



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Walt Elliot

We hope 2007 has begun well for all members. Nova Scotia is hosting the International Gathering of the Clans in July this summer. Anne and I have accepted an invitation from Barry Buckman, Secretary of the Nova Scotia Chapter of the Elliot Clan Society, to attend the Gathering in Halifax the weekend of July 6th to 8th. We understand the festivities include a dinner, a tattoo and, as usual, competitions of various types. Since I have a brother, Brian, in New Brunswick we will be spending a week or so in the Maritime provinces; always a most enjoyable experience.

Since our October 2006 newsletter, we have attended the Central Ontario Chapter annual luncheon at the Harpor House Restaurant on October 15th in Milton and the Ontario West Chapter annual meeting at St. Aidan's Anglican Church on November 4th in London.

In Milton, Marshall Elliott, the Chapter chair, gave a presentation based on a visit he and Bonnie had made to an Elliot river, the first location Elliot's occupied in the highlands. Apparently they were dispatched along with the Armstrongs and other clans to the border region to guard against an invasion from the south. In London, the guest speaker, Jay Campbell, an A-Channel Meteorologist gave a most enlightening presentation based on his area of expertise.

On January 27th, 2007 Anne and I attended a Robbie Burns Dinner in Hamilton hosted by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada in the Officers' Mess. The toasts to The Twa Lands, The Lassies and The Immortal Memory given by Harry Ferguson, Malcolm Sinclair and Douglas Gibson respectively were excellent. I have recommended to our newsletter editor that the text of The Twa Lands speech be reproduced in our newsletter as space permits. It is a superb summary of how Scots have played such an important part in developing the world.

We have been notified that the following members are deceased. Our heartfelt, sincere sympathies go out to their families.

Hugh Royden Elliott (773) April 25th, 2006

Donald Campbell Elliott (253) June, 2006

Arnold Chester Elliott (371) September 24th, 2006

We would be pleased to include a brief obituary for past members in our newsletter. A copy of a newspaper obituary would be helpful if submitted to our editor, Tina, either by mail or email.



Harpor House: Al Nickels, Douglas Elliott, Walt Elliot, Shirley Elliott, Marshall Elliott, Anne Elliot and Bonnie Elliott



Ontario West: Al Nickels, Barbara Elliott (Ontario West Co-Chair), Walt Elliot

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Almost all members have renewed their memberships for 2007. Thank you very much for your cooperation in this regard. In January a reminder was sent to all the members who had not renewed. In most cases not renewing was an oversight which has now been rectified. Unfortunately, each year a few members have not renewed by the spring newsletter and have to be deleted from the roles. Membership renewals are due October 31st each year and we can only afford to carry members for a year following non-renewal.

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

We have been sending out three newsletters per year in January, April and October. From now on we plan to send the newsletters in October, February and June. Hank Elliot used to send out four newsletters per year and found this to be one too many so he discontinued one of them. This new arrangement is to more evenly space the newsletters and to overcome the problem we have encountered with the January newsletter. It was too close to the holidays to conveniently get material. Any comment about the content or number of our newsletters would be appreciated.

A YOUTHFUL PERSPECTIVE

By Leslie Elliot

It's really surprising what can change in one day. On a normal Tuesday morning I would be up at 5:30 am getting ready to go to my clinical placement at a local nursing home. Well, this past Tuesday started like any other. I was up at 5:30 and I had left the house by 6:20. I got to the nursing home only to find out that clinical was canceled for the day. A free day is always nice for a college student. So I went home and later that morning took my brother to school while my parents went to work. I spent the rest of the morning just hanging out around the house.

Then, after, lunch I got some news that I had been waiting to hear. In the mailbox was a big envelope that said on it "Congratulations on your acceptance" – I got in to university! As soon as I opened the letter and read what it said I started to scream in excitement and my seven month old golden retriever puppy started to howl right along with me. After a minute of this I realized I had to call my parents and pass on the news.

I tried to call my mom first but she was in training and couldn't answer her phone, so I called my dad and passed on the news. He told me I should call my grandmother and tell her the news. So I tried my mom again and got through and told her the news, then I called my grandparents and told them the news. My grandfather told me I should send a message to my great uncle in New Brunswick. I started to write an e-mail to him, but when I went to add another e-mail to the list I hit send by accident so the people on the list got a blank e-mail with the title 'Big News.' Minutes later I got an e-mail back from my great uncle saying, "What is the news?" I sent another message after this with the actual news that I had gotten in. For the rest of the day I got e-mails back with congratulations from my family. Then, later that night when we picked my brother up from his class trip, we went out to celebrate my big news or, as my brother says, "The time when I finally get her room."

CHAPTER REPORTS

NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

Chapter Secretary Barry Buckman reports:

Greetings from Nova Scotia to all Clan Elliot members across the country. After experiencing a mild December and January, we are firmly in the grip of winter here.

It is with deep regret that I report the passing of Chester Elliott, who died last summer at the age of ninety-two. Chester belonged to the New Ross branch of Elliots and was one of nine children. He was an active member of our Nova Scotia Chapter since its inception and was involved in functions until the time of his death. He helped organize our Clan Picnic in his home village of New Ross for several years. Chester will be missed at future gatherings of our Clan Chapter.

Our Annual General Meeting and Luncheon was held on October 7th at the Old Orchard Inn in Wolfville. A good number of members attended and, after enjoying a lovely meal, several items were discussed.

The Clan Elliot Spring Fling will take place in my home village of Tiverton, on Long Island. The date is set for May 5th and the venue will be the Tiverton Community Hall.

Our Chapter's plans concerning the International Gathering of the Clans are in place. A Clan Elliot Dinner is to be held at the Citadel Halifax Hotel on July 7th at 6:30 pm. Earlier in the day, we will participate in the Halifax Highland Games and Scottish Festival at the Garrison Grounds. All Elliots from other Chapters are invited to join with us in kinship and celebration. Anyone who would like more information or assistance in making plans, please contact me either by e-mail address, bdeanbuckman@hotmail.com or by phone, (902) 839-2965.

More details about the Gathering and the Royal Nova Scotia Tattoo can be found on the following website: scotsns.chebucto.org. Until next time, I wish you all a wonderful spring season.

EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

Chapter Treasurer Linda Elliott-Doshen reports:

Christmas Open House, Awesome! Sunday, November 26th, 2006.

This year the weather cooperated, no snow, no freezing rain, just a wonderfully mild evening. Twenty plus members of our Chapter attended our 9th Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner. It was great fun to host it once again and to catch up with everyone's news.

Many thanks to Eve for help with organizing the potluck contributions, Julia for our very successful Raffle, and Helene and Dorothy for the Scottish music. It was an excellent event and, as always, the food was beautifully prepared, presented and delicious and the conversation wicked (which cost several people substantial fines! Hmm! John, Helene, Ross...not to mention any names!) It was great fun to celebrate Colette and Julia's November birthdays!



Once again this year we enjoyed our groups usual two excellent Elliott Clan events – the Annual June Lamb Barbeque and our Annual Christmas Potluck.

Next year we are adding a third “bonus” event, thanks to Colette and John's kind offer to host an event at their home in Chelsea on the first Sunday afternoon in August, Sunday August 5th! Bravo John and Colette!

We will elaborate more after the June Barbeque at Ross and Helene's, but John did say something about a pool and croquet – so you best start practicing for John and Colette's Croquet Pitch!

You have time because our first event for 2007 will be our Annual June Lamb Barbeque on Saturday, June 16th, 2007, noonish. Again, this year, we are very fortunate that Ross and Helene have volunteered their lovely, warm home and garden in Navan for the Barbeque. We hope to see you all there. As usual, \$10 will be collected to cover Lamb costs.

In August, the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario, are on August 3rd and 4th. There is nothing as hauntingly beautiful as their dozens of massed pipe bands playing “Amazing Grace.” And on Sunday, August 5th, we will enjoy John and Colette Trent's new event in Chelsea.

So! Mark all of these dates on your calendar now. We hope these dates fit with your schedule.

In regard to the recruitment of a president we held a brainstorming session after dinner so would someone please explain: “*Why do I still have this banner???*”

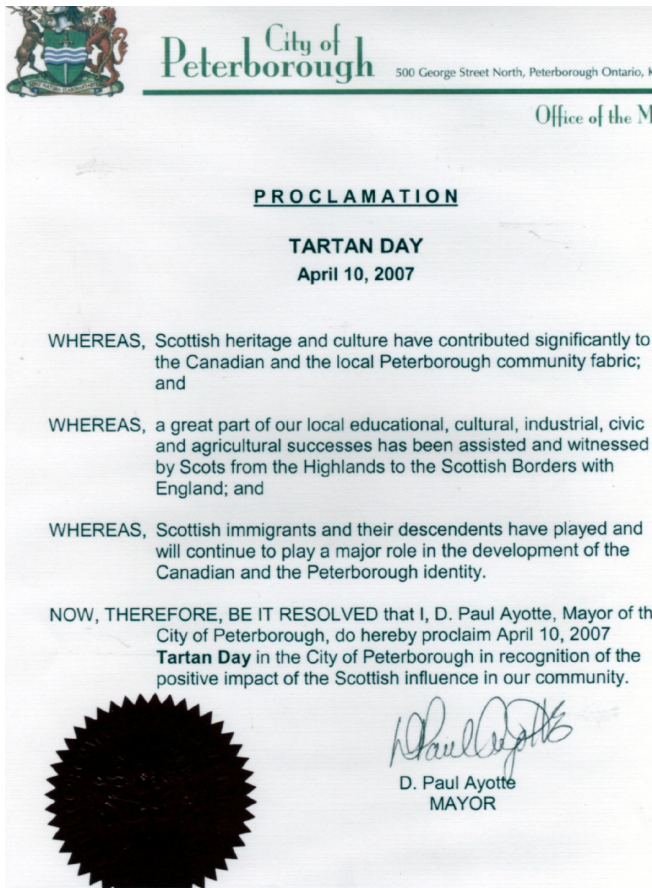


REMEMBER: The Annual Elliott Clan of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec's June Lamb Barbeque and Potluck, Saturday, June 16th, 2007 at Ross and Helene's, in Navan. A new event on Sunday, August 5th, 2007 at John and Colette Trent's, in Chelsea. We hope to see you at both of these events.

ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Marshall Elliott reports:

Dear Members of Clan Elliott: My report this quarter speaks both to the ease and the need of approaching our head of municipal council re: the Proclamation of Tartan Day. Throughout the world many jurisdictions proclaim a day in April as World Tartan Day in recognition of the most excellent role of Scottish culture to the fabric of our Canadian and local identities. In the local case of Peterborough, Ontario, a simple request was forwarded to the local Mayor requesting such a proclamation be made in this recognition of our heritage. I include the Copy of the Corporate Proclamation and I encourage all our readers to simply approach their local Council with a similar request.



Also, Greg and Bonnie Ball will be hosting a tent at the Georgetown Highland Games on June 9th. Greg will be Sgt.-at-Arms for the parade this year and they are inviting members to attend and march in the parade.

ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:

Ontario West Chapter of the Elliot Clan Society held their Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 4th, 2006 at St. Aidan's Anglican Church in London. The weather was perfect and we had an excellent turnout of thirty-three members. We were pleased to welcome our Canadian President, Walter Elliot and his wife, Anne.

As we enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings, we were able to watch the deer feeding in Sifton Bog, just behind the church – a very special moment. Many thanks to Al and Carole Nickels for providing the special Elliot Clan programmes and the baskets of mints on the tables. We would also like to thank those who assisted with the cleaning up – your help was greatly appreciated.

The guest speaker was Jay Campbell, Meteorologist from A-Channel, London. Jay shared with us his

Scottish roots and enlightened us about the weather phenomena we are experiencing all over the world these days.

Walter Elliot brought greetings from our Chief, Margaret. He told us about his visits to other chapters over the past summer and future events in the planning.

The raffle was once again a huge success with lots of wonderful prizes, thanks to all who contributed.

We will be gathering for lunch on Saturday, April 14th, 2007 at the Harmony House Buffet, London. Jim and Shirley Elliott will be hosting our picnic on Sunday, July 15th, 2007 at their summer home in Port Burwell (pray for good weather). The Annual General Meeting will be held Saturday, November 10th, 2007 at St. Aidan's Anglican Church, London.

Member of other Chapters are most welcome to join us at any of these events.
Just give us a call.

ALBERTA CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Robert Elliott reports:

Two longtime members of the Alberta Chapter of the Clan Society, Dr. Redmond (Red) Elliott D.V.M. and his wife Frances were honoured by a Community Builders' Dinner held at Camrose October 20, 2006. The dinner was hosted by the Battle River Community Foundation which has established an endowment fund from which interest is used to benefit needy and deserving causes in Camrose and surrounding districts. Over 400 people attended the dinner which, including an auction of mementos, raised over 28,000 dollars to be added to the Community Foundation Endowment Fund.

Dr. Elliott was born and raised at Camrose where his parents farmed just west of the town. After serving in the Canadian Navy in World War Two, he attended the Ontario Veterinary College at Guelph Ontario. Upon graduation in 1950 he married Frances Hall who had been raised in Guelph and worked in the administrative offices of the O.V.C. when they met. The young couple moved to Camrose and immediately set up a veterinary practice there in a small house moved to an acreage on the family farm.

The early years were difficult and involved long hours of driving over unpaved roads, as in those days the veterinarian had to go to the patient rather than having the animal brought to a clinic. The practice grew and progressed, however, and eventually clients brought animals to a small clinic and several kennels attached to the

house. Still later a modern clinic was built at another site and by now stock owners had stock trailers in which to bring their animals for treatment. The family had now grown, and included their five children whom Fran managed to mother while monitoring the telephone and dispensing medications.

Dr. Elliott was an active board member of the local Fair board which evolved into the large Camrose Regional Exhibition with extensive grounds and buildings and which hosts numerous agricultural, community and entertainment functions. He is also a long time member of Rotary and the United Church of Canada. Red has also done consulting work for Canadian Executive Services Overseas (CESO) with tours in India and Hungary. After selling the practice in 1978 he managed a large cattle operation for the Samson Indian Band at Hobbema.

Frances, besides mothering her own five children, was part-time Mom to a large number of extra young folk, including some from overseas countries. She also made time to serve in many capacities in the church, was a

charter member of the Camrose Children's Centre board, did volunteer work with the music festival and many other local committees. She was elected a member of the Camrose Public School Board and served for nine years, three of these as chairman.

The Community Builders' Dinner honoured Red and Fran for their years of "Giving Back" to the community of Camrose and area.



THE TWA LANDS

Following is an excerpt from a toast made by Harry Ferguson, father of Evelyn Elliot, assistant newsletter editor, at the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' Burns Dinner on January 27th, 2007. Additional excerpts will be included in subsequent newsletters.

Thank you Dr. Fraser for that introduction,

Col. Sellars, Col. Earp, , Col. Dinsmore, Officers of this Regiment, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

"There's a race of men that don't fit in; a race that can't stay still; so they break the heart of kith and kin, and they roam the world at will.

They range the field and they rove the flood, and they climb the mountain crest, theirs is the curse of the gypsy blood, and they don't know how to rest."

Those lines aptly describe the tough and adventurous Scots who first came to Canada in the late 1700's.

These are, of course, not the words of Robert Burns at all, they are the words of another Robert, another Scottish Robert ... Robert Service, who gained great fame on this side of the Atlantic by being known as the Poet of the Yukon. In the small village of Kilwinning in Ayrshire as a wee boy he first started scribbling verse, but it needed a wider horizon, as he described it "the larger lands that lure a man to roam."



Doug Gibson, past publisher at MacMillan of Canada & McClelland & Stewart did the Toast to the Immortal Memory; The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair, Minister of Metropolitan United Church, Toronto, did the Toast to the Lassies; and Harry Stewart Ferguson, CEO of Glen Roy Resources Inc. and founding Chair of the Scottish Studies Foundation at University of Guelph, did the Toast to the Twa Lands.

And he found that in Canada ... he wrote the famous "Shooting of Dan McGrew" and "The Cremation of Sam McGee," among others, capturing the field and the spirit of the Yukon and its people. In his most seminal work, "Rhymes of a Red Cross Man," he wrote the most moving accounts of Canadian soldiers in the First World War, in which he served himself. The dedication of the work reads, "To the memory of my brother Lieutenant Albert Service, Canadian Infantry, killed in action, France 1916." Two Scots brothers named Service in service to Canada in poetry and blood. Robert Service, like some of us here tonight owes a great deal to Scotland and Canada.

Throughout Canada's history the Scots have played a major role in its development and for all you MacKenzies here tonight, we must acknowledge Sir Alexander MacKenzie, the great explorer who contributed a great deal to the trading network in the North of the country and also a great deal of exploration. Strangely enough, he achieved his greatest fame by totally failing in his greatest venture, that of finding a water route across Canada. He failed because there is no such thing but nevertheless he found fame by being the first white man to cross Canada by land. This intrepid Canadian explorer crossed the continent 32 years before Lewis and Clark in the USA. When you consider the fact that you could lose virtually the whole of Scotland in a single Rocky Mountain valley, you wonder how it felt to be Alexander MacKenzie on that summer morning just over two hundred years ago when this highlander, still in his twenties, but already understanding more about the geography of this country than any other man alive, realized that his canoe was floating in salt water. In the last stage of his epic journey he had travelled some 1200 rough miles in seventy-four days, 240 on foot, dragging supplies and canoe and 960 of those miles on streams and rivers, at the last, inscribing on a rock at Bella Coola, on the edge of the Pacific, the simple message "Alexander MacKenzie from Canada by land 22 July 1793."

Now, interestingly enough, Sir Alexander was a contemporary of Robert Burns. He was born in the western isles of Scotland in 1764. So, the poet would have been five years old when MacKenzie was born. MacKenzie also shared a number of the poet's interests, unfortunately these were principally drinking and fathering illegitimate children.

A case in point comes from Peter C. Newman's book entitled "Company of Adventurers," the story of the Hudson's Bay Company. In it, he describes how the Scottish Marquis of Lorne, then Governor General of Canada and the husband of Princess Louise, the first

Colonel in Chief of this regiment, made his first national tour of the Empire of the Bay in 1881. He found himself at Rats Portage in northwestern Ontario. He asked the local HBC Factor to introduce him to a typical Indian. The Bay man motioned for the fiercest looking brave to come forward "Would you come here for a minute, MacDonald?"

In this work, Newman describes how this empire became almost entirely Scottish; the Bay purposely recruiting Scots. Being used to a harsh environment and wild and lonely places, they were a natural fit for managing such an enterprise. He confirms that the company's trading posts eventually reached from the shores of the Arctic Ocean to the sweaty docks of San Francisco and beyond. It encompassed nearly three million square miles and was ten times the size of the Holy Roman Empire at its height. It covered one-twelfth of the earth's surface and there has never been a business enterprise like it anywhere else on the planet. The Hudson's Bay Company was an excellent example of the Twa Lands coming together.

I dug out an account of a dinner that MacKenzie and some of his colleagues had at Lachine, Quebec before setting off north to do a bit of trading and exploratory work, but there's little point in reading it because it sounds just like a typical gathering of Scotsmen who all wind up stewed out of their minds and flat under the table and as so many of you here tonight have personal experience of that sort of thing I didn't think it was worthwhile repeating it. The Scots, drink and Canada have always been synonymous and another very famous, maybe the most famous of all Scottish Canadians, who also took a very good drink, was our first Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald. Macdonald was a politician of great natural charm and spirit, which was especially strong when he exhaled. He was having trouble with one of his colleagues by the name of MacLeod. He called him into his office and said "There's not room for two drunks in this administration, you'll have to go MacLeod."

He was a strong man though, for he united this nation with two ribbons of steel that ran from sea to shining sea. One Canadian historian said of him that even half cut he was brighter and keener than men around him who were cold sober. Still the jokes persist. Stewart McLean in his history of Canada said that after he had formed a committee to come up with suggestions for a motto for Canada, the one he liked the best was "a mari usque ad mare" for he thought this meant: "I'll have a little water with the whiskey."

To be continued, next issue ...

MEMORIES FROM A PIONEER FAMILY

The following is the final 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.

In 1881 Uncle Jim went on a trip to Scotland and there fell in love with Alice Henderson and became engaged to her. Grandfather built a rough-cast house for them, now called "The Shop" and then grandfather went home to Scotland and brought Alice out in 1863. The following letter was sent home by him while on this trip:

Corbet House, June 5th, 1863.

Dear Wife: I have been down to Newcastle and seen all my friends and I am sorry to say that I did not have the pleasure among them that I had expected. Though they were kind, yet I found things so different from what I expected, and even in their religion I found no comfort. They have, to me, rather strange notions but for a wonder I heard all and said nothing. Upon the whole I found that you had understood the whole better than I gave you credit for but as I can talk it better than I can write I will say no more on the subject.

Robert's father is in Newcastle and very keen to come with me but I am not sure yet if I will bring him or not. I would have liked to have had your advice but as I cannot get it, I will have to act on my own responsibility but although you feel satisfied that you had seen further into futurity than I did, you will be astonished to hear that I walked from here down to Newcastle and back, with the exception of from Robert's to Bellengham. In coming back I was at George Murray's and, if I was disappointed in others, I found all my expectations more than realized here. I had expected to find in Barbara much that was good and excellent but my thoughts contrary to common rule, came far short of the real it. She is indeed a pattern for women to copy. I have been there and will have to go again.

Tell James that Alice is well and in good heart and very strong. I have had fine weather for two weeks and crops look well. Everything sells high. Sales of stock have been as high as two or three pounds for a ewe and lamb; beef and mutton eight pence half penny per pound and cows from 12 to 20 pounds.

I have still a good deal of visiting to do. I have had good health since I was one week on the sea. I have never found any of my old complaint and feel almost young again. I have not had a sore head since I came until today it is rather bad.

I got your letter yesterday when I came here and was glad to hear that you were all well and sorry to hear that William was ill and that you took care of him even to the prejudice of your own health. Dear Elspeth I cannot tell you how glad I was that you cared for him but I could not for a moment have thought that you would have done otherwise, knowing as I do your natural kindness of heart. Dearest how pleasant it is to look back on acts of love and kindness done to our fellow creatures in distress for if we love not our brother whom we have seen, how can we love God whom we have not seen.

Dear James, you say that you have hard work to keep things in their place. Strive to keep up your place in the house. You are the head of the house in my absence and you know the duty devolving on you in that capacity, and dear son, if you do not begin now when do you intend to begin? You will be no better a year hence than you are now and you know the danger of delay in things belonging to eternity.

Give my love to Barbara and Andrew and do not forget Sis, for I do not, but all have my best love. We intend to come away on the first day of July. If you get this in time write, if not it will be no use. I will write again soon. Give my love to all my friends, so no more, but remain your loving father and friend, William S. Elliot

The young people lived on the farm for a few years and then grandfather bought them a farm at St. Mary's. They afterwards sold that and moved to Hamilton and later to Paris. When father married, the farm was rented to him, and his father lived with us, retired to the care of the sheep and his garden. This garden, fenced in a picket fence, was filled with fruit trees and a vegetable garden and took in the space from the front verandah to the barn and was forbidden ground to children unless with a grown person.

An old account book gives an idea of prices received for produce. November, 1866 – 1 cord wood \$1.50, 1 quarter mutton 11 lbs. at 7 cents, 9 bushels apples at 37 cents, a visit from the doctor 75 cents.

Grandfather died in 1881 at the age of 75 years. He was honored and trusted by all who knew him. He would accept no public office other than being an elder in the U.P. Church. I think I can see him now as he worked in the garden or fed the pet lambs, or walked about the farm, or as he sat in his arm chair beside the fire.