



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



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January 2006

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Walt Elliot

Since our last newsletter we are pleased to report that we have really enjoyed taking part in the 15th anniversary celebration of the Ontario West Chapter. As well, a number of our members have indicated their preference for having a Canada-wide gathering of Elliots in 2008 rather than 2007.

Tentatively, we will gather the second full weekend in August 2008 to take advantage of the Fergus Scottish Festival. If you haven't attended this festival you will enjoy events on Friday evening and all day Saturday and Sunday. There is a Tattoo on Friday evening, Scottish Athletics & Heavy Events and Highland Dancing competitions on Saturday and Sunday, a Parade of Clans at noon on Saturday and a Kirkin 'O' the Tartan on Sunday morning at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. If members wish to add to this weekend of entertainment with Scottish dancing lessons, historical presentations or side trips we can arrange that too. On Saturday evening we will plan a dinner to give the members a chance to visit. In 1999 when we were a featured clan we had a dinner at our tent in the avenue of the clans at 5 pm. In case of rain we can move into a large tent that is used for presentations during the day. The big day of this weekend is Saturday, and all attending members are welcome to march in the parade at noon.

You may wish to register with the Fergus Scottish Festival to obtain their mailings for 2006-2008 to familiarize yourself with the programs offered.

Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games
P.O. Box 25
Fergus Ontario N1M 2W7
Phone Toll Free: 1-866-871-9442
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Website: www.fergusscottishfestival.com

We also hope that members will consider attending some part of the International Gathering of the Clans in Nova Scotia in 2007, and it's not too soon to begin planning to attend the next Gathering in Scotland in 2009.

Anne and I, and my brother Amos and his wife Lyn, are looking forward to seeing our Chief, Margaret Elliott of Redheugh, when she will be serving as Chief of the Glasgow Highland Games in Glasgow, Kentucky, June 1 to 4 this year. The USA Region also has their annual meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd. The agenda for these games has been modified slightly from the agenda we gave you in the October 2005 newsletter, as the Elliot dinner is now planned for 6 pm on Thursday, June 1st and the Friday program has been changed. For more information please contact me and I will forward the information given me by Patricia Bell, President of the USA Region. You must RSVP for the dinner by May 5th and book your accommodation through Patricia as soon as possible, as hotel space reserved for clan members is limited. Pat may be phoned at (213) 239-1572 or e-mailed at cpbell@earthlink.net. The Glasgow Highland Games website is www.glasgowhighlandgames.com. You may purchase tickets to the games on this website

As well, elsewhere in the newsletter is a brief history of the Elliots. This article was part of the program booklet given to us at the gathering in Scotland last August. We found it most interesting. In April, if there is space in the newsletter, we plan to insert a chronological history of the clan from as far back as the 14th century to 1989 when our present chief took over. This article was also in the program.

We have also included a photo of Stobs Castle, the original home of the Clan, taken by Tom Elliott of Vernon BC. We don't know how he took it, as many of us attempted to get near the castle without success. The present owner is very aggressive about not letting trespassers on his property. In Scotland most lands can be accessed by the public but gardens are considered to be private and cannot be accessed. The owner cultivates the area around Stobs, mostly with grass, so his land is considered to be a garden.

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MEMBERSHIP

I am pleased to report that membership renewals have been coming in very nicely. Over 200 of our members have renewed. The 70 who haven't will receive a gentle reminder in this mailing to do so quickly as we have to take your name off the list after the April 2006 newsletter. Anyone who knows of potential members is encouraged to send me their names so we can send them some clan material and an application or suggest they access our website at www.elliotclan.com to get more information and an application.



REGARDING THE WEBSITE

Steve Elliott of Calgary, our webmaster, has modified the procedure to access the newsletter on our website. Those members who have already registered to receive the newsletter in this fashion will be sent an e-mail by our membership secretaries, Bonnie and Greg Ball for this newsletter. We would encourage any member with an e-mail address to consider registering with Bonnie and Greg as the new procedure is very straightforward. You simply click on the webpage address which, in turn, accesses a menu page that includes the newsletter address. Clicking on this newsletter address gives entry to a request for ID and your password, which gives you immediate access to the newsletter and all past newsletters beginning in January 2005.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ELLIOTS

***'Here's to all Elliots and Elliot's bairns,
And them that lie in the Elliot's arms.'***

Outside the small circle of the nobility and great magnates, few individuals or families are well recorded in Scottish mediaeval history; but the obscurity surrounding the origins of the Elliots, who suddenly make their appearance as a distinct Clan with a Chief in the late 15th century is unusual even by the sparse standards of mediaeval records.

This lack of information can probably be traced to the destruction of the old castle at Stobs in a fire in 1712, when all the family documents, with a single exception, were burnt. One Pedigree dated c.1704, which had been kept at Minto, survived. It is significant, though frustrating, that the author of this Pedigree takes a knowledge of "*ye old writes of ye family*" for granted and feels no need to retrace the Clan's genealogy before about 1550. According to family tradition, the Ellots (as the name was then pronounced) came from Angus at the foot of Glenshie, and moved to Liddesdale at the time of Robert the Bruce to ensure this strategically important frontier region.

Our earliest reference is to Redheugh itself in 1376. Next, we know from a Berwickshire Pedigree, of the existence of an "*Elwald of Redheugh*" living in the early 1400s, a man of some consequence. "Robert Elwald of Redheugh" appears as Chief in 1476. In 1470 he built a strong tower on a cliff overlooking the ford on Hermitage Water. This was one of about one hundred such towers belonging to the Elliots which were dotted around Liddesdale, which they

shared with the Armstrongs, another of the great Borders riding clans. They fought at Flodden where Robert, 13th Chief, was killed along with James IV and the flower of Scottish nobility.

The years which followed were bitter ones for Scotland, with the infant James V as King, and the government and administration of the country in confusion. The Border clans, the only equivalent to a professional standing army in Scotland, braced themselves for defence or retaliation. Thomas, Lord Dacre followed up the Earl of Surrey's victory with forays into Teviotdale, Liddesdale and the Western valleys and it was reported that no corn was sown and that the 100 '*pleughs*' (4,000 acres) of arable land in Liddesdale was left uncultivated. It is scarcely surprising that to sustain themselves, the Ellots and the Armstrongs raided the rich and fertile farms on the English side of the Border and gained a considerable notoriety as the most lawless and unruly '*reivers*' of the Middle March.

The Union of the Crowns in 1603 marked the beginning of the end for the border reivers. There were many summary executions, and around this period many Borderers accepted the offer of a new life in Ulster during the '*plantation*,' when much of the province was colonised.

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The Gatehouse at Stobs

Sir Gilbert Elliott of Stobs became chief in 1673. He was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles II in December 1666. The 3rd Baronet remodelled the old Tower of Stobs into a mansion house around 1764. His eighth son, George Augustus, was a distinguished soldier, created Lord Heathfield as a reward for his spirited defence of Gibraltar in 1782. Another branch of the family named after their lands at Minto produced considerable diplomats. The 1st Earl of Minto and Viscount Melgund was created in 1813 following his time in India as Governor General of Bengal.

The present chief, Margaret Elliott of Redheugh, is the daughter of Sir Arthur Elliott, 11th Baronet of Stobs, and assumed her father's seat on the Council of Chiefs in 1989, but the baronetcy passed to a male heir living in Australia. The Elliot Clan Society was formed by Sir Arthur Elliott in 1977 following the publication of "*The Elliots – Story of a Border Clan*" written in conjunction with his mother, the Dowager Lady Elliott of Stobs.



Stobs Castle

Photos courtesy of Tom Elliott, Vernon BC

CHAPTER REPORTS

NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Nancy Buckman reports:

It has been a fairly mild winter here so far with less snow than usual. All of the locations have been changed for our Clan Elliot events this year.

The Spring Fling will feature a pot-luck meal and will be held at Campbell Senior Centre in Cole Harbour. The date is set for May 6th.

Our next gathering will be a picnic/auction to be held at Port George along the beautiful Bay of Fundy on July 15th. Thanks are extended to our Vice Chair, Murray Elliott for booking these sites for us.

The Clan's Annual General Meeting and Luncheon will be held in the autumn with Kentville as the probable location; details have yet to be finalized.

The International Gathering of the Clans is a major event that returns to Nova Scotia in the summer of 2007. Many of the Clans will be represented and visitors will come from far and wide. Clan Elliot will be arranging their participation in the near future; will keep you posted.

Until next time, I wish you all good health and happiness.

EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Helen Elliott reports:

As Chair for 21 years, I am amazed I still find something to report, thanks to our main gatherings which keep our chapter alive, our potluck and barbeque. Welcome back to Jim and Elizabeth, who have returned to Ottawa from Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he was Chair. It was gratifying to see Bessie looking so well at our Christmas potluck dinner. Wishing her the best in her new retirement home. Kudos go to Linda and Larry for another fabulous and beautiful evening.

Speaking of gatherings, don't forget to put on your calendar our annual barbeque, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 17th, at Ross and Helene's hospitable home in Navan. We are looking forward to Walter and Anne joining us for the barbeque, and hearing all about their trip to Scotland. Believe it or not, I have joined the 21st century and acquired a computer/e-mail.

ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER

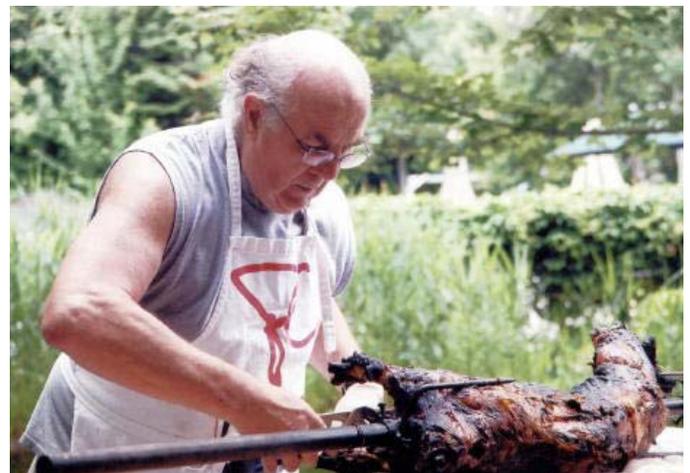
Chapter Chair Marshall Elliott reports:

One of the great things about this season of the year are the Robbie Burns celebrations that are witnessed wherever there are a handful of Scots. Throughout Ontario the local Scottish Canadian Clubs, St Andrew's Societies, many church groups and Single Malt Societies pull out all the stops. Anyone with a sprig of heather, a tartan tie or a kilt is at their proudest in the latter part of January as the Robbie Burns Nights happen. If our members have not experienced these 'grand affairs' I would suggest that folks begin to scan their local papers for Robbie Burns Nights each year in the weeks before January 25, contact their local 'Scottish' social club or St Andrew's Society or ...in many cases.... the local Presbyterian Church. One should never be affair of the Haggis – think of it as a different type of meatloaf – plus there are always huge beef roasts at these affairs. What a wonderful way to show off the Elliott tartan and respond to all who always ask "That's a most splendid tartan, what Clan is it!" May I ask for any comments back from the Ontario Central members as to any interest in the Society hosting the First Annual Robbie Burns Night in January 2007?? Please send any comments to marshallelliott@cogeco.ca.

ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:

The Ontario West Chapter celebrated the 15th anniversary of its founding on Saturday, November 12, 2005 at St. Aidan's Anglican Church, London, Ontario. The weather was perfect and 36 members came out to enjoy the festivities.



Ross Elliot, Host, Eastern Ont. & Western Quebec BBQ

We were pleased to welcome our Canadian President, Walter Elliot and his wife Anne. Also joining us was Alistair McIntyre, the founder of the Electric Scotland website. Alistair has given us some photographic coverage on his website.

Following a delicious turkey dinner, the annual business meeting was held. The current executive has agreed to stay on for another term of office.

Members were given unique Elliot Clan fridge magnets and keychains designed and made by Allan Nickels, Membership Chairman. Thanks, Al.

An overview of the history of our chapter was presented by Doreen Pitel who was the first secretary in 1990.

An Elliot Clan banner was presented to Co-Chairs, Catherine Elliot Shaw and Barbara Elliott by Carole

(Ratray) Nickels on behalf of the Ratray Clan. This will be used at all Clan gatherings and in our booth at the Highland Games.

After the business meeting, we were entertained by the London Branch, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society under the leadership of Catherine Elliot Shaw and her husband, John. Audience participation was enjoyed by all and provided many laughs.

Many thanks to members for their generous contributions to our raffle which made it a huge success.

Upcoming events: Spring Event – date to be announced; Picnic – July 16, 2006 to be held at the Maple Sugar Farm of Len and Catherine Elliott, Beachville, Ont.; Annual General Meeting – November 4, 2006.



John Shaw and Anne Elliot



John Shaw, Catherine Elliot Shaw, Barbara Elliott and Peter Elliott

MANITOBA CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Rev. Shawn Ankenmann reports:

Christmas has come and gone, winter has settled in on the Prairies and so far (knock on wood) it has been a delightful and mild winter, with temperatures that can be regarded as almost balmy, and a minimal amount of snow. The mild weather has thankfully provided residents of Manitoba with wonderful access to the outdoors. Skating on sloughs, ponds and the river trails in Winnipeg, and skiing across the province – so far it has been a good winter.

Not much has been going on within the Clan Chapter lately. In the spring we will organize a gathering, perhaps a dinner in Winnipeg sometime to gather, socialize and reacquaint ourselves with one another.

The closest thing I've had to a Clan gathering was a Robbie Burns Dinner put on by the local AOTS Men's Club at the Minnedosa United Church, as the latest installment of their Canadian Neighbours Night, this past weekend. The roast beef supper began with the Haggis being piped in, then Burns' Toast to the Haggis being offered, before we sat down to an evening of good food, great music and warm fellowship. Our Canadians' neighbour for the night was a young man who moved from Scotland to a farm west of Minnedosa three years ago. He reflected on the differences between farming here and in Scotland and shared the struggles and triumphs he's experienced in the transition. He noted that the day he left Scotland it was a chilly 8C, and when he arrived in Manitoba it was a mere -37C!! He wasn't sure he had made the right choice.

One interesting highlight of the dinner came in the preparation. They named the twelve tables after Scottish Clans, but the gentleman organizing the names had come up with only eleven names. I offered Elliot as a possibility and he said sure. Later in the night someone quipped that Elliot wasn't a real Scottish name ... I rose to the occasion saying – "Tis fightin' words ... as our motto says – "who dare meddl' wi' me??" by saying we're not a Scottish Clan!!" Much laughter ensued and I think I saved our Clan's honour.

Later I shared with the AOTS Men's Club the observation that even the Hospital in Minnedosa was once named "Lady Minto" and has connections to our Clan. They assured me they had no desire to meddle with me or our Clan.

May this find all of you well, and preparing for a warm and wonderful spring that is not far off.

SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Clifford Elliott reports:

Greetings from Saskatchewan. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a very good New Year.

For me it was rather a quiet time as I was convalescing. Before Christmas I had major surgery. I was diagnosed as having a tumor on my left kidney so I had to have surgery to remove it. It was found to be malignant. I hope with its removal that any cancer was removed also.

The weather here has been fantastic this winter. We didn't have much snow up until now, but today, January 15th, it has been snowing most of the day. We are supposed to get between ten to fifteen centimeters. The skiers and snowmobilers will love this weather and so far it isn't that chilly. With the warmer weather the winter doesn't seem to be so long.

Until next report, I hope I have something more for news.

ALBERTA CHAPTER

Chapter Secretary Alison de Caen reports:

Happy New Year and nothing to report.

A YOUTHFUL PERSPECTIVE

Well, Christmas is over for another year and the family went down to Southern Ontario for another great visit. We returned home for the New Year – back to school, and back to work for Mom and Dad – new beginnings for everyone. Unfortunately, we lost a family member, my great uncle, just as we were getting back to school.

My great uncle came from a small community just outside Kitchener, Ontario. My Dad spent most of his childhood in the very place where his Mom played and had adventures when she was a kid like me. It was very interesting to listen to the stories he told about the big creek running through his uncle's backyard and the snowmobile adventures my dad, his sister and brother had while travelling around the area.

I remember the times we spent visiting too: Christmases and a big fireplace; splashing around with my brother and my dog wearing rubber boots; and boats. It is fun to remember, but our family will miss my great uncle too.

Leslie Elliot, Junior Editor

COLONEL MACLEOD STATUE UNVEILING

September 1st, 2005, Alberta's Centennial Day, was a special day for all Albertans, and a day to remember for your Clan Historian (the writer of this article). I am a retired S/Sgt. from the RCMP and a Past President of the Calgary Division, RCMP Veterans Association.

To celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the Province of Alberta, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans Calgary Division, in partnership with the Fort Calgary Preservation Society, commissioned a statue of Colonel James Alexander Farquharson Macleod. This was our centennial gift to the residents of the city of Calgary and the Province of Alberta. It was all financed by the veterans, through public and private donations and by the sale of miniatures. Not one cent of any tax dollar went into this entire project.

Col. Macleod was one of the first members recruited for the North West Mounted Police and took part in the great march west in 1874. He was a lawyer, the second Commissioner of the North West Mounted Police, a member of the North West Territories Council, a Stipendiary Magistrate and a Justice of the Supreme Court of the North West Territories. In 1875 he directed that a fort be built at the junction of the Bow and Elbow rivers, and suggested that it be named Calgary. When he died in 1894 he was buried at the highest point in the Union Cemetery, which fittingly overlooks the present city.

This heroic scale statue (1 1/3 life size) of the N.W.M.P. Commissioner, was cast in bronze by the lost wax method at the award winning bronze foundry, Studio West Ltd., Cochrane, Alta. Countless hours of research were spent ensuring historical accuracy of Colonel Macleod's uniform, horse and accoutrements.

The weather cooperated fully for the unveiling with lots of sunshine, a cooling breeze, an azure blue sky and just enough fluffy white clouds for a picture perfect backdrop. After the singing of "O Canada" by the Veterans choir, the VIP guests were piped to the site by three pipers, appropriately wearing the Macleod tartan. The unveiling ribbon was cut by RCMP Commissioner G. Zaccardelli, while one end was held by James F. Macleod, grandson of Col. Macleod, and the other end by Ken Potts, great grandson of the legendary native guide Jerry Potts. The statue was blessed by our Padre, also a veteran, and then everyone was piped up to the original fort parade square

where a marquee tent and chairs were set up for the VIPs and guests.

With everyone comfortable, our veteran and cowboy poet, Robbie Robertson, wearing the 1870's uniform, related the history of Col. Macleod in rhyme. The Commissioner gave a very passionate address on Col. Macleod's legacy and how he established a policy of policing with equality, fairness and understanding that made the RCMP into the world icon it is today. He then thanked the Calgary Veterans Division for their wonderful gift to the province and the people of Alberta. Greetings were then brought from the various governments, while the judiciary was represented by the Honourable James Laycraft, Chief Justice for Alberta (retired). James Macleod expressed thanks from that family and the many descendants still living in this area.

Cecil Crowfoot spoke on behalf of the Treaty Seven Nations. He is a great, great grandson of the famous Chief Crowfoot and earned a standing ovation with stories told to him by his grandmother who saw the "Red Coats" arrive on the prairies and how Col. Macleod "Stamixotokon" – "Bulls Head" gained their respect with honesty and understanding.

The afternoon ended with a fabulous assortment of light refreshments provided by the culinary staff at Fort Calgary and served in the 1888 barracks. It was my great honor to act as Master of Ceremonies for this occasion; and yes, I did heave a big sigh of relief when our three years of continuous efforts came to a successful conclusion.

A second copy of the Col. Macleod statue was produced by Studio West Ltd. for a national RCMP memorial at Ottawa. It stands in front of the RCMP headquarters and was unveiled on November 11th, 2005. This memorial lists the names of 209 members who lost their lives while on duty in the N.W.M.P., R.N.W.M.P. and R.C.M.P. This memorial statue is not only an icon of our proud past, but a stark reminder of the dangers faced by the current men and women of the RCMP who still carry out Macleod's policies in Canada and around the world.

*A.G. "Curly" Elliott
Clan Historian
17-01-06*