



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



Volume: 11, Issue: 1

January 2005

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Walt Elliot

We sincerely hope you had a very Merry Christmas and are beginning to have an exceptionally Happy 2005.

This report will contain an accounting of my visits to the Central Ontario and West Chapters of the Clan. Elsewhere in the newsletter please read carefully the comments on membership renewal – a final reminder for 2005, webpage availability of the newsletter for those who wish it, the Gathering of The Clan, August 26-28 in Scotland and a suggestion to begin a biographic archive of any member wishing to submit his/her biography.

On October 17, 2004 the Central Ontario Chapter had an excellent fall dinner at The Elliott House Restaurant in Mississauga. This event was arranged by Marshall and Bonnie Elliott of Peterborough. They were good enough to have it on my birthday and it was a great way to celebrate. Marshall will no doubt be commenting further on this party in his report. If you are ever in Mississauga and want fine dining in a super atmosphere, this former Adam Elliot residence (circa 1836) is the place to visit.

The Ontario West annual meeting, held in St. Aidan's Anglican Church in London on November 13, 2004, was exceptional. In addition to the usual business and a fine fund raising raffle, Sue Vanduyhoven, a ventriloquist, entertained. Pay particular attention to Catherine Elliot-Shaw's and co-chair Barbara Elliott's report as their plans for 2005 are already underway and sound terrific.

Finally, it is with sadness that I report the death of Frances, Lady Elliott, the mother of our Clan Chief, Margaret. She died peacefully on Sunday, December 26, 2004. Her funeral was held on January 6, 2005 at Cavers Church, Hawick. A biography of Lady Frances will be included in the main newsletter from Scotland, which you should receive in March.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – APPLICATION FORM ENCLOSED

Memberships for 2005 were due on October 31, 2004. A sincere thank you to all of the members who have renewed. A final reminder is enclosed in this newsletter for those who have not renewed and, unfortunately, this will be the last newsletter we can afford to send you if you have not renewed by March 31, 2005.



NEWSLETTER AVAILABILITY ON THE WEB

About 20% of the membership have indicated they would prefer to receive the newsletter by viewing it on the Elliot Clan Society website. Because membership cards have to be included in the January 2005 newsletter, we are mailing the newsletter to all members.

Greg and Bonnie Ball of Acton, Ontario, have volunteered to co-ordinate the electronic newsletter procedure. A password will be issued by e-mail to each participating member when each newsletter becomes available on the website. In the near future we plan to have a dry run with the current newsletter to check the system and the e-mail addresses.

If you have not chosen this option, you can still do so by e-mailing Walt at elliottwa@interhop.net. Make sure you include your clan number. More than half our members are surnamed Elliot.

BIOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

As we visited the chapters, Anne and I have been most impressed at the caliber of our members. Many have contributed significantly in their area of expertise and we feel the rest of the Clan would be interested in their accomplishments.

(continued on page 2)

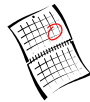
(continued from page 1)

Some members have submitted family information with their membership renewals over the years. This information has been retained in a file but has never been organized in a fashion that would allow easy retrieval of the information. I would like to start an organized archive of member information. Please send me a one-page biography by e-mail or, if you don't have access to e-mail, by regular mail (see page 8 for contact information). Eventually we could start a web file so that members can access the information.



CLAN GATHERING – SCOTLAND, AUGUST 26-28, 2005

You should have received an application form in your last newsletter from Scotland. If you need any information visit The Elliot Clan website or give us a call. We have reserved a room for a Saturday evening dinner for Canadians on August 27. Please let me know if you plan to go to the gathering and if you are joining us for the dinner. Anne and I, and others, are planning to participate in the walk on the 29th.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 7 Nova Scotia Chapter Spring Fling
July 23 Nova Scotia Chapter Annual Picnic/Auction
June 28 E. Ontario/W. Quebec Chapter Barbeque
April 16 Ontario West Chapter Spring Event

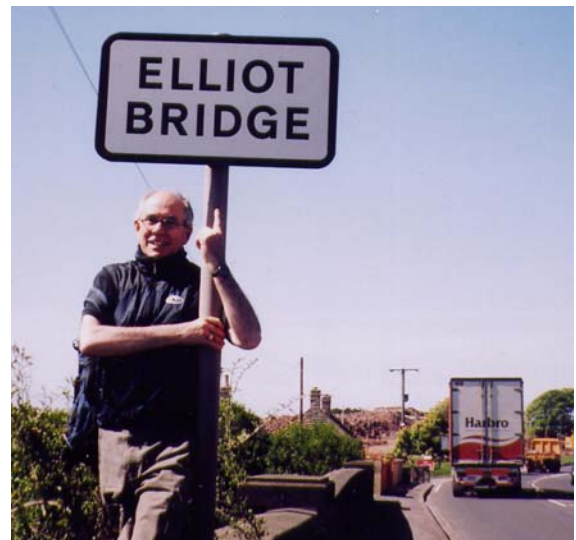
TBA Ontario West Chapter Summer Picnic
Aug 26 to 28 Clan Gathering, Scotland
Nov 12 Ontario West Chapter AGM & 15th Anniversary Celebration

A TRIP DOWN THE ELLIOT WATER

by Marshall Elliott

After a week of exploring the Fife coast and the handsome villages of Crail, St. Monans and Anstruther in June of '04, Bonnie and I crossed the Firth of Tay and left Fife for Angus ... originally the home of the early Clan Elliot prior to travelling, in the early 14th century, as a clan to the Middle March of the Borders. Following significant English defeats at the hand of Robert the Bruce, the Bruce sent some of his most quarrelsome clans to the very south of his kingdom as a significant deterrent to further aggression by Edward or other English monarchs. Apparently, the small village of Arbirlot was the general vicinity of the Elliot clan up until the 1320's. Knowing this history allowed us to easily find the village and begin the 'discovery' of the Elliot Water...apparently the only place name in Scotland with our name. We parked in the lot of one of the two historic churches and soon found the Water or river. There is a natural walking path along the bank so we followed it for some hour and a half toward the Sea. Wondering just how much further we needed to walk, I asked a farmer the distance to the ocean. I could have sworn that he barked out that it was "about 300 y'ars away" but was really relieved that it was not that many years away but just that many yards away. As we exited

the forested riverbanks we walked into 'The Elliot Caravan Park' at the point that the Elliot Water entered the North Sea. It was a glorious day and a hearty walk that needed some fine refreshment when we entered the local pub.



CHAPTER REPORTS

NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Joyce Earle, reports:

The Nova Scotia Branch of the Elliot Clan Society held our Annual Meeting Luncheon on October 30th at the Old Orchard Inn, in Greenwich, Kings Co., arranged by Robert G. Elliot of Kentville. Thirty-five members attended. The change from an evening meal to a luncheon was well received. Lively musical entertainment was provided by "Alex and Marty" of Tiverton, Digby Co.

Our Spring Fling will be held on May 7, 2005, at the Dartmouth Senior Service Centre, and the Annual Picnic/Auction will be held on July 23 in New Ross. Elliot(t)s travelling in the vicinity are welcome to come to any of our activities.

We have been saddened by the loss of so many of our active members, and we will miss them. In September, Shirley Elliott (159), our Historian, and sister of the late Robbins Elliott (12) (please see article on page 6). In November, Howard W. Elliott (312), of Pugwash. He was a very active member of our Clan. Howard and his wife, Frances, were very gracious hosts at the International Gatherings in Pugwash, and were dedicated workers at our Annual Picnic/Auctions in New Ross. On January 2, 2005, Hattie James (181), of New Glasgow. Howard and Hattie were brother and sister to longtime members, Chester Elliott of New Ross, and Canon Russell Elliott of Wolfville, as well as being uncle and aunt of our Past Chair, Gail Fudge. In December, Whitley Trueman died, after a long battle with cancer. He was the husband of Geraldine (Sheffield) Trueman.

Executive for the year 2005 are: Chair – Joyce Earle; Vice Chair – Nancy Buckman; Secretary – Russell Prime; Treasurer – George Elliot; and Past Chair – Gail Fudge.

NEW BRUNSWICK CHAPTER

Chapter Chair J. Allison Elliott reports:

We had our fall dinner meeting again this year at The Timberland Restaurant, with a tasty roast beef dinner, attended by about 25 members, most of whom we rarely see except on these occasions. The business meeting was brief, with most executive members retaining their respective positions. I reported on the N.B. Highland Games held at Old Government House at Fredericton, in August. Florence and I attended from Friday until Sunday, manning our booth, with our son John in attendance on

Sunday. Although no one else from our membership seems to wish to help out, we thoroughly enjoy meeting the various people who drop by. One couple was an aboriginal man and his wife, as tourists from James Bay, Que., who had previously travelled to the west coast and Alaska, and were now on their way to the Atlantic Provinces. Another was an elderly tourist, alone, travelling all the way from Australia, having rented a camper in L.A., and making his way around North America. A very interesting meeting, since we had had the opportunity to visit his turf in 1997. I am not sure if we will try to attend next year's event.

After our dinner was finished, the highlight of the evening was a historic presentation of a CD, entitled "Albert County Heritage", a production of the Albert County Museum. The commentary was presented by Dale Elliott, our Vice Chairman, assisted by his wife, Margaret, our Secretary, who is also the curator of The Albert County Museum. The technical aspect of the presentation was under the capable direction of their son, Robbie, who has studied Computer Engineering, and produced the CD, to which he holds the copyright. Albert County is our neighbour to the south, and stretches all the way along the Bay of Fundy, from Fundy National Park to the City of Moncton, and is well endowed with history, through farming, lumbering, and shipbuilding, as far back as early 1700's. This is all contained in the CD, and for anyone wishing to get a copy of this, here is the website and e-mail address:

www.albertcountymuseum.ca or
albertcountymuseum@nb.aibn.com.

EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Helen Elliott reports:

Our Annual Potluck party ending the season, coordinated by Eve, was a great success due also to the members who contributed creative offerings, and to the generous hospitality of Larry and Linda.

Since this Chapter is up to date on future events, I would like to invite other chapter members who may be in the vicinity of Ottawa on June 28, 2005, to join us at our Annual Barbeque event at Ross and Helene's in Navan, Ontario. If any members are considering attending the great Elliot Gathering in Scotland in August, Walter will be providing me with more information regarding accommodation, travel and facilities.

Condolences have been sent to Margaret on the passing of her beloved mother, Lady Frances, on behalf of the Chapter members, a number of whom had the pleasure of meeting Lady Frances when she accompanied her husband, Sir Arthur Elliott of Stobs, at the Annual Dinner in Ottawa in 1994.

We are all looking forward to Walter attending our Barbeque. All the best to everyone!

ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Marshall Elliott reports:

October the 17th was a most eventful day for an outstanding Chapter dinner at the gracious Elliott House Restaurant in Mississauga. This annual dinner had typically been held on Fridays at lunch. However, October the 17th was a Sunday and proved, along with an evening dinner as opposed to a luncheon, to be a very attractive way to reach more members as attendees. Over two dozens Elliots, Eliotts and Elliotts enjoyed an outstanding meal ranging from Grilled Salmon to Chicken Supreme to Rack of Lamb (following, of course, a reading of Burns' Selkirk Grace). All Central Ontario Elliot Clan members were most appreciative to have Carole and Al Nickels, from London, join us as representatives of their Chapter. This year, 2005, again will see a clan dinner on Sunday in mid-fall given the success of 2004. Many thanks to President Walter Elliot for identifying the new location, Elliott House Restaurant, as a most suitable and proper establishment for our Clan.



Ontario Central Gathering: Chapter Chair, Marshall Elliott (middle), chats with wife, Bonnie, and Hewlett White.

In all my reports I encourage as many Society members as possible to attend a Scottish Festival/Highland Games at one of the many sites here in Ontario – my personal favourite is the Fergus Games that are held on the second weekend in August.

Finally, it is hoped as many Central Ontario members as possible can make the 2005 Elliot Gathering in Redheugh, Scotland this August 26-29. My wife, Bonnie, and I will

definitely be in attendance with, hopefully, our three grown children ... as long as Dad pays!!!! We were in Scotland in June of '04 for a most enjoyable two weeks and are looking forward to returning both to the Borders and the Northern Highlands ... ah the salmon, the kippers, the pastries and of course the single malts!

ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:

Members of the Ontario West Chapter gathered for the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 13, 2004 at St. Aidan's Anglican Church, London, Ontario. The weather was very cooperative and we had a good turnout.

A delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings was enjoyed by all. Everyone had a good time renewing acquaintances.

We were entertained by Sue Vanduynhoven, a ventriloquist and her puppets, and had many laughs over the dialogue between the puppets and some of our members. Many thanks to all members who agreed to participate.

Once again, the raffle was a huge success thanks to the generosity of our members. Thanks to Catherine Elliot Shaw and her husband, John for organizing and raffling off the prizes. We were pleased to welcome Walt and Anne Elliot to our gathering.

Upcoming events will be a Spring Event, April 16, 2005; Summer Picnic – date to be announced. The Annual General Meeting will be held November 12, 2005 when we will celebrate our 15th anniversary as a Chapter. Watch for more news about this event!

All our best to everyone in 2005.



Ontario West co-chairs Catherine Elliot-Shaw and Barbara Elliott with ventriloquist Sue.



Ontario West Dinner: Walt Elliot and John Shaw tidy up.

MANITOBA CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Rev. Shawn Ankenmann reports:

It's a typical cold and wintry Manitoba winter. But, to be fair, there is nothing more beautiful than a clear cold prairie winter day. If you're not from the prairie, you don't know the beauty of a winter day ...

As a Chapter, we haven't had an official meeting or gathering of any kind lately, and I have been remiss in contacting any of the Chapter members, but hope they (and all members of the Society both near and far) have had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. As the weather warms and the frosty prairies begin to thaw, we will look forward to having a Clan gathering somewhere in or about the big city of Winnipeg.

An interesting aside though, I inadvertently found another Elliot connection one day in December as I was driving south of Brandon to a meeting. I passed a sign for "Chesley District" on the highway. Being a descendent of A.S. Elliot, who founded the village of Chesley, Ontario, I was intrigued.

After some conversations with folks in Wawanesa, I learned that the area was named by the first settler who had emigrated from the village of Chesley to the valley between Brandon Hills and Turtle Mountain and named the new settlement Chesley after his former hometown. He wasn't an Elliot, but he carried an Elliot legacy forward into new territory.

It seems wherever we go, we find the legacy of our Clan, if we take the time to look.

Blessings and peace to all for 2005.

SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Clifford Elliott reports:

Greetings of the season to all members of the Elliot Clan Society from my wife Hannah and I. We hope that everyone had a joyous Christmas and will have a great New Year of 2005.

We had a quiet Christmas at home here this year as our daughter had to work over the holidays. We spent Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with friends. My wife Hannah hasn't been feeling well so she wasn't up to making Christmas meals.

Most of December and so far now in January we are having rather cold and snowy weather here in Saskatchewan, and I understand it is the same in other parts of the country. I hope and pray nothing happens in our country like it did around the Indian Ocean. That was a really devastating event. I hope the remaining people will be able to get their lives back together again. They likely will, through time and the help from the rest of the world.

Just a short report this time but I hope to have a little longer one next time. Again, Season's Greetings and the best in the New Year.

ALBERTA CHAPTER

Chapter Secretary Alison de Caen reports:

Best wishes for 2005 – the Alberta Chapter has nothing to report.

BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAPTER

An Annual Meeting for British Columbia Chapter members is being planned for early May. The purpose of this meeting is to select a new Chapter Chair to replace Bernie Elliott who, after many years of faithful service, resigned last July. Our Western Vice President, Curly Elliott, and his wife, Helen, will be in British Columbia to leave on an Alaska cruise on May 18. We are hoping to arrange the meeting the week before they leave or the week after they return. We need a volunteer to arrange the meeting. If interested please call Canadian President Walt Elliot at (905) 876-3377, or email elliottwa@interhop.net. When we have the details of the meeting date we will send a notice of the meeting to all BC members.

Librarian extraordinaire 'a role model for life'

Shirley Elliott was an author and saviour of Nova Scotian history



JOHN SOOSAAR

Shirley Burnham Elliott
Born Port Williams, June 4, 1916
Died Kentville, Oct. 15, 2004

*"The apple harvest days are here
The boding apple harvest days
And down the flaming valley
ways*

The foresters of time draw near."
— Bliss Carman as quoted by
Shirley Elliott for the month of Octo-
ber in *Nova Scotia Book of Days: A
Calendar of the Province's History*.

She is remembered as a gracious lady, a scholar, natural mentor and a lover of history.

When Shirley Elliott retired to Wolfville after almost 30 years as Nova Scotia's legislative librarian in 1982, she said she regretted leaving historic Province House and its impressive library because it had become almost human to her and "a gracious friend."

Many of the politicians who served there over the years, the reporters who covered the proceedings and the public with whom she worked, considered her a friend and an invaluable source for all manner of historical data about her province. She was always there, no matter the hour.

Margaret Murphy, the current legislative librarian, remembers that during the long days and nights of debate over the Buchanan government's controversial Michelin bill in the early 1980s, she remained at her post and was reluctant to be relieved. She felt her place was in the library.

From the time of her appointment by then Liberal premier Angus L. Macdonald in April 1954, she transformed the legislative library into a modern research library and, in the process of cataloguing, found rare documents and books that she lodged in a rare book room she established in the Dennis Building. One such item was Joseph Howe's handbills to the electors of Cumberland County. Another was a book published in 1488 entitled *Flores Albusaritis* written by Abu Ma'shar (805-836).

One day shortly after she began work in Province House, then-premier Macdonald asked her for a specific volume as he was researching ministers' indemnities. After he finished speaking, he sat down and scribbled something on a piece of paper and put it in the book. When she



SHIRLEY ELLIOTT: "Scholar, librarian, author, community volunteer and mentor."

opened it the note read: "Thank you very much Miss E. for all your trouble."

Then he left Province House. He died the next Monday.

"So it was the last thing he did in the House, and it was so thoughtful," she recalled.

In praising her work after her passing earlier this month, Premier John Hamm said she integrated the valuable materials around Province House into a collection of Nova Scotiana unparalleled in the province.

She had graduated from Acadia University in 1937 and 1939 and earned a library science degree from Simmons College in Boston in 1940. In 1984, Acadia honoured her with a doctor of civil laws degree and Dalhousie awarded her an honorary doctor of laws degree the next year.

When she arrived at Province House in 1954, she had already established an impressive resume while working at Brookline Public Library near Boston and the University of Rhode Island. In 1951, she began to organize the library service for Colchester and Hants counties.

"When I came in, there was nothing mechanical at all in the library, and nothing had been catalogued," she recalled in an interview in 1994 during celebrations marking the 175th anniversary of Province House.

"I had to have something, so I brought in a very small, innocent-

looking Corona typewriter. (My predecessor) saw it and exclaimed, 'Oh, oh, I can't bear it!' It was all the change, you see."

When she left the library in 1982, it had started to become computerized.

Her own historical research led her to write six books on Nova Scotia politics and history, including *Nova Scotia Book of Days: A Calendar of the Province's History* which was published in 1979. Among hundreds of historical tidbits, it recorded the date on which Nova Scotia drivers began driving on the right side of the road (April 15, 1923) and when an armed party of naval officers, or press gang, seized several people in Lunenburg and Halifax and put them on warships (Jan. 6, 1781).

"What we have lost is her deep knowledge of Nova Scotia history," says Murphy.

Ilgia Leja, librarian at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, worked with Elliott for five years and considered her the most professional librarian she met.

"She's been my role model for life ... someone who embraced life to the fullest."

In 2003, Shirley was awarded the Order of Nova Scotia, the province's highest honour. The citation read in part: "an outstanding scholar, librarian, author, community volunteer, and mentor; she is respected, admired and trusted for her contributions to Nova Scotia heritage."

HISTORY RE-VISITED

Helen and I just returned from a most enjoyable holiday to Malaysia and Bali. We were there when the tsunami struck but not in the affected areas and were never in any danger. Our son David and family live in Kuala Lumpur and arranged all our travel and accommodation. Having a Christmas turkey dinner outside around a pool was certainly a unique experience. However, returning to Calgary and -30 degrees was a quick reality check.

Dave and Liz had just recently attended The Selangor St. Andrew's Society annual celebration at the Shangri-La Hotel in Kuala Lumpur. This was a very posh affair with several hundred in attendance. Our Elliot tartan was prominent among the banners, but Dave was one of only a few wearing the Elliott kilt. I was intrigued by the formality of the evening, which required a twenty-page program. It included everything from time of arrival (in order of importance) to five-minute increments for the banquet, toast, songs, etc. The "Dance Programme" not only had a partner sign up sheet but the sixteen dances were ranked in order of difficulty, with demonstrations and instructions given before each set. You were expected to dance accordingly and there was no freedom for personal adaptation or expression.

It was also interesting to note that the first toast of the evening had nothing to do with Scotland or St. Andrew, but was to His Majesty the Yang di Petuan Agong, given by the Chieftain. The second toast was to Her Majesty the Queen and was proposed by the British High Commissioner. Dave and Liz claim it was a most enjoyable evening, even if they did peter out early and only did two of the dances. The first carriage arrivals were set for 7.00 p.m., and the festivities ended with the singing of Auld Lang Syne at 4.00 a.m.

One of several songs sung during the evening was Flower of Scotland, which was written by Roy Williamson. Being half way around the world and fourteen time zones out of sync, I thought the writer should have been Jean Elliot and was about ready to declare plagiarism and take up arms to defend our heritage. HOWEVER, upon returning home and checking my library I find there are many, many ballads in Scotland using the word "Flower". The Flowers of the Forest was written by Jean Elliot, daughter of the Second Baronet of Minto, Sir Gilbert Elliot. This ballad is about lowly milk maids grieving over the loss of their men at the disastrous battle of Flodden in 1513. Flower of Scotland was written by Williamson in 1970 and refers to the glorious victory at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. It is becoming the unofficial anthem for Scots all over the world.

So ... your historian had to go all the way to Malaysia to learn about the flowers of Scotland. Fortunately, I can admit my mistakes – and that's Canadian – eh?

A.G. "Curly" Elliott
Clan Historian

A YOUTHFUL PERSPECTIVE

Even in our schools here in Sault Ste. Marie, we heard all about the tsunami that devastated Asia on Boxing Day of 2004. In the past few weeks, in schools all over Sault Ste. Marie, fundraising started to help the victims of this disaster. The music teacher at my high school brought the idea up to have a benefit concert. The idea took, and kids from all over the district started to put together acts for the concert. One of the high school music teachers thought, what would happen if they got all the concert bands from the high schools in the district together to perform a set together. All the music teachers thought that it was a great idea and the Mass band was formed.

So on January 14, the day the concert was supposed to take place, the seven high school concert bands finally met. The day started at nine o'clock for our school band. We had to go down to the theatre and set up because our teacher was the one that thought it up. So we had to set the stage up for the final performance that night. By early afternoon we found out that our Mass band would have over 100 students. That afternoon was the first time that all the students ever performed together. We spent the whole afternoon trying to piece together how we would get all the different bands playing in sync with each other. We also had to decide, from the 15 different drum players, who would play when – it was organized chaos.

That night, over 100 teenagers, all with musical instruments, were packed into one little room. After almost an hour of being in this room we were finally allowed to leave the little room and make our way toward the stage. When we were all seated on the stage ready to start, the big curtain was raised, and we finally saw that there was almost a full theatre. Once we all saw this, we knew that we had to make sure that this was perfect. We played our set almost flawlessly. It was great, considering that this group of teenagers had only met and played together for the first time that afternoon.

Leslie Elliot
Junior Editor