



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



Volume: 12, Issue: 3

October 2006

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Walt Elliot

This report will be in two parts; the first part will be a commentary and request for information on our ancestors, the second will be an overview of our activities over the spring and summer of 2006.

RESEARCHING OUR ANCESTORS

I have now completed three years as your president having assumed that responsibility in August of 2003 at the Fergus Scottish Festival. I retired from my financial services position a year ago so am beginning to have more time for Clan activities which I enjoy very much. As I talk to members across Canada I try to determine their primary interest in the clan. It is becoming clear that most of us want to find out from where we came both geographically and ancestrally. Some show an interest in actually going back to Scotland to research their roots personally and while there take in an international gathering of the clan which happens every fourth year (the next one should be in 2009). Most chapter members enjoy the various events arranged by the individual chapters.

It is always a personal pleasure for me when I meet an Elliot who is actually related to me and I have met several in my travels and some have made follow up visits to our home in Milton.

With all this in mind may I suggest we all start using the newsletter to help track down relatives and ancestors of interest. I have asked Tina our editor to work these requests into future newsletters. It would be great to receive suggestions and some assistance in developing a format with the necessary information to help in tracking Elliots.

Two requests I have received this summer for information will be in this newsletter.

SPRING AND SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The spring and summer is always an exciting time. We get to visit with other Elliots at their events, annual meetings and Scottish Festivals. 2006 was no exception.

We were pleased to be invited to Nonnie Elliot's 80th birthday party on April 30th. Her daughter Catherine is co-chair of the Western Ontario Chapter centred in London. The next Sunday, May 7th Amos and Lyn Elliot of Dundas celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Since I was best man at their wedding this was a particularly meaningful occasion.



Amos and Lyn Elliot and Walt Elliot

Margaret Elliott of Redheugh, our Chief, was the honorary Chief at Scottish Games held at Glasgow Kentucky June 1 to 4, 2006. Amos, Lyn, my wife Anne and I spent eight enjoyable days on a trip to Kentucky to support the Chief. The games were held at Barron River State Park just outside Glasgow.



John Shaw, Nonnie Elliot, Margaret Elliott and Catherine Elliot-Shaw, Glasgow, Kentucky



*Catherine Elliot-Shaw, Walt Elliot and Nonnie Elliot,
Kentucky Parade*

About 60 Elliots from all over the United States and Canada joined the Chief for dinner on Thursday, June 1st at Bolton's Landing Restaurant in Glasgow. It was great fun visiting with Catherine Elliot Shaw, her husband John and mother Nonnie from London Ontario.

Margaret Elliott officially opened the games on Friday, June 2nd, 2006 in the town square of Glasgow. This opening was preceded by a lunch with the Chief at the lodge in Barron River State Park at noon. Saturday began with a Governor's breakfast at the lodge. A highlight of the day-long activities was the USA annual meeting held at 2 pm in the grandstand. Margaret Elliott was presented with a trophy won on her behalf by the Wallace Clan in a tug of war contest. Saturday evening featured a gala dinner and ball. The games continued all day Sunday with a clan march-by at 2 pm.

As well as attending the games, thanks to Anne's meticulous trip planning, we worked in visits to Dell Yew Gardens near Louisville on the way down to Glasgow, a lantern tour of the Great Onyx Cave, a boat trip in the underground Lost River Cave, a riverboat ride, lunch and show on the General Jackson Showboat, as well as a visit to the Gaylord Hotel Complex tropical gardens in Nashville and the American Saddlebred Horse Farm in Lexington. If you are planning a trip to Kentucky, email Anne at elliottwa@interhop.net to get more information on these great experiences.

We also attended the annual lamb roast in Ottawa in June, the Western Ontario picnic in July, and the Fergus Scottish Festival in August, but I will leave the details of those events to the chapter chairs to report.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

A renewal form will be included in this newsletter for all members who need to renew their membership for 2007. An early renewal would be greatly appreciated. It has been decided that we will continue to mail the newsletter to all members. As well the newsletter will be posted on the website to accommodate those members who wish to access it in that manner. The idea of a permanent membership card was not well received so we won't be issuing them.

DOES ANYONE KNOW OF ?

Rob Elliot of Montreal – Jody Elliot Bishop and his sister Lynda Pogue would like information on their uncle Rob Elliot of Montreal. Their grandmother Irene Elliot/Martyn talked about him and indicated Elliot Lake was named after him. Jody Bishop may be contacted at 416-994-7275 or by email at jbishop@rogers.com and Lynda Pogue at lyndapogue@sympatico.ca

CHAPTER REPORTS

NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Nancy Buckman reports:

As summer draws to a close the weather of late has been very pleasant here in Nova Scotia.

Our Spring Fling was held on May 6th at the Campbell Senior Centre in Cole Harbour. About 30 members and guests gathered for the pot-luck affair. Vice-Chair Murray Elliott said grace before the meal and also gave the Toast to the Queen. This was followed by the Clan

Toast delivered by Barry Buckman. The crowd socialized and caught up on news while enjoying a wide selection of tasty main dishes, salads, breads and scrumptious desserts. Following the meal, one of our members, Tanya Hendsbee, sang two lovely songs. Afterwards, The Highland Heritage Scottish Music Society performed a medley of tunes that ranged from rousing reels and lively jigs to beautiful ballads.

The summer Picnic/Auction took place at Port George, Annapolis County on Saturday, July 15th. Again, lots of delicious food was available to tempt the 28 people

gathered for this pot-luck event. After the meal, Gail Fudge took on the role of auctioneer as she has done for the past few years. This successful fundraiser brought in over \$300 for our chapter's coffers.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held again at the Old Orchard Inn located at Wolfville, on October 7th, at 11 am. Election of Officers will take place with a luncheon beginning at noon. Amongst items to be discussed will be Clan Elliot's involvement at the International Gathering of The Clans which returns to Nova Scotia next summer.

Until next time, I wish you all a wonderful autumn.

NEW BRUNSWICK CHAPTER

Chapter Chair J. Allison Elliott reports:

Our group could not be considered very active throughout 2006. We had no representatives attending the New Brunswick Highland Games at Fredericton this year. No one seemed interested, other than Florence and I, and we decided that it was too tiring for us over three days.

Without any fall meeting last year, we decided to have a spring dinner meeting at the Timberland Restaurant outside Sussex, held on the evening of May 12th, which was quite successful, although only 18 members were able to attend. The choices were beef, turkey, or salmon, which were earlier selected, and enjoyed by all. After a brief business meeting, when it was decided to repeat this meeting next year, we were entertained by several members of our group, who sing and play guitars for their own entertainment, as well as attend local jam-sessions, where that type of music is enjoyed by many seniors, such as ourselves.



Glenarry Highland Games, Maxville, Ontario

EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

Chapter Treasurer Linda Elliott-Doshen reports:

Our Annual June Lamb Barbeque, Saturday, June 17th, was another grand event with tears and cheers, in Ross and Helene's exquisite Navan country garden, with delicious lamb and potluck dishes, exceptional company and as always lots of family 'news'. Once again, we were very fortunate that Ross and Helene volunteered their lovely, warm home and garden in Navan.

It was lovely to see John and Elizabeth back from their 'Wild West' adventures, Bessie enjoying her new home, and Walt and Anne after their visit with our Clan Chief Margaret and several US Chapter members in Kentucky in June.

To entertain and titillate us, John Trent read excerpts from our 'wicked' Elliott history after we moved from Glenshee in the Highlands, following Robert 'the Bruce' to the Borders, in 1314. His book may be coming out this fall (*that would be John's book not Robert 'the Bruce's'... I think King Robert has retired from any further historic achievements and mischief*).

I shared some excerpts from one of my winter writing projects, my family history book, Clan Alicht, Elliot, Elliot, Elliott, Elliott, 1314 to 2006, Scotland, Nova Scotia, Canada. *I think I will write it as a children's story next...*

Julia generously awarded prizes and I won an adorable bottle of Scotch (*don't tell Larry*) for consistently having the most ridiculous costumes at clan events (*she said consistent wearing of the tartan, but we all know what she meant*).

Then Helen made us all weep with her decision to retire as our chapter president. We all hope she will have sober second thoughts. She has served us so well for more than two decades, as well as being the repository of clan and family history plus lots of other interesting news tidbits that I do not think we will be able to manage without her. (*Did you know that an Elliott sat on the throne of Scotland for a day? I'm not sure what happened the following day! and whether or not it involved a missing head? You must tell us Helen!*) However, if Helen doesn't have sober second thoughts you need to be thinking if you're willing to volunteer to assume the President's Banner (*which is standing in the corner of my office at the moment*). If you are willing to volunteer, I think Walt wants to hear from you.

So another big thank you to Ross and Helene for another stellar Clan event.

I love the pipes and dancing so Helen, Dorothy, Julia and I went to the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville in August to hear 64 massed pipe bands, among other things.

In other news, Larry and I had a grand time at the Nova Scotia Clan's delicious summer potluck and very entertaining auction in Port George while we were visiting in Nova Scotia in July. We met some Ontario Elliotts whom we invited to join us in November.

In upcoming events, once again we will be hosting The Elliott Clan of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec's Annual Christmas Potluck on Sunday, November 26th, 2006, at our house, 1799 Dorset Drive, Alta Vista, Ottawa, ElliottDoshen@rogers.com; Arrival 4:30 to 5 pm; Happy Hour (visiting, wine and appetizers) from 5

to 6 pm; Dinner 6:15ish to whenever! We still need a volunteer to coordinate the potluck contributions, so let me know if you will do that ... otherwise it's ... *let the chips fall where they may*. We look forward to seeing you in November. Have a lovely fall.

ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Marshall Elliott reports:

As fall approaches the Central Ontario Chapter of Elliott Clan Society announces it's annual Autumn Society Dinner. This year the Harrop House in Milton will be the venue for the annual affair. The Harrop House is an early Elliot homestead which now functions as an upscale restaurant and art shoppe. The Clan has not hosted the event there for the last three years given that our President, Walter Elliot, and his wife Anne, hosted the event at their home last year and in 2004 we visited another fine restaurant, the Elliott Restaurant. Given that the luncheon is planned for Sunday, October 15th at 11:30 am, separate notice is being sent to our Chapter membership to facilitate planning and registration.

I would encourage all members to consider attending these warm and welcoming annual get-togethers. My wife and I visited Scotland, and specifically the Elliott Water, in '04 and I will give a brief presentation on this beautiful and historic part of Arbiriot Parish, Angus. It is this very region of Scotland that our clan originated from prior to being sent to the border with England by King Robert the Bruce. The Bruce needed a number of fierce and loyal clans to populate the Borderland as a deterrent to the English.



Eastern Ontario & Western Quebec Chapter Annual Lamb Barbeque



Marshall Elliott, Al Nickels, Walt Elliot and Bonnie Elliott, Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games

In August many Elliot Clan Society members and other Elliots, Elliotts and Eliotts dropped by our Clan tent and display at the Fergus Highland Games. Every year Fergus is an outstanding cultural affair for all – whether Scottish or not. Thank you also to Greg and Bonnie Ball for their representation at the Georgetown Highland Games in June. These are among the many Scottish Festivals held each year in Central Ontario. Every spring our newsletter lists places and dates for this wonderful series of Scottish Games and Festivals.

I would encourage all members to correspond me with any items or points of view and suggestions for coming events at marshallelliott@cogeco.ca.



Bonnie Ball, Georgetown Highland Games

ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:

On July 16th, we held our picnic at the home of Len and Catherine Elliott near Ingersoll, On. Everyone enjoyed the lovely farm setting on a beautiful, hot summer day – an added bonus was seeing the hay baled as we relaxed. Potluck dinner was served and, once again, everyone excelled in their contribution to the table.

We were pleased to welcome our Canadian President, Walt Elliot, his son and granddaughters. Thanks to the donation of prizes by our members, the raffle was a big success. Many thanks to Len and Catherine for their wonderful hospitality.

A big thank you to Al and Carole Nickels who represented the Ontario West Chapter at the Highland Games in Kincardine, Chatham, Cambridge and Fergus this summer.

Saturday, November 4th, will be the Annual General Meeting at St. Aidan's Anglican Church in London, On. Turkey dinner will be catered by Garibaldi's Garden. Our guest speaker will be Jay Campbell, Meteorologist with A-Channel. All are welcome to attend.

On behalf of our members, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

ALBERTA CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Robert Elliott reports:

It is well into September and we are still getting beautiful summer days in the mid to high twenties here in sunny Alberta. The nights are cool but comfortable and an indicator of fall is the big old harvest moon as the days get shorter. We have had an exceptional holiday summer as a somewhat wet and cool spring stopped just before Calgary Stampede in early July and we have had mostly sunny days since then with spotty showers and the occasional hail storm doing damage.

Our clan representatives attended Highland games at Red Deer, Stettler, Calgary and Canmore this summer. Red Deer on June 24th was somewhat disappointing in that our clan was the only one with a display and the Dance competitions were not up to their usual numbers and the Massed Bands were missing for the finale. Stettler unfortunately was competing with other events (a drag car race on main street) and attendance was low but the heavy events carried on with top contenders and they plan to continue in the future.

Lower attendance at these centres was more than compensated by great numbers of competitors and spectators at Calgary on Saturday September 2nd and Canmore on September 3rd. Calgary had eight clans represented with display booths, large numbers in the dance, heavy and band events, all under clear blue skies with an attendance estimated at 8000. Canmore is probably the most picturesque game site in Canada, an ideal park setting with the well known Three Sisters mountain peaks to the south overlooking it all. Again, the weather was ideal, clear skies and a temperature of 29C. There were five other clans represented and a new feature was a march of the clans following a band at the opening ceremonies. There were 23 bands in attendance which all combined for the Massed Band Finale. This was particularly stirring with the sound of about 300 pipes and drums in this gorgeous mountain valley setting.

CANMORE HIGHLAND GAMES



*Chairman Bob Elliott setting up the Clan tent
(before breakfast)*



*Piping for the Three Sisters
(the three mountain peaks in the background)*



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nova Scotia Chapter AGM – October 7
- Ontario Central Chapter Annual Autumn Society Dinner – October 15
- Ontario West Chapter AGM – November 4
- Eastern Ontario & Western Quebec Chapter Annual Christmas Potluck – November 26

(See Chapter Reports for details)

MEMORIES FROM A PIONEER FAMILY

The following is the second installment of a story submitted by James I. Elliot, PhD, P. Ag. FAIC, of Ottawa. The original was written by Margaret (Elliot) Duffet on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Elliot farm at Galt in 1932.

The Elliots attended Mr. Strang's church and the oldest baby, James, was carried to church to be christened. It must have been a long walk but the baby must be christened.

As the children in the neighbourhood began to grow up, a log school was built near the present school. The first teacher brought sweet briar from Scotland and had a hedge about his garden. The sweet briars in this district came from this hedge. The three R's were taught chiefly, but father studied grammar, geography, history, Euclid and Latin Roots.

In 1847 the family numbered seven, when they were struck down by that dread disease of little children – dysentery. Father, who was then four years old, and Aunt Barbara were sent to stay with Auntie Dixon, while the others were ill. Four of the family died in August and September – John aged three, Adam aged seven, Agnes aged six months, and in early September, Christina aged eleven years. I have heard father tell how he came home – not understanding about the death of his playmates – he went and looked in their beds but the beds were made up. He looked in their play-house but no one was there. He hunted everywhere for them but all was quiet and still and his Mother sat by the window knitting and gradually he came to understand that they were gone.

On June 2nd, 1852, grandfather finished paying for his farm and got his deed for the south half of lot 20, 9th Concession. The price was £176/68/7 pence. From now on the farm was large enough to make farming pay. Prices were better and gradually living was easier. Two more children were born but again in 1855 they were taken just as suddenly as the others; Adam aged seven years and Christina aged 18 months. You will notice that these two children were called after two who had died previously. Three children were left now out of nine.

In 1856 this house was built but without fire places and for the first time a stove was used. Ford's house was built the following year. A few years later the present barn was built. It was not built on the old site, as you can imagine that was not a convenient place for a barn. The present site has always seemed to us very much too near the road.

Soon after the house was built Grandmother's sister, Agnes – Mrs. Cowan – died leaving a small baby three days old.

Aggie was brought to our house and lived there until she went to live with Aunt Barbara after her marriage. She died at Telfers some years ago. Grandfather looked on her as his own child.

Drinking whiskey in those times was almost universal. The Galt Distillery became wealthy by selling whisky at 20 cents a gallon. No logging bee or barn raising could go on without it and you were very inhospitable if it was not served at marriages, christenings and funerals. Grandfather was opposed to giving the men liquor and the men knew this. When the time for the barn raising came the farmers told him that he must provide whiskey or the barn would not go up, so he bought ten gallons, paying at that time about 75 cents a gallon. The raising went forward merrily until the ten gallons was done and then the men stopped work until such time as a man could be sent to town for eight gallons more liquor.

I have been told that this took place when they were building Uncle Jim's barn at St. Marys but, in any case, it shows that we really are making progress in temperance now.

Those were strenuous days. When the ground was ready, seed was sown by hand. The hay was cut by a scythe and raked up by hand. The wheat was cut by a cradle and the grain was threshed by a flail. The first fanning mills were considered to be a wicked invention as Providence intended the grain to be winnowed by pouring it from one basket to another and have the wind clean it of chaff.

The women leached the ashes and made soap from the lye. They dyed the wool, spun the yarn and knitted or made all the clothing the family wore. The English currency gave place to the decimal currency in 1858. From now on our Grandmother was almost an invalid. Confined to bed most of the time. The loss of the children and her hard life told upon her strength. Aunt Barbara and the boys did most of the work. It was hard work for so young a girl to look after everything, even under her Mother's direction. Barbara was married to Andrew Telfer in 1868 and later in the year her Mother died.

*To be continued
– a letter from Scotland –
next issue!*