



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



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May 2008

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Walt Elliot

My report this time will be a series of announcements. Please read them carefully – especially those related to our email address and events.

EMAIL ADDRESS

We have purchased a new computer. As well, for the first time, high speed internet access is available to us. Please note that Anne and I can now be contacted by e-mail at 42es@xplornet.com.

EVENTS

On April 12th Anne and I attended a most enjoyable luncheon at the Harmony Restaurant in London Ontario with the South Western Ontario Chapter. The proprietor of the restaurant, David Chan, is now an honorary member of the Elliot Clan Society.

Unfortunately, we can't attend any Elliot Clan events in June as we will be on vacation in the United States. We are looking forward to seeing the Grand Canyon, Sedona and Las Vegas for the first time.

The Fergus Scottish Festival will be held, as usual, the second full weekend in August. Marshall Elliott, our chapter chair, will arrange a tent on the Avenue of the Clans on Saturday August 9th. All members are welcome to drop by. If you come, plan to march in the clan parade at noon.

PROPOSED TRIP TO ALBERTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA IN SEPTEMBER

The Alberta Chapter is having a gathering at the Hume cottage on Ghost Lake September 13th. Anne and I hope to attend that event and then take a train trip through the Rockies to Vancouver. We would like to meet with members of the British Columbia Chapter in the

Vancouver area before we fly home. I will be discussing these arrangements with Tom Elliott, our BC chair and will send out an invitation to all BC members when the arrangements have been finalized. It would be terrific if a member in or closer to Vancouver would volunteer to help with arranging this event as Tom lives in Vernon. Give me a call if you wish to help at 905-876-3377.

2009 GATHERING IN SCOTLAND

Sounds like a super event. Ten Canadian Elliots have already booked accommodation and obtained passports for the Edinburgh portion of this event on the 24th, 25th and 26th of July, 2009 through Katie our Scottish contact.

If you want to go to this part of the 2009 Gathering, the easiest way to make arrangements is to call her at 011-44-1315144107. Our Chief, Margaret Elliott of Redheugh, is planning events at Newcastleton earlier in the week and an events calendar and registration form will probably be included in her next newsletter.

If you have questions about the Gathering, or would like to talk with or make plans with other attendees (or potential attendees!), visit the online forum on our website at <http://www.elliotclan.com/forum/>

BEN'S MARATHON, MAY 2008

Sincere thanks to the donors who supported Ben financially. We were able to send 705£ for The Sir Arthur Elliott Memorial Trust on his behalf (\$1448 Canadian). This was a fine effort and was appreciated greatly by Ben. Thanks again! A list of donors will be included in a subsequent newsletter.

Ben finished the Marathon and received a medal. Congratulations.

ON THE ROOTS OF RENOWN

The following is a submission by Wendy Elliott, daughter of Robbins Elliott, the founding president of the clan in Canada.

I certainly found out who reads the community newspaper I write for when my mug appeared on page 20 noting two recently announced national awards. While it is pleasant to receive accolades from one's peers and laud from one's friends, I had to ask myself if folks would have been so positive if they had really known about us Elliots. Admittedly I had heard rumbles of thievery about the Clan Elliot, but it was Alice Munro's latest book, *The View from Castle Rock*, that finally clued me in. Munro writes about wanting to find her roots and how that led to a trip to Scotland.

Researching the Munros in the Border country, she learned the history of a violent time. "...and summary executions—but those happened mostly in times of large unrest, as during the border raids of the sixteenth century, when a marauder might be hanged at his own front door, or strung up in Selkirk Square, as were sixteen cattle thieves of the same name—Elliott—on a single day of punishment. My man got off with a fine."

So if 16 Elliots were dispatched on one day 400 years ago, surely my little moment in the sunshine will hardly redeem the family name. Is it true as Munro observes — where you come from casts a long shadow? Yes, we Elliots were plunderers, but we had cause. As 'Border Reivers' we raided across the Anglo-Scottish border for about 300 years. It was a hard and uncertain life, on land that was not arable, and commonly led to livestock rustling. The Scottish reivers were akin to black-hatted cowboys of the Wild West. In fact, the 'Middle March'

was a most dangerous place, inhabited as it was by the fierce clans like the Kerrs and Scotts, as well as smaller clans such as Johnson, Armstrong and us Elliots.

King James, after he became ruler of England, was vicious in his reprisals against raiders. He decreed that none of the Border Scots could own a weapon or a horse, other than a workhorse. Those who did not obey, like those 16 Elliots, were promptly hung. The good news is, my ancestors made it out alive.

Some Elliots were sent to Ireland – one hundred of the worst Scots offenders were rounded up and sent there to do military service. They were threatened with execution should they dare to return home, and became known as the Ulster Scots. All used to Protestantize that land. James ended the centuries-old practice of communal farming and a social system based on kinship, but it took the bloody battle of Culloden in 1746 to finally squelch the Scots. As Dr. Samuel Johnson said at the time, "they have created a desert and called it peace."

Perhaps that is why I have never hankered to explore the lochs and glens. My ancestor, Samuel Elliott, arrived in Nova Scotia from Ireland in 1760. He became a peaceful farmer in Annapolis County. His descendent, Joseph, was named a 'Banner Farmer' by the province 170 years later. His son, Malcolm, has his name on three buildings in Wolfville.

Us Elliots have not forgotten our rebellious horse thieving ancestors and, fortunately for me, we seem to have gone straight once reaching the New World.

CHAPTER REPORTS

NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

Chapter Secretary Barry Buckman reports:

Hello to all Elliot Clan members across the country. Spring has been fairly dry in Nova Scotia and the temperatures are continuing to be rather cool at this point.

The Nova Scotia Chapter held our Annual Spring Fling at Cole Harbour on May 10th. Nineteen members and guests braved the cool, wet weather to gather at the Campbell's

Senior Centre. A brief Executive meeting took place at 12:30 p.m. and business both old and new was discussed. Canon Russell Elliott delivered a blessing on the event and we eagerly lined up to sample the wide selection of tasty dishes that people brought with them. It confirmed once again that there are many talented cooks amongst the Elliot ranks. Everyone enjoyed the comraderie and seeing one another after the long winter. Our two eldest members were both present. Rosena Outhouse turned 93 in April and Russell Elliott will reach the age of 91 in July. Congratulations to you both!

Our Chapter is sending a donation to Ben Elliott, son of Chief Margaret, for his participation in the Edinburgh Marathon on May 25th. We believe that the Sir Arthur Elliott Memorial Trust is a most worthy charity and we wish Ben well in his endeavour.

In upcoming events, our Picnic/Auction will take place on July 19th at the Tiverton Community Hall in Tiverton, Long Island. The pot luck affair will begin at 1:00 p.m. following a meeting of the Executive. Our venerable auctioneer, Gail Fudge, will again be on hand to hawk the many items donated by our members. The Annual General Meeting and Dinner of our Chapter has been slated for October 18th at the Royal Canadian Legion in Kentville. The meal which will commence at 1:00 p.m. will be catered by the Ladies Auxiliary and if last year is any indication, it is sure to be superb.

If any of you are planning to be in Nova Scotia on the above dates, let us know. We would love to have you join with us. Take care and have a very pleasant summer.

EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

Chapter Treasurer Linda Elliott-Doshen reports:

Please note the change of date for our Annual Lamb Barbeque. Once again our first event for 2008 will be our Annual June Lamb Barbeque on Saturday, June 21st, 2008, noonish (*not June 14th as previously mentioned*) at Ross's and Helene's lovely, warm home and garden in Navan. We hope to see you all there. Potluck as usual and \$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.

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 this year. There is nothing as hauntingly beautiful as dozens of massed pipe bands playing 'Amazing Grace.'

REMEMBER to mark all of these dates on your calendar, now: The Annual Elliott Clan of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec's June Lamb Barbeque and Potluck, Saturday, June 21st, 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.

We hope to see all of you at both of these events.

ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Marshall Elliott reports:

The clans are coming to a park near you ... this is the time of year when there are a series of Scottish Festival and Highland Games throughout Canada. There are 21 formal games in Ontario in 2008 and of these, the following are the Scottish Games/Festivals in the Central Region: Georgetown Highland Games (June 14); Cobourg Highland Games (June 28); Hamilton Highland Games (June 22, 23); Kincardine Scottish Festival (July 4-6); Haliburton Games (July 12); Orilla Scottish Festival (July 18-20); Cambridge Games (July 18,19); Highland of Durham Games (July 25-27); Goderich Celtic Roots Festival (August 8-10); Fergus Highland Games and Scottish Festival (August 8-10); Trenton Scottish/Irish Festival (September 8) and Owen Sound Games (September 14-15).

Along with other members of your families and friends, lets all make an effort to reconnect with our roots!

ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:

Ontario West Chapter held a spring lunch get-together on April 12th at the Harmony House Buffet. We were greeted by David Chan, proprietor of the restaurant and an honorary member of the Ontario West Chapter. We had a small turnout but a good time was had by all. We were pleased to have our Canadian President, Walter Elliot and his wife, Anne join us for a great Chinese buffet. A cheque was presented to Walter on behalf of Ontario West Chapter to be forwarded to Scotland for the Sir Arthur Elliot Memorial Trust.

Potluck picnic on July 27, 2008 will be held at the farmhome of Len and Catherine Elliott just outside of Ingersoll, Ontario. We hope to have good attendance as this is a great place for a picnic. The Annual General Meeting will be at St. Aidan's Anglican Church, London, Ontario on November 1, 2008. We welcome all members and family in the area to join us for either event.

Have a safe, healthy and happy summer!

SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Clifford Elliott reports:

Greetings from Saskatchewan. We are finally getting some spring after a rather cold winter and a cold early spring. The temperatures are finally reaching the high teens or low twenties. Hopefully it will continue and we will have a nice summer.

It would be nicer yet if the gasoline prices would go down instead of always going up. If that would be the case people would be able to do more travelling. I know I'll not be driving very far with the gasoline at 131.9 here in most of Saskatchewan. I hear that it will probably go as high as 150.9 by the end of July or first part of August. I hope it will be changing for the better or I'll not be going far. I hope everyone has a good summer and that it will be an enjoyable time. I hope that I'll be reporting to you in the fall, so bye for now.

ALBERTA CHAPTER

Vice President for Western Canada Allan (Curly) Elliott and Secretary Helen Elliott report:

Our annual general meeting was held in the Chateaux On The Green social room on Sunday March 30th, 2008. As usual, it involved a spring snow storm and although we were small in number we were overwhelming in quality and fellowship. We are fortunate in having a new couple, Neil and Doreen Herdman, join our chapter. They are transplants direct from Scotland and are a welcome addition to our group. Doreen has the Elliot connection while Neil has graciously accepted a

Director's position on our board. Helen has taken over as Secretary and all other positions remain the same.

The following is a list of Highland Games for Alberta:

Red Deer	Saturday June 21st, 2008
Ellerslie (Edmonton area)	Sunday June 22 nd , 2008
High River	Saturday August 23 rd , 2008
Calgary	Saturday August 30 th , 2008
Canmore	Sunday August 31 st , 2008

We are pleased that Walt and Anne are planning a fall trip to Alberta and BC. Walt has promised to give up his experiments as a pyrotechnics stuntman and assures us there will be no more broken bones this year. To honour Walt's visit we will be holding a pot luck dinner and gathering at Ray and Catherine Huene's Ghost Lake cottage on Saturday September 13th, at 1.00 p.m. We would like a good turnout of local members to support our National Chairman and all Elliot Clan members, visitors and prospective members are welcome to attend. Further information will be provided as arrangements progress.

Don't forget the Gatherings in Redheugh and Edinburgh in July 2009, both of which are covered in this newsletter as well as the one from Scotland. Tickets and accommodation for these events are selling out fast and if you are interested in attending you should be making arrangements soon. Helen and I are going and will be joined by our son and daughter-in-law who are living in Holland. Walt and his son are also registered and we would welcome a few more Canadians to join us in these once in a lifetime celebrations.

ONTARIO WEST SPRING DINNER PHOTOS by Al Nickels



David Chan, Walt Elliot, Catherine Elliot-Shaw and Peter Elliott



Anne Elliot, Cathy Elliott, Peter Elliott, Walt Elliot and Len Elliott

ROYAL RANCHERS OF THE ROCKIES

The following is a continuation of the article submitted by A.C. "Curly" Elliott, our retiring Clan Historian. The final installment will be included in the next newsletter.

Records indicate that an Elliott played a major part in the long term operation of the E.P. Ranch. William Elliott joined the ranch staff as a shepherd in 1923. He learned stock breeding and ranch management under the tutelage of Professor Carlyle. When Carlyle resigned in 1942 William Elliott took over the day-to-day operations as ranch foreman. He held this position until the early 1950's when he resigned as a result of a new British management group taking over the operation of the E.P. Ranch.

The Two Dot Ranch is named for its brand - two large dots on either side of the tail head. John Norrish first settled on this property in 1884. He sold his squatter's rights in 1888 to Harry and George Alexander who obtained legal title to the land. At that time they were running up to 1500 head of mostly longhorn cattle and had 44,000 acres of leased land. The Two Dot Ranch went through numerous owners before being purchased by Lord Minto on January 19th, 1920 for reported \$100,000.00 cash. There can be no doubt that there was considerable collusion between His Royal Highness and Lord Minto over their Canadian purchases as they bought their Alberta ranches a mere four months apart. William Carlyle, manager of the E.P. Ranch also took over the management of the Two Dot Ranch purchased by Lord Minto.

There are virtually no press reports of Lord Minto visiting or ever living on his Canadian Ranch. It appears his first, and perhaps his only, visit to his Alberta ranch was in September 1923. This trip was obviously planned to coincide with that of His Royal Highness, Prince Edward. His Royal Highness, travelling under the name of Lord Renfrew, arrived in High River on Sunday evening September 16th, and after a brief civic reception proceeded immediately to his Ranch. On Wednesday he rode over to the Two Dot Ranch for an afternoon of shooting.

"A bag of 15 partridges, a dozen prairie chickens and ducks, and one rabbit was obtained by the Prince and his party while visiting Lord Minto's Ranch". (Source – High River Times)

There are numerous press photographs of Prince Edward on his ranch and at various stops around Southern Alberta, but I can not find a single picture of the Prince and Lord Minto together. If Lord Minto did visit his ranch on other

occasions he did so very quietly as it garnered no mention in the local press. In 1928 Burns Ranches acquired the Two Dot Ranch and all the sheep remaining on the range. Senator Patrick Burns was another early cattle baron and one of the "Big Four" who established the Calgary Stampede. It would be thirty one years before the Two Dot Ranch returned once again to Hereditary Titled ownership.

In 1929 George D.I. Perceval and his young son Frederick George were living a quiet and contented life on a small ranch near Priddis, Alberta when an event in England changed their lives forever. The ninth Earl of Egmont, a widower without children or near relatives died at Ringwood, Hampshire, and the title passed to his Canadian cousin. George Perceval became the 10th, Earl of Egmont and inherited Avon Castle with its thirteen hundred acres of land. This was an estate nearly the size of the original E.P. Ranch in Alberta. From the very beginning George and his son Fred were constantly hounded by the British press and they did not fit in with the English nobility. They dismissed all their staff, closed the castle gate, shuttered the windows and tried to live as they had back in Canada. When the Earl was killed in a car crash in 1932, Frederick at age seventeen became the 11th, Earl of Egmont. He inherited a large sum of money and was able to pay off all outstanding debts.

In 1933 he returned to Calgary and married Geraldine Moodie, who became the Countess of Egmont. In 1935 they were back in England with a one-year-old son. Fred often mused about taking his seat in the House of Lords but this did not happen. In the fall of 1938 they sold their English estate for £80,000, returned to Calgary and bought a 680 acre farm on the southern outskirts of the city. They tried to avoid publicity as much as possible and were simply known as Mr. & Mrs. Fred Perceval. This farm was bought by developers in 1959 and is now part of the Willow Park district. (Ten kilometres inside the city limits.) True to his childhood roots Fred returned to ranching with the purchase of the Two Dot Ranch that was once owned by Lord Minto.

The "Reluctant Earl" settled back into ranching the same as anyone else in that industry and was well respected throughout the district. Countess Geraldine died in July 1995 and the 11th Earl in December 2001. The title passed to their son Thomas Frederick who continues the family tradition of ranching in the foothills of Alberta.