



# The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Walt Elliot

It looks like 2007 is going to be a very busy year. Anne and I are looking forward to attending a number of Elliot Clan events with enthusiasm. On April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 we attended an Ontario West luncheon at the Harmony Restaurant in London. If you are ever in London and relish a Chinese meal we recommend this restaurant highly. It's quite large and has an extensive buffet with a large, diverse selection of food. The owner David is a most congenial host and a great chef.

On June 9<sup>th</sup> we took part in the Georgetown Highland Games. Our member Greg Ball of Acton organizes the parade of the clans and bands, capably assisted by his wife Bonnie. They both serve as directors of the games and do a great job. We plan to attend the annual lamb roast in Navan June 16<sup>th</sup>, a dinner in New Brunswick July 5<sup>th</sup>, the International Gathering of the Clans in Nova Scotia July 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, the Maxville Games August 4<sup>th</sup>, the Trent's event in Chelsea August 5<sup>th</sup>, the Fergus Scottish Festival August 11<sup>th</sup> and an Alberta event at Ghost Lake September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our plans may have to be modified as Anne's mum who is 97 and in a nursing home here in Milton may need our attention.

Looking forward to meeting many of you over the summer.



*Greg Ball sports the Clan tartan in the parade at the Georgetown Highland Games*



*Marshall Elliott chats with Nicholas Elliott at the Georgetown Highland Games*

Please welcome with me the following new members:

- #1040 Roy & Ruth Nickels ON W
- #1041 Phil & Cheryl Elliott ON E
- #1042 & 1043 Andrew & Jonas Elliott ON E
- #1044 Victoria Elliott ON E
- #1045 Noreen & Neil Herdman AB
- #1046 Loretta Kerslake ON W
- # 1047 Jaqueline Weston ON C
- #1048 Wade Elliot AB

One of our founding members, Phyllis Maude Elliott, passed away on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006. We have included a copy of the Memorial Service brochure sent to us by her son, George Elliott (10). Our sincerest sympathies are extended to George and the family.

### PHYLLIS MAUDE ELLIOTT

August 31, 1921 – December 26, 2006

Phyllis Maude Elliott (nee Holden) was born in Toronto on August 31, 1921. The daughter of John and Maude Holden, she and her sister Helen and brothers, Jack and Tom, grew up on Thornwood Road. Summers were spent at Parklands, their summer home on the shores of Lake Simcoe, near Shanty Bay, Ontario.

Phyllis first attended the Toronto French School then moved to Branksome Hall. I was told that on many an afternoon in her senior year, she and her friend, Margaret Cross skipped

classes to take in an afternoon matinee at the local movie theatre. After matriculating from Branksome Hall, she spent a year at Northern Secondary School before heading off to Victoria College at the University of Toronto. In 1943 she graduated with a degree in household sciences and began work as a dietician.

When she was not at Parklands, Phyllis was undoubtedly at Camp Onawaw on Lake Vernon near Huntsville, Ontario. It was here at Onawaw that Phyllis began friendships that have lasted to this day. She, along with Vera Chamberlain, Barbara Martin, and Valerie Johnston enjoyed canoeing, archery, and a dip before you dine. The highlight of each summer was a Gilbert and Sullivan production. Phyllis enjoyed listening to these wonderful operettas throughout her life.

In the mid 1940s Phyllis and Valerie Johnston joined the Toronto Badminton and Racket Club in the hope of finding handsome young men. It worked! On December 27, 1947 Phyllis married George Elliott. Son George, was born in 1949, Helen in 1950, and Judy in 1954.

In 1951 they moved from their home on Lawrence Avenue West to their newly built home at 16 Don Road in York Mills. They lived there for the next 30 years.

Phyllis was active both at home and with a number of organizations. As a Guider, she helped out as a Brownie leader and served on committees at the provincial level. She volunteered at North York General Hospital, was a member of the Chamberlain Chapter of the IODE (Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire) and the Hope Circle of the Big Sisters Association (now Youth Link). The latter included spending an afternoon a week, up until the last couple of years, working at the Big Sister's Thrift Shop on Avenue Road. The Big Sisters meant a great deal to her, which is why we felt it fitting to suggest donations to Youth Link in her memory.

In 1954, Phyllis and George built a cottage in Windermere, Muskoka. It became a focal point for the family for 52 summers. For many summers both the Chamberlain and Johnston families joined all the Elliots, maintaining Phyllis' lifelong friendships from Onawaw. It was not long before Helen and Judy joined the Onawaw tradition as campers. Phyllis loved the cottage as a place to relax and enjoy her family. She tended her garden and watched expectantly for a variety of birds and wildlife to drop by. Mealtimes were quite the event, especially when everyone was visiting. She was a wonderful cook, but one who liked to do it all herself. From nutty drummers to roast lamb, to say nothing of her blueberry pies and refrigerator soup, it was all scrumptious. As her children grew, so did the family. There was Matthew the mutt, followed by Rocky the schnauzer, then Lucy the

pug. There was also Tiger the cat and now Willow and Charlie. Helen married Jacques Dessart and soon James and Alice were born. Judy married David Bullis and Katie arrived. George married Linda and they have Elizabeth and Matthew. James is now married to Sophie, Alice to Andrew, and Elizabeth to Petri. Judy's partner, Lise, has brought three more grandchildren into the family, Patrick, Nora, and Ellen. It is quite the clan!

Both Phyllis and George were curlers. Whether at the Granite Club or the Donalds Club, she enjoyed either ladies or mixed league play, along with special bonspiels. Knowing George's ultra competitive nature, I suspect Phyllis deserves a medal for staying calm in the midst of "Sweep! Sweep! Can't you sweep harder?"

Phyllis was an avid traveller. She and George had trips to Bermuda, Mexico, Jamaica, Scotland and England. Family trips included New Orleans, Florida, and Hilton Head Island. In 1967 she and the kids drove to Montreal for Expo '67 and to Nova Scotia. On the way home, thanks to her planning, we ended up on Parliament Hill on July 1<sup>st</sup> for Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

Phyllis and George eventually bought a place in Florida and made regular trips south prior to George's retirement. Once retired, they spent the winter months at their place at Maple Leaf Estates in Port Charlotte, Florida. Mum joined the 'stitch and bitch' group, the community choir, and lawn bowled with George. She always looked forward to annual visits from the Dessart family and others when they could make it down. Their travelling continued in retirement, with Caribbean cruises, a cruise down the Danube (and yes, the Danube was very, very blue), and trips to Nova Scotia and Scotland with the Elliott Clan Association. When George was unable to travel with her, she went to Africa with her friend Margaret Cross, to Russia with her granddaughter Alice, and on Mediterranean and Alaskan cruises with her daughter Helen.

Phyllis was an accomplished cross-stitcher whose pieces adorn all her families' walls. She also enjoyed decoupage and knitting. Unfortunately, in her later years she was diagnosed with Macular Degeneration, which significantly impaired her sight and made it impossible to carry on her craft activities. These and her reading were replaced by talking books and tapes. Thankfully, she could still see at the movie theatre and took in a film or two on a regular basis.

Phyllis was a strong and very independent woman. Despite her limited eyesight, she continued to live on her own after George's death on December 4, 2002. Not being able to drive was no barrier. Taxi cabs were the perfect solution to

do errands, grocery shop, and get to her weekly hairdresser's appointments.

She was not a morning person. Thank heavens for her strong black coffee and George's early tee off times. She was, however, always there for you when you needed her, in her own quiet way. She generously gave to both her family and to the needs of others. She gave her children the gift of independence, the value of family, the security of unconditional love, praise for success, support in failure, and a reminder that once you come home, some things do not have to change. So much of who we are is because of her.

## A YOUTHFUL PERSPECTIVE by Leslie Elliot

Last week I graduated college – it was a very busy weekend. The day before the graduation, here in the Soo the temperatures were in the area that we normally get in July. That night, my aunt and my grandma came up. When they got here we sat and talked for a couple of hours, finally deciding to go to bed.

The next day, the day of the graduation, was busy. My brother and I woke up early (well I woke up first). Slowly the rest of the house woke up as well. I took a shower then I went and got my hair done. After I got home we had to go on a quick shopping trip, my grandmother needed a camera for the ceremony.

After we got all that we needed we went back home and I got my makeup done and then I went down to the arena where the ceremony was taking place. I waited around the arena for an hour until the actual ceremony took place. Half an hour before the ceremony we were all lined up ready for the processional and we were told, "When you hear the bagpipes start walking." So then we heard the bagpipes start so we walked a couple feet and then they stopped. Then a couple of minutes later we heard the bagpipes start again so we started to walk again. We got a bit further and then they stopped again. This was really annoying for everyone because it continued on like this for at least ten minutes.

Once we actually got out onto the floor I saw what a huge amount of people were graduating and thought that it was going to be a long afternoon. It turned out though, that it went by pretty quickly. After the ceremony we went back to our house and hung out for a while before we went to dinner. It was a nice night.

One of the funniest things that I heard that night was from one of my friends. She has been to all of my graduations, and handed me a card at dinner and said, "This feels really familiar."

Mum, Grandma, Phyllis we will cherish you memory forever.



I laughed and told her that "It should it's only been a year since the last one."

Then my dad said, "Well the next one is in four years in St. Catharines."

After he said this she cheered and said, "Alright, road trip."



*Leslie with proud parents Cheryl and Steve Elliot*

## THE NEXT GENERATION



Congratulations to Hugh Quinn and Elizabeth Elliott, who welcomed their son Declan John Walter Elliott, on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

# CHAPTER REPORTS

## NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

*Chapter Secretary Barry Buckman reports:*

Spring has been rather cool in Nova Scotia but we haven't had to contend with an excessive amount of rain.

The 2007 Elliot Clan Spring Fling was held at the Community Hall in Tiverton on May 5<sup>th</sup>. A brief executive meeting preceded the luncheon which was a potluck affair. There was a pleasing variety of food for the thirty-four members and guests in attendance. Tickets were sold on a stuffed rabbit toy dressed in Elliot tartan. It was purchased from the Clan Room at Redheugh, Scotland. Lillian Elliott of Tiverton elicited much laughter from the crowd when she recounted humorous incidents of early married life with her late husband, Aubrey. A lively auction followed the meal which featured many interesting items donated by our members.

Gail Fudge gave a stellar performance as auctioneer once again.

As mentioned before, the International Gathering of the Clans is being hosted in Nova Scotia this year. There are many events taking place across the province from May through September. We are very pleased that our Canadian President of The Elliot Clan Society, Walt Elliot and his wife Anne, will be joining us for some activities in early July. There will be an Elliot Clan Dinner at the Citadel Halifax Hotel on July 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm and, earlier in the day, our Chapter will have a display tent at the site of the Metro Highland Games. Several of our members will attend an evening performance at the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo. The Tattoo is a spectacular show which runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> and has been named North America's number one event.

Our Annual General Meeting and Dinner will take place in October as usual. This event will be held in the Annapolis Valley at a venue to be determined later.

Please don't hesitate to contact us for information or assistance regarding the International Gathering of the Clans or any of our Clan Chapter's events. If you plan to travel to Nova Scotia, we would be glad to help in any way that we can. On behalf of our Nova Scotia Chapter, I wish every everybody a happy and safe summer.

## EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

*Chapter Treasurer Linda Elliott-Doshen reports:*

Once again, our first event for 2007 will be our Annual June Lamb Barbeque on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 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. Potluck as usual and \$10 will be collected to cover lamb costs.

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

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

In regard to the recruitment of a new president we are still holding our breath for a volunteer! Clearly, it is not possible to replace Helen, our outstanding president of twenty years and no one dares try!

REMEMBER: The Annual Elliott Clan of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec's June Lamb Barbeque and Potluck, Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at Ross and Helene's in Navan. A new event on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup> 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:*

In the last newsletter I shared the municipal proclamation (City of Peterborough) acknowledging World Tartan Day this recent April. Needless to say the local print media picked up the story allowing a colour picture of yours truly wearing the full kilt of the Elliot tartan. Additionally a number of Elliot-types have contacted me, along with other Scots, and there well may be a Tartan Ball this coming St. Andrews Day in late November. Consequently I would encourage Elliots to approach their municipal governments early in 2008 to proclaim a day in April as World Tartan Day, and that



can bring attention not just to our heritage but to our clan. The letter that was sent to the Mayor and the proclamation can be e-mailed or mailed to any member at all if one so chooses by contacting me.

Greg and Bonnie Ball (925) have positioned the Elliot Clan on the Avenue of the Clans at the Georgetown Highland Games again this year. Congrats to both of you for your leadership and I will be attending on June 9<sup>th</sup> to assist the Balls. As folks will recall, this is the season for Highland Games and Festivals. One not to be missed is the North Durham (Uxbridge) Highland Games on July 12<sup>th</sup>: it is set in a beautiful park with ample shade within a glorious wood. The 'mother' of all festivals is the Fergus Scottish Festival on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. My wife, Bonnie, and I have been attending for a good ten years and it is an absolute experience. Many members of the Clan attend and I would encourage all Elliots to make an effort to attend a festival this summer/fall. If we all could be like Greg and Bonnie Ball we could have our clan display/tent in use to attract more members.

Our fall event with Anne and Walter Elliot, Canadian Region President, is under planning and also is a great opportunity to meet and mingle and see who we are all related to. Further information will be forthcoming. Please contact me if any questions at all or regarding the World Tartan Day initiative.

## ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

*Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:*

Ontario West Chapter held a spring luncheon on April 14<sup>th</sup> at Harmony House Buffet, London, ON. This occasion, arranged by John and Catherine Shaw, was a get-together to visit with other members. A sumptuous Chinese buffet was enjoyed by all. We were pleased to have Walter Elliot join us.

We are all looking forward to the summer picnic on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Once again Jim and Shirley Elliott have offered to host the picnic at their lovely summer home in Port Burwell.

Congratulations to Jim and Shirley who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in April of this year.

Allan and Carole Nickels will be setting up a table representing Ontario West Chapter at Highland Games in Embro on July 1<sup>st</sup>; Kincardine on July 7<sup>th</sup>; Chatham on July 14<sup>th</sup> and Cambridge on July 21<sup>st</sup>. They will also be attending the games in Fergus on August 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. If

you are in these areas, drop by and say hi. Allan is always looking for new members.

Annual General Meeting will be held Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at St. Aidan's Church, London, ON – programme to be announced.

Hope everyone has a safe and happy summer.



*Catherine Elliot-Shaw, David the owner of the Harmony Restaurant, John Shaw*



*Back Row L to R: Al Nickels, Glen French, Peter Elliott, John Shaw, Walt Elliot. In the middle David the owner of the Harmony restaurant. Front Row: Barbara Elliott, Catherine Elliot-Shaw, Carol Nickels*

## SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair Clifford Elliott reports:*

The weather out here in the west has been off and on. Today it's cloudy, we had a few days of showers, and we had a day or two of hot weather.

I hope everyone has a good summer.

## ALBERTA CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair Robert Elliott reports:*

The annual general meeting of the Alberta Chapter was held in Calgary on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007 at 2:30 pm, at the Varsity Estates Recreation Centre. Nine faithful members and one visitor attended.

## THE TWA LANDS

*Following is the continuation of a toast made by Harry Ferguson, father of Evelyn Elliot, assistant newsletter editor, at the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' Burns Dinner on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007.*

Stewart McLean also taught us to laugh at our climate, he states that Wolfe when informed he had won the battle of Quebec and told they'd have to winter in Canada, decided to die instead. But on the serious and certainly more romantic side, there is a Canadian ghost story concerning Wolfe. When Wolfe was on the field of Culloden he was a staff officer under General Hawley. He and other officers were on that part of the field, after the battle, which was thick with the dead of Clan Fraser. Their commander, young Charles Fraser of Inverallochie lay dying and Wolfe was kneeling by his side giving him water. His commander, General Hawley rode up and told Wolfe to "pistol the rebel dog." Wolfe refused, offering his commission instead.

Years later, dying on the Plains of Abraham, those around who were comforting Wolfe heard him ask who the young man was holding his arms out to him, they could not see what he was talking about and put it down to the delirium of approaching death. One officer said he heard Wolfe mutter "it's Fraser of Inverallochie."

Canada's second Prime Minister was another Alexander MacKenzie, no relation to the other. Born in Perthshire, Scotland in 1822. He became Canada's first Liberal Prime Minister, tried to do the first trade deal with the USA; refused a knighthood from Queen Victoria and died in Toronto in 1892. It was said of him that he had such a grasp of detail on the structure of industry that he set the young country well on the road to prosperity. Then there was William Lyon MacKenzie born in Dundee in 1795. He was a rabble-rouser and among other things became the first mayor of Toronto but I think his best claim to fame is that he was the grandfather of MacKenzie King, Canada's longest serving Prime Minister. Probably the best politician was Tommy Douglas, a mixture of honest decency and

It is planned that the clan will be represented at Highland games in High River, Calgary And Canmore and possibly Red Deer and Stettler.

A picnic get-together is planned at the summer cottage of the Huene's at Ghost Lake on September 15<sup>th</sup> and all clan members are invited to attend.

political acumen that both stunned and made him beloved by his colleagues. Born in 1904 in Falkirk Scotland, who when he came here could never have dreamt that he would be voted one day the greatest Canadian, in a nation-wide CBC poll. It is a remarkable contribution from a small land; of limited resources whose only export was its people. Their names are sown across this land that they loved in the gravestones that are scattered on Canadian soil from the Atlantic to the Pacific. They are carved into the sides of the nation's buildings and lettered on many a street corner. John Kenneth Galbraith wrote about the Scottish inhabitants of Glengarry County up by the Quebec border. His salute to them, which he entitled 'The Scotch' is filled with humour and pathos about these remarkably tough people and how they coped with life. Lord Selkirk spent a fortune establishing the Red River valley settlement in 1811. Those settlers came out here onto the prairies under Selkirk with only two things in their hands – a copy of the King James authorized translation in one, and in the other a copy of the poems of Robert Burns. They gave the name to the city of Calgary, named after Calgary Bay on the Hebridean Island of Mull, and laid the foundations of the city of Winnipeg and the province of Manitoba.



*Assistant Newsletter Editor, Evelyn Elliot (centre) with parents Kathleen and Harry Ferguson*

They gained a place in Canadian history as inventors, engineers and educators. James McGill, a Glasgow fur trader, gave his name to the University his bequest founded in Montreal in 1821. James Ross born in Cromarty in 1848, financed and partly built streetcar systems for Toronto and Montreal, Alexander Graham Bell, born in Edinburgh in 1847 made the first long distance telephone call, this world ever saw, from the little town of Paris, Ontario. The highland Scots who sailed to Pictou, Nova Scotia, in 1773 on the Hector and who pioneered the large scale emigration of Scots to Nova Scotia were fleeing the overcrowding, starvation and persecution that followed the defeat of Prince Charlie's Jacobite army at Culloden. The Hector, by the way, was larger than the Mayflower and carried more passengers. The story of what these highlanders did in Nova Scotia is truly heroic. They cleared a way literally for the others to follow. The durability of these people is amazing. To quote Donald MacKay, who wrote 'Scotland Farewell.'

"For Alexander Cameron, the road from Culloden had been long. The Loch Broom boy who had witnessed the Battle of 1746, which had ended an ancient way of life, and sailed to Pictou Harbour on the Hector at the age of 44 to build a farm at Loch Broom, Nova Scotia, died at the great age of 103 on August 15, 1831. He left a widow, eight children, 63 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren, and there are Cameron descendants from this one man in every Canadian province. Within his lifetime he had witnessed both the seeding and the flowering of highland life in the New Scotland." Hard and grim-faced men as they were, they never lost their faith in God or their sense of humour as witnessed by a modern sign on a golf course in Pictou County: "You may lie about the number of strokes you took to kill a snake in the heather; but you know, and so does the big handicapper in the sky from whom nothing is hidden."

It's an amazing historical canvas when you look back on it filled with vibrant characters and it puts the lie to the observation that Canadian history is dull. But of the two countries today one must ask, Quo vadis Scotland? Quo vadis Canada? – Where are we going? Well, we won't see the same waves of immigration coming from Scotland as we once did: that has all changed. Scotland is now looking eastward not westward and is on the threshold of an exciting new deal. Britain, leaving behind a great imperial heritage and fumbling toward a fresh relationship with Europe, is undergoing profound changes. Scotland is bound to be affected by them and must surely try to influence them. She can do so most effectively by matching her talents to her potentialities, having taken back her own parliament after 300 years, she can sustain the partnership with England, Wales and

Ireland and thus strengthening the whole. So that future historians may say of the present: "By finding herself, Scotland made a unique contribution to Britain and Europe." But what of our own country Canada? Well, through two world wars, economic depression and adversity of every sort, Canada attained the highest levels of respect and appreciation for its two languages and cultural differences. It put together a whole network of support to strengthen its social cohesion, an achievement that has gained, for Canada, unparalleled international admiration. The country has been able to cope with its regional, linguistic and cultural tensions. It has adjusted and learned from its mistakes, and has emerged as a truly humanistic society, one defined by respect for the rights and freedoms of its citizens. The vision of its founders at Charlottetown was a just one; the test of time confirms it. Yet isolationist ideas and voices of discord have emerged, ideas and voices that would divide us into an indefinite number of smaller nations and undermine the vision that made this country great. This is a self-destructive aberration – a trap from which no society can emerge other than balkanized. In the words of Winston Churchill "Of this I am quite sure, if we open a quarrel between the past and the present, we shall find we have lost the future." What must we do?

Let us look for an answer from those other voices from the gravestones of those Scottish settlers that stretch across the land from the Atlantic shore to Bella Coola where young MacKenzie scratched out his message on that rock, that colourful parade of men and women who first came in their hundreds and then in their thousands, their voices can still be heard. They are saying, "We flew from political and economic persecution, from old European enmities and internecine struggle and religious class and ethnic hatreds: we found a land of prosperity and peace, we found a land that became united. In our memory and for your sakes keep Canada united – that is their message. Keep Canada united! Ladies and gentlemen ... let us not lose the future!

Please stand with me in a toast.

To the two lands – Scotland and Canada.

