thistle pattern, a product of the once-great glass factories around the Burlington, Ontario, area.

This year, being also Canada's sesquicentennial, the choice was a steel red maple leaf with "2017" in steel numbers welded to its front and bearing a custom plaque. Being too large (and perhaps restricted!) for carry-on luggage, it was entrusted to Canada Post's Express Service to ensure that it would arrive well in advance. Imagine my surprise when, upon my arrival, there was no waiting package so, instead of the intended presentation, I could only offer a sad explanation.

Back home in Canada, it turned out that the parcel had indeed arrived in Scotland within the expected 3 days but sat thereafter in an Edinburgh depot awaiting customs clearance. The tracking log indicated that a letter had been sent to Margaret but, before she could respond, the postal authorities arbitrarily returned it to sender. By the time you read this, it should be on its way again, this time hopefully with a successful conclusion.



# 2018

Date	Name	Place/Information	Events
Jan 19	<b>St Andrew's Society Toronto</b> <b>Burns Dinner</b>	Toronto, ON  	
Jan 20	The College of Piping & Celtic Performing Arts of Canada Robbie Burns Fundraising Gala	Summerside, PE 	
Jan 25	<b>St Andrew's Society Toronto</b> <b>Burns' Statue Celebration</b>	Toronto, ON  	
Jan 27	<b>Cobourg Highland Games</b> <b>Burns Dinner</b>	Cobourg, ON 	
Jan 28	<b>Great Canadian Kilt Skate</b>	Toronto, ON 	
Feb 3	<b>Gaelic Society of Toronto</b> <b>New Year's Party</b>	Toronto, ON 	
Feb 8	<b>Gaelic Society of Toronto</b> <b>Young Pipers' Championship</b>	Toronto, ON 	
Feb 9-10	Mid-Winter Celtic Festival	Regina, SK 	
May 19-20	Regina Highland Games	Regina, SK 	
May 19-21	Victoria Highland Games	Victoria, BC 	
Jun 9	Georgetown Highland Games	Georgetown, ON 	

Jun 15-16	<b>Cobourg Highland Games</b>	Cobourg, ON 	
Jun 16	BC Highland Games	Coquitlam, BC 	
Jun 23-24	Manitoba Highland Gathering	Winnipeg, MB 	
Jun 24	Edmonton Scottish Society Highland Gathering	Edmonton, AB 	
Jun 26-Jul 2	Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo	Halifax, NS 	
Jun 29-Jul 7	Kitchenfest <i>Féis a'Chidsin</i>	Cape Breton, NS 	
Jul 1	Embro Highland Games	Embro, ON 	
Jul 1-8	Antigonish Highland Games	Antigonish, NS 	
Jul 6-8	<b>Kincardine Scottish Festival &amp; Highland Games</b>	Kincardine, ON 	
Aug 3-4	Glengarry Highland Games	Maxville, ON 	
Aug 5-17	Scottish Diaspora Reunion Cruise		
Aug 10-12	<b>Fergus Scottish Festival &amp; Highland Games</b>	Fergus, ON 	



Sep 1-2	Canmore Highland Games	Canmore, AB 	
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## Tartan Day

**Tartan Day** is a celebration of Scottish heritage on 6 April, the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. It originated in Canada in the mid-1980s. It spread to other communities of the Scottish diaspora in the 1990s. In Australia, the similar **International Tartan Day** is held on 1 July, the anniversary of the repeal of the 1747 Act of Proscription that banned the wearing of tartan.

Tartan Days typically have parades of pipe bands, Highland dancing and other Scottish-themed events.

On 9 March 1986, a 'Tartan Day' to promote Scottish heritage in Canada, was proposed at a meeting of the Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia.<sup>[1]</sup> Jean Watson, President of Clan Lamont, petitioned provincial legislatures to recognize April 6 as Tartan Day.<sup>[1]</sup> The first such proclamation was by Nova Scotia in April 1987; On December 19, 1991, in response to action initiated by the Clans & Scottish Societies of Canada, the Ontario Legislature passed a resolution proclaiming April 6 as Tartan Day following the example of other Canadian provinces.

15.1% or 4.7 million Canadians claim Scottish descent. As stated above, Tartan Day in Canada originated with a proposal from the Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia and has since been proclaimed by all the provincial legislatures. In 2007 Peter Stoffer introduced a Private member's bill for "An Act respecting a Tartan Day". Progress of the bill was interrupted by the 2008 election, but it has been resubmitted.<sup>[4]</sup>

An annual 'Gathering of the Clans' will take place each 6 April or on the Sunday nearest to it on Parliament Hill in Ottawa at noon with pipes, drums and dancing hosted by the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band, Canada's oldest civilian pipe band.<sup>[5]</sup> The 2011 celebrations marked the first time that Tartan Day has been celebrated with Canada's official tartan having been named: the Maple Leaf

