



# The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



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October 2005

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*By Walt Elliot*

### A CANADIAN GATHERING!

John Shaw of the South Western Ontario Chapter and his wife Catherine Elliot-Shaw, Chapter Co-chair, assisted the MacMillan Clan with a week-long gathering of their clan this summer in London, Ontario. About 100 members attended and took part in a variety of Scottish-oriented activities, including Scottish Highland Dancing, which Catherine taught. John and Catherine and others have suggested it is time for a Canadian gathering of the Elliot Clan.

What we have in mind tentatively is a gathering in the Fergus area focusing on the Fergus Scottish Festival, which is held annually on the second full weekend in August. Reasonable accommodation may be arranged at the University of Guelph. If sufficient numbers wish it, a shuttle can be arranged to Fergus.

\*\*We are thinking of doing this in August 2007, if there is sufficient interest. Let me know if you wish to participate so we can begin planning in detail.

\*\*\*At the Fergus Scottish Festival there is usually an opening tattoo on Friday night, games and competition all day Saturday and Sunday, and a Kirkin 'O' the Tartan at a local church at 10:00 am on Sunday. Over 100,000 usually attend on Saturday.

If you make a vacation of it, you may wish to visit Toronto, go to Niagara Falls, or take a hike along a section of the Niagara Escarpment. We'll send out a suggested activities sheet in January or April 2006.

Note: It has been brought to my attention that the International Gathering of the Clans is happening in Nova Scotia in 2007. I would appreciate knowing if the Canadian gathering of Elliots should be held in 2008 to avoid a conflict. The International Gathering is held throughout July, with events being held in various locations.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

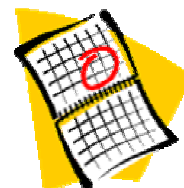
We are mailing an October 2005 newsletter to all current members with a renewal form. The newsletter will also be posted on the website for those who prefer to receive it in that way. We are considering issuing a permanent membership card at time of joining and to all current members. It seems prudent to stop issuing yearly cards because of cost and because those members receiving newsletters on the website still now require two mailings – one reminder to renew and one to issue the new card. A permanent card would make these mailings unnecessary.

\*\*Early renewal would be appreciated.

### IMPORTANT USA MEETING

Our Chief, Margaret Elliott of Redheugh, has accepted an invitation to attend a gathering of the USA clans to be held June 1 to 4, 2006 in Glasgow, Kentucky. Patricia Bell, the newly installed President of the USA Elliot Clan Society has invited us all to take part in this gathering. We will send out more information in future newsletters. For now, highlight the date on your calendar if you plan to attend.

Glasgow is a relatively small community, so accommodation close in will be at a premium. You may wish to buy a map of Kentucky and familiarize yourself with the area. For your convenience we are including a summary of the agenda for this event on page 7 of this newsletter.



# SCOTLAND GATHERING

Anne and I attended the 2005 Gathering of the Elliot Clan in Scotland, August 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. It was a terrific experience and our first gathering. We stayed at Sorbietrees B&B near Newcastleton for six days. Superb accommodation. Two excellent small hotels, the Grapes and the Liddesdale, were our spots to enjoy excellent suppers. Other Canadian Elliots stayed at Woodside B&B and enjoyed it thoroughly.

About 40 officers of the Elliot Clan Society were invited to dinner at the Liddesdale Hotel on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Super company and most interesting to meet our contemporaries from the USA, the UK, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa.



*Redheugh*

Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> was the main gathering day at Redheugh. All the Elliots were shuttled from the village square to Redheugh. The Clan Room was a must visit. In the same outbuilding area there was an Elliot item store, Robert and Kate Elliot demonstrated stick dressing, and Margaret's son Ben demonstrated on a computer the Elliot genealogical database project. A short way up the lane, John Elliot demonstrated how to construct a mortarless stone wall. Lunch was served in a marquee on the meadow below Redheugh. Nearby on the meadow there was an archery demonstration, and International Competitor, Mark Elliot, demonstrated sheep herding with a border collie.

The formalities were held at Ladies Haugh, Redheugh, and were preceded by a parade march-on of the platform party led by a piper, followed by Margaret's son Ben carrying her colours. Margaret was flanked by Sir Gerald Elliot and Rev. Alan Reid, Minister of the Parish. Patricia Bell, USA President, Robert Bruce Elliot, USA Past President, and Robert Walter Elliot, Canadian President, completed the group. A cannon was fired to announce the Chief's arrival, then the piper and the platform party marched on to the

meadow from behind a grove of trees to the delight of the gathered Elliots.

Everyone had an opportunity to bring greetings, and Walt and Pat were introduced as new faces. Robert Bruce Elliot was honoured for his many years of service to the Elliot Clan in the USA. Six scholarships were awarded on behalf of the Sir Arthur Elliott Trust. It was noted that more than £13,000 have been given out to worthy recipients since the inception of the Trust honouring Sir Arthur. At this point the entire crowd walked to the far end of the meadow to plant a sweet chestnut tree in memory of Frances, Lady Elliott, Margaret's mother. This was a great day, with a ceilidh concluding the celebration in the evening.

Saturday was Holm Show day in Newcastleton and we were left to our own plans for the day. Since the show didn't start until noon, we decided to drive towards Hawick hoping to have a look at Stobs Castle. The new owner of the property doesn't allow trespassers, so we didn't see much. We drove back via Jedburgh to see the Montevoit Gardens, which were sensational. The Holm Show during the afternoon featured dog races, horse competitions, wrestling, as well as other fair-like activities. The Canadians still in Newcastleton had a great dinner together at the Grapes Hotel in the evening and those with enough energy took part in an open house at the local Legion.



*Hermitage Castle*

Sunday, there was a service to be held at Hermitage Chapel but because of rain it had to be moved to a local Church of Scotland. A couple got married as part of the service, which made it particularly special. We had lunch at Hermitage Hall after the service and had a chance to say goodbye to many newly acquainted Elliot cousins. Pat Elliott of Ancaster needed a ride to her hotel in Edinburgh, so after lunch Amos and Lyn Elliot, of Dundas, and Anne and I got to see Edinburgh. We saw more of it than we anticipated as it took us over an hour to find her hotel. We drove back via

a different route through the countryside and really enjoyed the trip in spite of the inclement weather.

On Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> Amos and Lyn took part in a ten-mile hike featuring points of interest to Elliots, including Stobs Castle reasonably close up. Their impressions of this hike follow this article. This day, Anne and I got dropped off in the village, wandered around for a few hours, talked our way into the museum, which wasn't really to be open on Monday, and then walked the two miles back to our B&B. We were heading for Manchester on Tuesday morning so we spent the rest of the day getting organized.

This was a great gathering. Be sure to see the photos on page 4. The next one is 2009. Start planning now as you won't want to miss it.

### **ELLIOT CLAN HIKE – 2005**

The hike began when about thirty-five participants arrived at a derelict farmhouse that had been occupied by troops and POWs during both World Wars. Officers were billeted at Stobs Castle, which is now off limits to visitors due to the character of the current owner. The area was also used for tank training during WWII.

We proceeded at our own pace along an easy walking tank track, past the remains of an Iron Age Fort, then on to Peelkbraehope, a former Elliot homestead.

At about the half-way point Margaret and Kate (and dog) arrived with delicious soup and lovely country rolls and a small chocolate bar to finish off with. Kate and the dog walked with us for the remainder of the walk.

Following lunch some of the group chose to return to the starting point and the remainder of the group carried on for an additional 1½ miles to see the Tinlee Stane. It now stands surrounded by forest and somewhat hidden from view. In the old days before the forest it was used as a meeting place that was safe for the Border Reivers, as they could see for miles around, and so could conduct their illicit business in safety.

We then retraced our steps for a short distance before going off on a track leading to the old railway line which eventually overlooked Stobs Castle with extensive lawns that could be claimed as gardens, and therefore not accessible to the public.

The walk itself was interesting and the views were great as it was a lovely sunny day, but the best part was the conversations that developed with a variety of people from many different places, all with an Elliot connection. We walked ten miles and enjoyed it very much.

*Amos and Marilyn Elliot, Dundas, Ontario*



*Canadian Dinner (l to r) – Walt, Amos, Anne and Marilyn Elliot, Linda Elliot-Doshen, Larry Doshen, Patricia Elliott, Cori Schnerch, Tom Elliott, Kasey and Eileen Schnerch, Bente Elliott, Gerry Lockhart.*

## MORE PICTURES FROM THE GATHERING ...



*Canadian Editors Tina and Evelyn at the Officers' Dinner.*



*Chief Margaret Elliott of Redheugh.*



*Anne, Marilyn, Amos and Evelyn Elliot enjoy afternoon tea in the marquee.*



*Canadian President Walt Elliot addresses the crowd as Chief Margaret looks on.*



*Pipes & Drums of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers.*



*A young reiver-in-training.*



*Archery demonstration.*



*Sheepdog demonstration.*

# CHAPTER REPORTS

## NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

*Past Chapter Chair Joyce Earle, reports:*

The Nova Scotia Chapter of the Elliot Clan Society enjoyed a lovely luncheon at the Annual General Meeting in the Old Orchard Inn, in Coldbrook, NS, on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. Thirty members and guests were led to the tables by one of our favourite Bag Pipers, Sandy MacMillan.

Canon Russell Elliott asked the Blessing prior to our meal, and a moment of silence was held in memory of those members we have lost recently. Robert G. Elliot proposed a toast to the Queen, and Harold Elliott proposed a toast to the Elliot Clan.

Appreciation was given to George Elliot in recognition of his 21 years as treasurer, and to Chester Elliott and Gail Fudge for their many years hosting our Picnic/Auction in New Ross. Lillian Elliott of Tiverton, NS delighted us with an amusing anecdote of herself and her late husband Aubrey Elliott. We were pleased to have with us, guests Lois and Richard Dodds of Toronto, and Ted and Janet (Elliott) Buckley from Ithaca, New York.

Officers 2005/2006 are:

Chair	Nancy Buckman (bdeanbuckman@hotmail.com)
Vice Chair	Murray Elliott
Secretary	Russell Prime (russell_prime4@yahoo.com)
Treasurer	George Elliot

Lillian Elliott, from Truro, NS volunteered to be our Social Secretary, for which we are very grateful.

Vice Chair, Murray Elliott, is making arrangements to have the Pot-Luck Spring Fling in Cole Harbour, Hfx., Co., on May 6<sup>th</sup>, as well as the Pot-Luck Picnic/Auction in Port George, Annapolis Co., on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Robert G. Elliot will arrange the Annual Luncheon Meeting, to be held in the Kentville area, in the Fall.

The International Gathering of the Clans will be held in Halifax in July 2007. The NS Elliot Clan will plan our activities around that time. If any Elliot(t)s are travelling in the area, they will be welcome.

## EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair Helen Elliott reports:*

The Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec Chapter experienced moments of joy and sadness this year. We lost a dear friend and colleague – Beverly's time with us was too short. She will be sorely missed because of the many memories she left us, none of them sad, but most of them happy. She will live on in our hearts.

Linda's beloved mother, Joy Cox Elliott of Nova Scotia passed away at the age of 93 in July. Linda travelled and toured Ireland, then later on in August she and Larry represented our Chapter at the Elliot gathering in Scotland, and fell in love with it. They will tell us all about it at our annual Christmas potluck dinner, at their home on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, starting at the happy hour of 4:30 pm. Looking forward to seeing everyone, especially hoping that Walter and Anne will be able to attend and entertain us as well with their numerous stories of their trip. Best wishes to all.

## ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair Marshall Elliott reports:*

Ontario Central members were warmly welcomed to the home of our Regional President, Walter Elliot, and his wife, Anne, for the Chapter's Annual Dinner. In years past, every fall the members have enjoyed a social evening and dinner at a restaurant with an 'Elliot' connection – either Harrop House in Milton or the Elliott House Restaurant in Mississauga. This year the tradition continued on September 24<sup>th</sup> at the gracious home of Walt and Anne. Beside the many talents of Walt can now be added 'Master BBQer extraordinaire'. Over a dozen members were present to enjoy each other's company and share in the memories of the recent Clan Gathering in Scotland.

Thanks also to Greg and Bonnie Ball, who set up and manned the tents at the Georgetown Highland Games the second weekend in June, and at the Fergus Scottish Festival in August.

## ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

*Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:*

Twenty-five members turned out for our picnic on July 17<sup>th</sup> at The Flats in St. Mary's. The weather, although threatening, was cooperative and we all enjoyed a delightful summer's afternoon by the Thames River. Once again, everyone outdid themselves in providing us with a delicious potluck supper. Thanks to the generosity of our members, the raffle raised over \$100.00 for our treasury.

The Chapter wishes to express thanks to Allan and Carole Nickels for representing us at the Highland Games in Embro, Chatham, Kincardine and Fergus this summer. Great job, guys!



*Al Nickels mans the booth at the Kincardine Games.*

Congratulations to Glen and Eileen French who recently celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a family party.

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, at our Annual General Meeting, we will celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our Chapter under the chairmanship of the late Dr. Donald Elliott. There are many surprises in store for members at this event so we are hoping for a great turnout. This will be held at St. Aidan's Anglican Church in London. See you there.

## MANITOBA CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair Rev. Shawn Ankenmann reports:*

I begin by noting that there hasn't been any official activity in the Manitoba Chapter of late ... and for that I offer my sincerest apologies, life with small children has a way of speeding along. Now with fall upon us and the Fall Supper circuit in full swing across the prairies, it looks like it will be 2006 before we are able to have an official function.

A variety of reasons for this lapse in Chapter activity could be cited, but the main was simply busy-ness on my part. Life in West Man has been very busy lately, with the many challenges that living in a rural setting brings, particularly with yet another bad year for our farm families. Being in ministry in rural Canada right now means that tremendous amounts of time and energy are absorbed in the ongoing farm crisis. I offer no apology for that, but rather would share with my urban clan members the reality that we on the prairies face right now, as the coming of winter progresses and harvests have been a mixed bag depending upon location, geography and plain luck. The land on which we sit is truly beautiful, but without our hard working farm families, we would find our grocery store shelves empty. With the effects of the Mad Cow crisis and border closings still being felt, a horrid year for prairie weather, continued low commodity prices and rising fuel prices, the farm crisis has only deepened not lessened.

Of late, I and many others, have been busy trying to do what we can to offer support and care to the farm folks we live and minister among. 2005 has been a tough year, and my priorities have been with the people in and about Minnedosa.

So, if you are in an area where Fall (or Fowl) suppers are held by community groups and churches, I recommend that you go, enjoy the food and the fellowship and say thanks to the farmers who have so generously provided the bounty for all of us to enjoy.

In Manitoba, the last flocks of the snow geese are passing overhead on their way to places warmer and more southern, leaving us to face the wonderful splendour of a prairie winter. In 2006, it is my fervent hope that the Chapter, like our rural farm families can have a better harvest ... but for now, if you haven't done it lately thank a farm family for all they do for us. It's the least we can do.

## SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair Clifford Elliott reports:*

Greetings from the Saskatchewan Chapter. This will be just a short report as not much happened here this summer. Our Historian, Alan Elliott, passed through the city on his way to a family reunion. We were hoping to get together but I was in Flin Flon at that time visiting my niece. The weather here this summer has been "the pits." If we had a month of hot weather, we were lucky. Otherwise, it has been rainy and cool or cloudy, cool and windy. We may have a nice Indian summer. I hope all members had a good summer and that also goes for the rest of the year. This is all to report for now, so until the next time, I hope again that everyone has a good fall.

## ALBERTA CHAPTER

*Chapter Secretary Alison de Caen reports:*

It was a wet Summer in Alberta which unfortunately affected the attendance of the Highland Games throughout the province.

Mary and Walter Elliot attended the Games at High River, August 28, Calgary, Sept 3 (accompanied by Sandra Elliot) and Canmore on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Canmore was cold! We are very grateful to Walter and Mary for their faithful attendance at these games. This was their thirteenth year of “manning the Elliot gazebo.”

Our Chapter Chair, Bob Elliott, was present at the Red Deer Games where he was rained out, and at Stettler. It was the first time that Stettler had hosted Highland Games and Bob said the atmosphere was enthused and relaxed.



*Mary & Walter Elliot at the Canmore Games*

## A YOUTHFUL PERSPECTIVE

So September is here again and school has started for all us kids. Gone are the days of laying around on the beach, and back are the days of school and lots of schoolwork.

This September I started Grade 12 – top of the high school chain. As Grade 12s, my friends and I assumed more responsibilities in and around our school. We are now the senior students in the concert band and we even got chosen to design the yearbook for our school, so lots of things have changed. It seems like just yesterday we were starting Grade 9 at the bottom of the pile, worrying about getting

through welcome week, and making it through our first set of exams. Now what we worry about is whether our marks will be high enough to get us into the university that we want, or even what university that we want to go to. Life sure changes a lot in four short years .

Our Editor, Tina, wanted me to let all the kids that know that if they want to put an article in the newsletter, they can send it to Gasman.elliott@shaw.ca with the title Newsletter article, and I will pass them on so that she can include them in future editions of the newsletter. This a great opportunity to share your interests and activities with other young Elliots around the country.

*Leslie Elliot, Junior Editor*

## MARGARET ELIOTT, CLAN CHIEF

**USA Visit - June 1 to 4, 2006**

**Glasgow, Kentucky Scottish Games**

The program is as follows:

Thursday, June 1

- 11:30 am Lunch with the Chief at The Lodge, Barren River Lake State Resort Park
- 6:00 pm Dinner with the Elliot Clan members, Bolton's Landing Restaurant, Glasgow

Friday, June 2

- 12:00 pm Parade, Downtown Glasgow
- 5:30 pm Ceilidh & Kentucky Barbeque, The Lodge

Saturday, June 3

- 8:00 am Governor's Breakfast, The Lodge
- All day Glasgow Highland Games, Barren River Lake State Resort Park
- 2:00 pm Elliot Clan Annual General Meeting, Clan Tent
- 7:00 pm Sponsor's Reception, The Lodge
- 8:00 pm Grande Banquet and Tartan Ball, The Lodge

Sunday, June 4

- 8:30 am Glasgow Highland Games, Barren River Lake State Resort Park

Please contact Patricia Tennyson Bell, Elliot Clan Society President, USA Chapter, if you would like to reserve a room at the local Days Inn and if you are attending the Elliot dinner on Thursday evening, (213) 239-1572, cpbell@earthlink.net.