



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



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April 2006

CANADIAN REGION PRESIDENT HONOURED

Walt Elliot, President of the Elliot Clan Society of Canada, received the 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Milton Chamber of Commerce on April 8, 2006 at the Granite Ridge Golf Club. This award was in recognition of the volunteer work Walt has done over the years.

In his various careers as special excise officer, farm manager, small business owner, educator, politician and financial advisor, Walt has always found the time and energy to do volunteer work in the community.

Walt's history as a Miltonian goes back two decades, but his family's Scottish clan history goes back much further – as he discovered in tracking his ancestry. His great, great, great grandfather William Elliot originally came from Hawick, Scotland and settled near Perth, Ontario around 1814. His great, great grandfather Adam Scott Elliot founded the town of Chesley in Bruce County, Ontario. His great grandfather William established grist mills, foundries and other businesses throughout Grey and Bruce counties.



*Milton Councillor Barry Lee, Walt,
and Mayor Gord Krantz*

Having learned so much about his family's impressive background, Walt feels his job is to carry on that legacy in his own community through volunteerism. And so he has. In Milton, in 1991 and 1992, Walt served as president of

The Milton Historical Society, and is a lifetime member of the group. He served as chair of the Milton United Way campaign for two years and was chairman of the board of Halton Recovery House in the early 1990's. As executive director of the Halton Children's Aid Society Foundation from 1991 to 1994, Walt was instrumental in raising more than \$700,000 to help maintain several group homes.

In addition, Walt was a member of the interim board of the Ontario Agricultural Museum, now called Country Heritage Park. For the past decade Walt has been fundraising for the Halton Region Museum as a member of its foundation and helped establish the first assisted living facility in Milton.

Before coming to Milton in 1986, Walt was principal of the Orangeville District Secondary School, president of the Oakville Art Society, helped raise money for a new organ in his church and did significant fund raising for his university and the political party he supports. He served as MPP for Halton North from 1987 to 1990.

In summing up his volunteerism, Walt succinctly summed up his life, stating "I married a good woman, have two good kids and some great grandkids, and along the way had the time and energy to help my community."



Anne and Walt

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all members who have renewed in timely fashion. Our membership list is virtually complete for 2006. Our next newsletter in October highlights the fact that our year end is October 31st and memberships for 2007 will be due. If you are one of the few members who have not, as yet, renewed for 2006, unfortunately, this April newsletter will be your last newsletter unless you submit your membership fee before September.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that Tom Elliott of Vernon, British Columbia has decided to assume the responsibility for that chapter. You will recall that Tom and his wife Bente were part of the Canadian contingent at the gathering in Scotland last August. The excellent photo of Stobs castle which was in our January newsletter was taken by Tom.

In conjunction with Curly Elliott of Calgary, Alberta, our Western vice president, and Tom, we hope to arrange a BC meeting fairly soon, probably in Vancouver. Tom feels that Vernon is quite far from the centre of our members, so for convenience, Vancouver would be a better location. It would be super if a member from Vancouver would

volunteer to be his social convenor and arrange the meeting.

Anne and I are looking forward to visiting with our chief in Glasgow, Kentucky the first weekend in June. In addition, we are hoping to attend four or five chapter events over the summer and fall, mostly in Ontario. In 2007, we plan to attend some part of the International Gathering of the Clans in Nova Scotia. I'd also like to get to BC in 2007.

In 2008, we are hoping a Canadian gathering will develop around the Fergus Scottish Festival the second full weekend in August. Naturally, in 2009 we will attend the Scottish gathering in Scotland if possible. Members should begin planning to attend events of interest as they will come up quickly.

Our newsletter editor, Tina would appreciate receiving items of particular interest to other clan members. Special events such as weddings, births and deaths will be noted in newsletters, if desired. As well, if you know of a clan person who has made a particular achievement, she would appreciate a note to that effect. Please be sure to include photos of your special events.

By Walt Elliot

2006 SCOTTISH FESTIVALS & HIGHLAND GAMES

The following list was compiled with input from your chapter chairs:

Alberta

Calgary Highland Games – September 2, www.calgaryhighlandgames.org
Canmore Highland Games – September 3, www.canmorehighlandgames.ca
High River Highland Games – August 26, www.highriverhighlandgames.com
Red Deer Highland Games – June 24, www.reddeerhighlandgames.ca
Stettler Highland Games – July 29

Ontario

Chatham Highland Games – July 7-8, www.tartansertoma.ca
Cobourg Highland Games – June 23, www.cobourghighlandgames.ca
Embroy Highland Games – July 1, www.embroyhighlandgames.ca
Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games – August 11-13, www.fergusscottishfestival.com
Georgetown Highland Games – June 10, www.georgetownhighlandgames.com
Glengarry Highland Games, Maxwell – Aug 4-5, www.glengarryhighlandgames.com
Haliburton Highland Games – July 8, www.haliburtonhighlandgames.com
Highlands of Durham Games, Port Perry/Uxbridge – July 22-23, www.highlandsofdurhamgames.com
Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games – June 30-July 2, www.kincardinescottishfestival.ca

Nova Scotia

The International Gathering of the Clans – 2007

CHAPTER REPORTS

NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Nancy Buckman reports:

Winter has passed and early spring has been very pleasant in Nova Scotia. It is with deep regret that I report the death of two long-time members of Clan Elliot in our province. Betsy Sheffield passed away late last year after a lengthy illness. She was the wife of the late Scott Sheffield who was a driving force in this Clan chapter for a number of years. Early in March, the death of Glendon Elliott occurred in Kentville. Glendon and his wife Irma, who is a past chair of our chapter, were both involved with Clan activities since the early days.

About eighty people from various clans attended the Tartan Day Dinner which was held at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Halifax on April 7th. Representing Clan Elliot were myself, my son Barry, my sister, Kaye Watt and our Treasurer, George Elliot. A wonderful roast beef dinner with an assortment of pies was followed by a great lineup of entertainment. There was Scottish dancing, music, stories and songs. Jean Watson, who started Tartan Day here in Nova Scotia, was on hand and spoke to the crowd. Through her perseverance, Tartan Day is now observed in several nations. Jean is currently president of the Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia. It was an enjoyable evening as those gathered celebrated their shared Scottish heritage.

Our Spring Fling will take place on May 6th at the Campbell Senior Centre in Cole Harbour. An executive meeting will be followed by a pot-luck luncheon at noon.

The date of July 15th has been set for our summer picnic/auction. The site this year will be Port George in the Annapolis Valley. This is always a fun event for our Clan members who participate and former chair, Gail Fudge will once again perform auctioneer duty.

We have yet to set a date for our Annual General Meeting and Dinner but it will be sometime in October.

Any Elliots from away who may be travelling in Nova Scotia during any of our functions are most welcome to drop by and join with us. Contact us for more information and directions.

2007 will see the return of The International Gathering of The Clans to Nova Scotia. There will be many events scheduled over a period of several weeks throughout the

province. However, if any Elliots from other regions are planning to come it is advisable to arrange for early July as many of the events coincide with the hugely popular International Tattoo. This extravaganza will be held July 1st-8th. The annual Halifax Highland Games and Scottish Festival takes place on the 7th as well. Any Elliots who are interested in coming to Nova Scotia for these events, please feel free to contact us for any assistance.

Until next time, I wish you all well.

EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Helen Elliott reports:

There has been no activity this spring. Our Annual Barbeque is scheduled for Saturday, June 17th, at Ross and Helene's home in Navan, and we are looking forward to the Maxwell Highland Games on August 4th and 5th.

ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Marshall Elliott reports:

As we move into spring and summer of 2006, we are again offered a range of Celtic and Scottish festivals and highland games. Whether we are kids or not, these events are truly wonderful ways of appreciating our heritage; from dancing and piping to literature and culture there is an interest for all of us. The premier festival...for Canada, if not North America...is held each year in Fergus, Ontario in August, the first weekend after the long weekend each and every year. For clan members in Central Ontario, this is just a short drive north of Guelph on Hwy 6. There are many other festivals in our area as well as throughout Ontario. Just read the rest of our newsletter to find out. On another theme, this early fall we will be sponsoring a social for our members and any ideas are really appreciated. Last year we had an excellent social and BBQ at the home of Anne and Walter Elliot. In years past we have attended different restaurants (each with an Elliot connection) for a meal and an opportunity to renew our clanship with others. As in the past, I would be very pleased to hear from you on ideas (timing, location, etc.) for our function this fall. Please contact me at marshallelliott@cogeco.ca.

ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:

Due to time constraints (Easter in April) and prior commitments, we are unable to hold a Spring Event this year. However, we are all looking forward to our picnic on Sunday, July 16, 2006. Len and Catherine Elliott have very kindly invited members to spend the afternoon at their Maple Syrup Farm at RR#2, Ingersoll, Ontario.

Catherine Elliot Shaw, her husband, John D. Shaw, and her mother, Winona Elliot, will be attending the Highland Games in Glasgow, Kentucky, June 1-4, 2006.

The Annual General Meeting will once again be held at St. Aidan's Anglican Church, London, Ontario on Saturday, November 4, 2006.

Happy Spring to all.

MANITOBA CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Rev. Shawn Ankenmann reports:

The chapter has been idle for several months. I had begun the new year with grandiose plans of getting some things rolling. 2006 began with great potential and possibility. But then, in the early morning hours of Sunday February 12th, a trio of misguided young people broke into our Church Sanctuary and set fire to it ... I was called to the scene at 6 am, and within the hour the roof was breached and by 10 am, the Sanctuary that had stood on Main St of Minnedosa for 105 years was nothing more than smouldering ruins. My year kind of took a turn for the worst.

We were very fortunate that our offices were spared the inferno, and the majority of congregational records survived intact. I was also very blessed that my personal collection of worship items and books survived unscathed. But the rest of the Sanctuary was a complete and total loss. Even today, almost three months later we are still counting our losses and taking stock of what literally went up in smoke. The list is very, very long. You can't live and play and worship in a space for 105 years and not accumulate a lot of cherished items.

Though our building was a loss, plans are already underway to rebuild. And we were very, very fortunate that two young men from our community were up and about at 4 am and were able to call in the 911 call, and give the police a description of the suspects. Adding to the serendipity of the moment, the RCMP happened to

be in the area, and about the time the firemen were entering the front doors of the church, the police were stopping the suspect car and apprehending them.

Over the ensuing days we learned that one of the suspects was also a suspect in the 2004 fire that destroyed the heritage sanctuary of Brandon Hills United Church just south of Brandon. I remember the day that sanctuary burned, and as the Chair of Presbytery went that afternoon to offer our condolences and prayers for the people there. The day of the fire, their minister was one of the first people to call me and offer her laughter and support.

No mention of our fire can overlook the bravery of the volunteer firemen in our community. These men, along with help from the Rapid City Volunteer Department spent the better part of the day trying in vain to save our building. From what we now know of how the fire spread through the building, it was conceivable that these fathers, sons and brothers of our community could have been seriously injured while they were fighting the inferno. They are true small town heroes who shared our grief at the loss of a building almost everyone in town entered during their lifetime.

Today, some weeks removed from the fire, we have a vacant lot on Main St., where a new building will one day rise. We are worshipping in the Roman Catholic Church and we are overwhelmed by the gifts, donations and gestures of support that have poured in from all over the country. Over and over we are reminded that our building was far more than just a church. With the fire, the town food bank was rendered temporarily homeless and lost over 1200 pounds of food. The town Nursery School was homeless and lost everything including the shoes and crafts of the children. And countless community functions and groups have been left scurrying to find places to meet, hold socials and showers, and gather. Inside the walls of our 105 year old building there were many happy memories. Like a death in the family, we grieve what we've lost, but we also celebrate what the fire has not taken from us – our memories.

In the coming weeks and months we will journey on towards the goal of rebuilding. It will not be an easy journey, but as I've said many times recently, "I wouldn't wish this on anyone, but I also wouldn't want to miss it for the world ..." I've been struck by the many offers and donations – they've come from people of all ages and people who may never have darkened the door of our church building, yet felt our loss. Thanks to the generosity of dozens and dozens of people we are already accumulating a hefty bank balance for the

rebuilding, and we've gathered many offers of help and support. In time we will rebuild, right now it is a matter of grieving, and moving slowly forward from our loss. It has been like losing an old friend.

If you would like to follow our progress, or read more about our journey thus far, please feel free to check the blogs we've been using to post updates on our journey. The addresses are:

<http://minnedosaunited.blogspot.com/> or
<http://westmanpreacher.blogspot.com/>

It has been quite a journey since the fire. We miss our old building and the comfortable feeling it had for all of us, but we look forward to what the future will hold for the community of Minnedosa and its United Church. So far we have been well cared for and well cared about. The last few weeks have taught us a whole new meaning of a caring community, and that perhaps is the best lesson of all ...



Remains of Minnedosa United Church

SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Clifford Elliott reports:

Greetings from Saskatchewan. The weather here is beautiful. It is more like summer-style weather than spring-style, with temperatures in the low 20's. I hope it continues.

On April 8th I had a small memorial service for Hannah, my wife, who passed away one year ago. There was a service held at the school auditorium next to the church in the afternoon, then we went to a restaurant that specializes in Ukrainian food. There were about thirty people that attended. For desserts we went to a friend's house where we had cake and other dainties.

This is all I have this round. I hope all have a great summer and no-one gets ill or such. Until my next report. Bye for now.

ALBERTA CHAPTER

Western Canada VP Allan (Curly) Elliott reports:

Our AGM was held Saturday March 25th at the Chateaux on The Green clubhouse, courtesy of Curly and Helen Elliott. We had nine members and one guest in attendance and received regrets from several others. Age and distance make it difficult for many of the Clan to attend our meetings.

President Bob Elliott conducted the business with his usual efficient dispatch and the only real issues were the ongoing concerns with both membership and participation. The executive remains the same as last year's with the exception of a secretary and that position could not be filled.

Activities planned for the summer include a Fall Pot Luck Dinner at Huene's cottage on September 9, and attendance at a number of Highland Games listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Following the business of the meeting Catherine and Ray Huene gave a most interesting talk, complete with pictures and a video, on their recent arctic adventure. To celebrate their fifty years of wedded bliss they flew to Sondre Strombjord, Greenland and there boarded the R.V. Akafemik loffe on August 13th. This is a former Russian arctic scientific research ship converted to accommodate 110 tourists. They sailed up the west coast of Greenland to Disko Bay, along Jacobshaven Glacier and north as far as Ummanag before swinging west to Baffin Island. Crossing Davis Strait in fifteen foot seas is an anniversary they will always remember.

After Pond Inlet they made their way to Deven Island with landings at Dundas Harbour to explore an historical RCMP post and then to Croker Bay to view ancient stone artifacts. The next stop was on Beachy Island to visit the graves of members of Sr. John Franklin's 1845 expedition. Most of the shore excursions involved off loading with zodiacs, which they also used for close-up viewing of icebergs. By the time they flew home from Resolute Bay on August 23rd, they had a new respect for the hardy people who live in our Canadian Arctic.

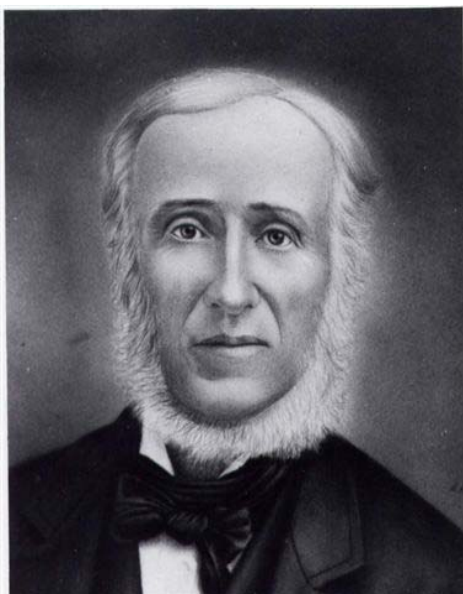
A great afternoon of friendship was capped off with a delightful assortment of sweets, as no Elliott gathering is complete without food.

MEMORIES FROM A PIONEER FAMILY

This delightful story of an early Ontario family was submitted by James I Elliot, PhD, P. Ag. FAIC, of Ottawa, great grandson of William S. Elliot and a direct descendent of the 1832 immigrants. The continuation of this story will appear in upcoming newsletters.

The original was written by Margaret (Elliot) Duffet, a first cousin once removed and daughter of Andrew Elliot and Mary Common, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Elliot farm at Galt in 1932. It brings a moving and personal touch to the same period in history as alluded to in the latest Scottish newsletter. I trust that you will enjoy it as much as I did. I also hope that it will persuade other Clan members to submit their equally interesting histories for all to enjoy.

A.G. "Curly" Elliott
Clan Historian



William S. Elliot



Elspeth Ramsay

Grandfather was born in Northumberland, England, near Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1806, and while a boy he went to a farm near Jedburgh, Scotland, where he was a shepherd. In 1832 he married Elspeth Ramsay, who was born near Jedburgh, Scotland, in 1810. They came at once to Canada with a party of friends, the Fords, travelling to the seaport in long carts. Their friends all turned out to bid them goodbye, going with them a piece of the road, then standing on the hilltop waving as long as they could see each other.

The voyage on the sailing vessel lasted anywhere from six to fifteen weeks and the passengers were often hungry at the end of that time, as they had to provide their own food. A barrel of oatmeal was usually the chief food brought.

From Quebec they came to Upper Canada on flat bottom boats called "Durham Boats". Oxen on shore pulled these flat bottomed boats up the rapids in the St. Lawrence to Lake Ontario. After a weary trip they arrived in Galt (now

Cambridge), Ontario, then a village of thirty to forty small houses, a flour mill, a distillery, a store or two, a school and a church.

Grandfather and John Ford bought their farms from William Dickson, who had in 1816 bought the Township of Dumfries, paying about \$1.00 an acre. The deeds for the farms were kept until the farms were paid for. Often Grandfather spoke of Mr. Dickson's kindness to these early settlers; when they were not able to meet payments on their farms, he waited patiently for them to gather the money which was very scarce then. Necessities of life were gotten by trade. The first letter sent back to Scotland cost one shilling postage and they had to borrow the money to send it.

First, a log house was built on the land between the house and the shop. The rough logs were plastered with clay to keep out the wind but it must have been cold. The attic

was the extra bedroom for the boys and often in winter snow drifts lay across the floor.

Downstairs, a huge fireplace was built across one end where all the cooking was done. Bread was baked on the hot hearth stones in a covered pan, close to the fire. There were no matches then. If you let your fire out, you kindled it with a steel and punk wood or walked to a neighbour's house and brought back live coals covered with ashes. The fire made the room cheerful and gave light enough for spinning the yarn or knitting the family socks. Grandmother and Mrs. Ford could each knit a sock in one evening after tea. Our grandmother, at age 22, wore a mutch all the time. How would married ladies look if that were the style now?

After the farm was bought, the first necessity was a yoke of oxen. These cost \$65 and were bought in May, 1833. During this winter, the Fords and the Elliots lived together, as the Ford's house was not yet built. It was about this time that Mrs. Ford and Grandmother left the men and little Robert Ford, aged four, alone and went to Hamilton where they each worked for money to buy a cow. The Elliot's cow was pasturing in the woods when it was killed by a falling tree and again there was no milk or butter. The first

butter was churned by putting the cream into a large jar and shaking it up and down until it turned into butter.

Meanwhile, working together, the men had each cleared a small field and raised a little wheat. The first wheat was carried to town on Grandfather's back, a bag at a time, as they needed flour. A blazed trail was his only road and, if delayed at the mill until darkness began to come, he could see red eyes shining through the trees as he walked home, watching him, but he was never molested. His bag was lighter on the homeward way as the miller took his toll out of the wheat he ground.

So they worked, clearing the land in every odd minute. Grandfather decided to keep pigs and worked for a neighbour for two weeks for his first pig. He built a pen and put her into it but a few weeks later, hearing a dreadful noise at the barn, he got out of bed, grabbed his axe and ran – to find a huge bear carrying off the pig. He chased it out to about where the back lane is now and the bear dropped the pig, which was so badly hurt that it died.

To be continued – details of life in Galt, Ontario, in the mid-19th Century – next issue!

A YOUTHFUL PERSPECTIVE

This time of the year, I drag my mom away from her work and travel to Detroit to compete in Great Lake tournament with most of my karate club. This year, we invited a few friends to come to cheer and shop with us. Everyone got up early to catch the bus. I remember telling my mom and her friend that it was 6:55 in the morning so they had five minutes to talk about work. We headed back to the same hotel in Troy, where we had a comfortable stay two years ago.

After arriving at the hotel and settling in, we headed out to the nearest mall, as we had just enough energy for shopping. We got home in good time to get rested up for the tournament. Schools came from all over to compete, including New York, Texas and San Fransisco. We had another successful tournament, coming first and taking home the flag for another year. This year I took home another three medals – two third place and one fourth place. I told Mom that we are going to need a trophy room for all my medals, as we are running out of space in my bedroom.

After the celebration and a long night, we got back on the bus and headed home, with just enough energy to do some more shopping in Birch Run. Yes, it was a great weekend, but as always it is great to get home to family.

By Leslie Elliot

Please encourage other young Elliots to send articles about their activities.

