



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



Volume 14, Issue 1

February 2008

President's Report by Walt Elliot

Best wishes for good health and happiness to all in 2008!

Back in October 2007 we enjoyed the annual Central Ontario Chapter luncheon at the Harrop House in Milton. This was followed by an equally enjoyable AGM with the Western Ontario Chapter on November 10th in London. I will leave the detail of these meetings to the chapter chairs.

Our webmaster, Steve Elliott (856) of Calgary has renovated the Elliot Clan website. If you have access to the internet you should visit the website, as the aim is to make it more user friendly. He has also added a discussion forum that contains three main sections: one for events; the second for genealogy; and the third is for Executive members.

The 2009 International Gathering in Edinburgh, Scotland is approaching very fast. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a copy of an e-mail received recently from our Chief, Margaret Elliott of Redheugh, which indicates those wishing to attend must act immediately on arranging accommodation as it will be in demand. She has reserved 29 rooms for Elliots at a convenient hotel. A deposit is required. The International Gathering in Edinburgh is the 25th and 26th of July, 2009. The Elliot Gathering in Newcastleton near Redheugh is the 22nd of July. I'm sure more information about these two events will be in Chief Margaret's next newsletter. We will include a copy of Chief Margaret's e-mail, which contains the hotel contact information.

Greg and Bonnie Ball, our membership Secretaries, both now serve on the Board of Directors of the Georgetown Highland Games which are always held the second weekend in June. They would appreciate some volunteer help particularly from Central Ontario Chapter members in manning the Elliot Clan tent at midday as they have responsibilities regarding the parading of the clans about noon. If you are available please call them at 519-853-3155. They would prefer not to leave the tent unattended.

MEMBERSHIP

Your 2008 membership card is included with your newsletter in this mailing. Thank you very much for your co-operation in renewing your membership in a timely fashion. In January, I sent out a gentle reminder to those who had not renewed by January 6th, 2008. Again there was an immediate gratifying response. To the few who still haven't renewed by the June newsletter a final renewal notice will be sent. Unfortunately their names will then be removed from the membership list if we don't hear from them by September.



*Central Ontario Chapter luncheon:
Walt Elliot and Marshall Wallace*

THE GATHERING, EDINBURGH, JULY 25/26 2009

The following information was sent in an e-mail from our Chief, Margaret Elliott of Redheugh:

Katie at Cashel Travel has block booked 29 bedrooms at the Royal Terrace Hotel over the Edinburgh Gathering Weekend July 25/26 2009 for the nights of Friday, Saturday and Sunday. These are set aside for members of the Elliot Clan Society only. A deposit will be required to reserve one.

You can reserve a bedroom straight through their website on casheltravel.com. A quick email to

redheugh@btinternet.com would be appreciated so that I can get an idea of who is planning to come to Edinburgh. The prices are quite high and I am sure there are people who will want to stay somewhere cheaper but this is a pretty central location and I have been told that Edinburgh is already filling up for that weekend.

At the moment we are planning to hold our Gathering on the Wednesday before with a Ceilidh.

website: www.thegathering2009.com

DISCUSSION BOARD

Following is information that was sent in an e-mail from Steve Elliott, Elliot Clan Society Webmaster:

I have recently upgraded the hosting for the Elliot Clan Society website, and have made a few updates and added a discussion forum.

I had created a Yahoo Groups one several years ago and it's quite active, with approximately 350 members registered. I would like to eventually direct those people to the one on the ECS website and shut the Yahoo one down, as it will be easier to moderate and will drive participants to the ECS website instead of Yahoo.

Before I do that, I would like to test the new discussion forum a bit. It's a well known product that is used on

many sites, but I would like to test the setup and configuration. You can access the discussion forum at:

<http://www.elliotclan.com/forum>

It does require registration to participate (although anyone can read the discussions), so please register for an account.

I've set up three forum areas:

- Events
- Genealogy
- Executive – this will be for ECS executive / board / chapter members only, and will not be visible to the public or other people who register.

CHAPTER REPORTS

NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

Chapter Secretary Barry Buckman reports:

I hope that everyone is coping well at mid-winter across the country. Here in Nova Scotia, the weather pattern has been fluctuations between frigid and very mild.

Our Chapter held their Annual General Meeting and Dinner at the Royal Canadian Legion in Kentville on October 20th, 2007. The Legion ladies catered a wonderful meal consisting of roast pork, assorted vegetables, rolls, tea and coffee and a variety of pies. There were twenty-two in attendance. Wendy Elliott held the winning ticket for the 50/50 draw. Murray

Elliott accepted the nomination of Chapter Chair for the coming year. Nancy Buckman was thanked for efforts during her two-year term at this position. Kaye Watt assumed the role of Vice-Chair. The other Executive members remain in their positions.

Plans are in place for the Elliot Clan Spring Fling. It will be held at the Campbell Senior Centre in Cole Harbour on May 10th. An Executive meeting at 11:30 a.m. will precede the pot luck luncheon.

If Elliot Clan members from away are travelling to Nova Scotia and would like to join us at a function, please contact me at tel. (902) 839-2965 or e-mail bdeanbuckman@hotmail.com. Stay safe and warm this winter and have a very pleasant spring.

EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

Chapter Treasurer Linda Elliott-Doshen reports:

All the best in 2008. Once again, we had a lovely, snowy, winter evening for The Elliott Clan of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec's Annual Christmas Open House, as 18 members of our Chapter had a wee sip, wee visit, caught up with 'the news' and had a delicious homemade potluck dinner. We are all very excited about Bob and Eve's new house and can hardly wait to visit. It was great fun to host once again and to catch up with everyone's news!

In 2008 we are planning to repeat the same three excellent EOWQ Clan events that we had this year beginning with our Lamb Barbeque on Saturday, June 14th, 2008, at Ross and Helene's lovely, warm home and garden in Navan. We hope to see you all there. As usual \$10.00 will be collected to cover Lamb costs.

Last summer we were very fortunate to add a new event at John and Colette's lovely, country home on the river, in Chelsea, Quebec for a barbeque, pool and croquet afternoon. John and Colette have graciously agreed to host us once again on Sunday, August 3rd for a barbeque, pool and croquet afternoon. As usual \$10.00 will be collected to cover any costs. And, most importantly, Andrew and I have agreed to demonstrate how to play croquet properly and nicely with all challengers...best practice!

The Maxville Glengarry Highland Games are on the first weekend in August again this year. Helen, Dorothy, John, Colette and I had a wonderful Saturday there last year, and hope you will join us in 2008. There is nothing as hauntingly beautiful as dozens of massed pipe bands playing 'Amazing Grace.'

Please mark these dates on your calendar. We hope they fit with your schedule.

REMEMBER – You are Invited to: The Annual Elliott Clan of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec's June Lamb Barbeque and Potluck, Saturday, June 14th, 2008 at Ross and Helene's, in Navan. And our new Croquet, Swim and Potluck event on Sunday, August 3rd, 2008 at John and Colette Trent's, in Chelsea. Our Annual Christmas Potluck we will discuss later but probably it will be on Sunday, December 7th. We hope to see all of you at these events.

I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and an awesome 2008. Our warmest wishes and thoughts continue to be with all of you. And in other news Helen still says she's retired so we still need a President...

ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Marshall Elliott reports:

Our chapter of the Clan Elliott Society sponsored our annual luncheon in the fall at the Harrop House in Milton. Due to a conflict, Bonnie and I were not able to attend, but our President, Walter Elliot, as usual rose to the occasion and ensured that all had an enjoyable respite. Needless to say, Walter was most admirably assisted by Anne.



Central Ontario Chapter luncheon, from back to front: Evelyn Ferguson Elliot, Paul Elliot, Anne Elliot, Bonnie Ball, Tina Elliot and Walt Elliot

On behalf of our chapter I will again be approaching the Mayor and Warden of Peterborough City and County respectively. World Tartan Day is celebrated world-wide in April of each year in recognition of the Treaty of Arbroath, 1320, whereby Robert the Bruce declared the independence of the Scots. A simple letter to the mayor requesting that a day in April be set aside in recognition of the historic Scottish influence in your community and municipality is all that is required. This day is celebrated in many, many municipalities (New York, Melbourne, Peterborough, Halifax, Ottawa) around the globe. I believe it to be an excellent opportunity for members of the Clan Elliott Society to get our clan's name associated with such a cultural declaration in your community. There is no requirement to appear before Council; chief electoral officers such as mayors have the authority to declare such events.

In our last newsletter I noted that the year 2009 will see the first ever event in Edinburgh called "The Gathering." All clans from around the world are invited to attend this event in September '09 as a global celebration of our culture and clansmanship. There will be more information available throughout this coming year as plans are now beginning to take firm shape!

ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:

Ontario West Chapter held their Annual General Meeting on November 10th, 2007 at St. Aidan's Anglican Church, London, Ontario. Twenty-four members turned out for an excellent turkey dinner served buffet style by the Belmont Town Restaurant and Catering. Thanks to John Shaw for finding this great caterer. Once again while waiting for lunch, we were able to watch the deer feeding in Sifton Bog. What a sight!

We were delighted to welcome our Canadian President, Walter Elliot, and his wife Anne. It is always a pleasure to have them join us. Walter brought us greetings from our Chief, Margaret Elliott of Redheugh. He also told us about the Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh in July 2009 and an anticipated Canadian gathering at the Fergus Games in 2008.

Our guest speaker was Constable Graham Williamson of the London Police Department, Community Services. He presented a very informative talk on Security/Safety Issues in our daily lives.

Many thanks go to Al and Carole Nickels for representing Ontario West Chapter at various Highland Games this past summer.

The current Executive was unanimously returned to office for another two years.

Upcoming events in 2008 include a Spring Luncheon on April 12th; Picnic on July 20th at Len and Catherine Elliot's Maple Sugar Farm near Ingersoll and Annual General Meeting on November 1st at St. Aidan's Anglican Church, London, Ontario.

That's all for now.

SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Clifford Elliott reports:

I hope everyone had a very good Christmas and New Year. Mine was rather quiet. I celebrated with friends and family. I went to church on Christmas Day, which I've never done. Usually it was for midnight mass on Christmas Eve. New Year's was rather quiet. I went to friends for New Year's Eve and brought in the New Year with them. I also went there the next night for dinner. This year I also celebrated Ukrainian Christmas at my daughter's home in Maidstone, Saskatchewan, which was nice for a change.

We had a day or two of warm weather here the first part of January, which is usually normal this time of year. We always seem to get a January thaw every year. Christmas has just finished and now we are preparing for Easter. Time sure goes quickly sometimes. I'll wish everyone a Happy Easter while I have the chance and hope everyone has a good one.

This is all I have to report for now. I hope everyone has a good spring.

ALBERTA CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Robert Elliott reports:

The Alberta Chapter has had no activities since the enjoyable September picnic at Ghost Lake Village. The annual general meeting will be held in March at a time and place to be announced to its members.

CHAPTER EVENTS, 2008

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| Apr 12 | Ontario West Chapter Spring Luncheon |
| May 10 | Nova Scotia Chapter Spring Fling |
| Jun 14 | EOWQ Chapter Lamb Barbeque and Potluck |
| Jul 20 | Ontario West Chapter Picnic |
| Aug 3 | EOWQ Chapter Croquet, Swim and Potluck |
| Nov 1 | Ontario West Chapter AGM |

ROYAL RANCHERS OF THE ROCKIES

The following article was submitted by A.C. "Curly" Elliott, our retiring Clan Historian. The continuation of this story will appear in upcoming newsletters.

When Lord Minto (Gilbert Elliot) left Canada after his six years as Governor General, one of his stated desires was to return some day and build his retirement home in the Rocky Mountains and on the banks of the Bow River. This dream never quite came to pass though he did return to Alberta, not as a retired soldier, politician or bureaucrat but as an absentee ranch owner. He was in good company as His Royal Highness Edward Prince of Wales and the future King Edward VIII was also destined to own a ranch in the foothills of Alberta.

At the end of the First World War demobilization was slow and when the troops finally arrived back in Canada they found a high level of unemployment and poor living conditions. French Canada was also seething from the forced conscriptions. To appease the locals and cement colonial relationships with the Motherland, the Prince of Wales was dispatched on a cross Canada good-will tour in August of 1919.

From the time the Prince arrived in Canada until the day he left Canadians adored, loved and were captivated by his open and charming manners. His speeches were sincere and his exuberant youthfulness resonated well with Canadians from all sectors of society. All the constant travelling, parades and official duties were exhausting on the young Prince so when he arrived at High River, Alberta on September 15th, he was ready for a day off. For the next 24 hours he would be a guest at the Bar U Ranch, located some 30 kilometres southwest of High River.

His host at the Bar U Ranch was the legendary George Lane, one of the original "cattle kings" and a founding member of the Calgary Stampede. Lane, at age 63, had no worries over having a future King as a guest and treated him the same as any other dude wanting to learn about ranching. He supplied him with a horse and they both saddled up and headed out to work together. The Prince rode all morning and was captivated by a cattle round up and the branding of calves. In the afternoon he shot prairie chickens and made it into Calgary in time to attend a formal ball that evening. The writer's father-in-law was one of the RNWMP members assigned to Royal escort duties for this gala affair.

After only one day on the open range His Royal Highness was so taken by the beauty and vastness of the area that he decided to acquire a ranch of his own. George Lane, of the

Bar U Ranch was engaged as his agent and before the tour was over he had arranged the purchase of a neighbouring ranch owned by Frank Bedingfeld and his mother Agnes. The sale was completed on October 7th, 1919 and Prince Edward became the owner of 1,440 acres of deeded land, plus a large block of leased land, 400 head of horses and approximately 150 head of cattle. The E.P. Ranch was born for a sale price \$130,000. When the Prince announced his ranch purchase at his farewell stop in Winnipeg it caused a real stir in Canada, not to mention the upward movement in more than a few British aristocratic eyebrows.

Professor William L. Carlyle, a former employee at the Bar U Ranch was hired as manager of Prince Edward's Ranch and he stayed with him for over twenty years. At the time of the purchase by Prince Edward, William Carlyle was committed to take a shipment of prize Bar U Percheron horses to England. One of the stallions in this consignment was for delivery to Lord Minto. This would indicate a close friendship between Prince Edward and Lord Minto long before either one of them became absentee ranch owners in Alberta. Carlyle brought back a number of pedigreed horses, Dartmoor ponies, Shorthorn cattle and Shropshire sheep to increase the bloodlines of his livestock. These brought higher than normal prices and the distinction of owning a pedigreed animal from the future King of England's herd became a must have for many ranchers.

As heir to the throne Prince Edward visited his ranch a total of three times. The first visit was made in 1923. At three weeks this was his longest stay and he had the time to explore and see first hand the operation of his Canadian property. His Highness entertained lavishly with a dinner for prominent local ranchers, aristocrats and important politicians. There was a garden party for all the neighbours and anyone else who showed up. He also rode over to visit Lord Minto on the Two Dot Ranch for a day of bird hunting. He was back to visit his ranch again for a few days in 1924 and again in 1927. On this latter occasion he was accompanied by his younger brother Prince George, the future King of England.

After King Edward VIII abdicated on December 10th, 1936, the E.P. Ranch lost all its kingly status. Edward became the Duke of Windsor and with his wife visited his ranch twice more, once in 1941 and for the last time in 1950. Neither of these occasions caused much stir outside of the immediate area. As the ranch was bought from a neighbour, so it was sold to a neighbour, when Jim Cartwright bought out the E.P. Ranch on February 27th, 1962.