



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



Volume 14, Issue 3

October 2008

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Walt Elliot

First, a reminder that our e-mail address changed to 42es@xplornet.com. The old address will not be available after the end of the year.

Anne and I had a grand trip to Western Canada September 11-18. We travelled by Westjet to Calgary on September 11 and were met by Curly and Helen Elliott our Western Canada Vice-president and his spouse who were our gracious hosts during our stay in Alberta. One highlight of this part of our visit was an Elliot potluck at the Huene cottage at Ghost Lake. It was great to see some members whom we met in 2003 and to meet several new members. Since we had a few days in Calgary we were able to see a fair bit of the city ably guided by Curly and Helen. The city has grown considerably since our last visit and is obviously very prosperous and must be a great place to work and live.

On Sunday September 14th we were delivered by Curly to The Rocky Mountaineer train station to catch a 5:50 am train to begin what was to be a fascinating two day trip through the Rockies via Banff. We took The Red Leaf excursion which was great but Anne says next time she would try the Gold Leaf excursion to take advantage of the domed cars which would present an even grander vista. There are literally super views at every turn. Anne spent a lot of time in the vestibule between cars taking photos

which are really quite spectacular. The weather was sunny both days which added to the enjoyment as the visibility was perfect.

With the time change, the first day was a long one, about 13 and one half hours. The train stops overnight in Kamloops where we were put up at a Quality Inn. The next morning we left at a more reasonable 7:30 am. The train followed the Thompson River until it joined the Fraser which it then followed into Vancouver. The scenery was quite different but equally spectacular as on the first day. We arrived in Vancouver at 5:30 pm which allowed us ample time to locate our Holiday Inn and have a decent meal in the hotel.

Susan Ballachey, the niece of our treasurer George Elliot in Nova Scotia, invited us to walk the Capilano suspension bridge and to have lunch with her on Tuesday. This was a most worthwhile experience and it was terrific to have a visit with Susan. She expressed an interest in giving Tom Elliott a hand at arranging events in the Vancouver area. The other exciting aspect of this visit was our opportunity for the first time to take the Seabus to and from North Vancouver. It leaves from close by Canada Place so on our return we spent some time exploring Canada Place.



Walt Elliot boarding train



Susan Ballachey and Walt on Capilano Bridge



Marjorie Elliott, David Martin, Susan Ballachey, Walt Elliot

On Wednesday morning we took the Oak Street bus to the VanDusen Botanical Gardens, a 55 acre spectacular garden right in the heart of the city. We were particularly surprised to see a prominent display of Scottish heather surrounding a sheep shed built out of stone just like in Scotland. Well worth a visit all by itself.

The highlight of our Vancouver visit was an Elliot dinner we held at the Holiday Inn on Wednesday evening. The restaurant staff did a superb job on a three course meal with appetizers, coffee and tea.

Unfortunately, the time had flown by and the next morning it was a cab to the airport for an 11:30 flight back to Toronto. We had a great time and thank all the members who made it so enjoyable. There will be photos elsewhere in the newsletter and I'm sure the chapter reports from Alberta and British Columbia will have additional details.

On another front I would like to thank Bonnie and Greg Ball for a successful Georgetown Highland games the second weekend in June. We understand it was a super day and our Elliot display was well received. Bonnie and Marshall Elliott, Amos and Lyn Elliot, Greg and Bonnie Ball and I were disappointed that the Fergus Scottish Festival was rained out on the 2nd Saturday in August. We just got our display set up when the sky opened up. Anne and I really enjoyed the Western Ontario chapter picnic at the farm home of Len and Cathy Elliott on July 27th.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It's that time of year again. 2009 memberships are now due. We have been asked recently if more than one year's membership may be paid at renewal time. The answer is yes! May I suggest that no more than 5 year's membership be paid at any one time. Now that we are computerized it is easier to keep track. I understand our previous president, Col. Hank Elliot preferred one year at a time because he kept track of the money manually.

A FAMILY HISTORY

We have several new members who have indicated an interest in genealogy!

May I suggest that members with a similar interest take the time to write a newsletter article briefly tracing their family history back to Scotland or Ireland hopefully with a view to discovering close relatives in the clan. We have already identified a fifth cousin in the USA whose ancestor is a brother of our William Elliot who came to Canada about 1814. The following is an example of what I mean.

As stated, my ancestor was William Elliot of Hawick Scotland. He must have had three sons as they homesteaded 400 acres of free crown land near Perth Ontario. Apparently, you could claim 100 acres for each male member of the family. His son Adam Scott Elliot and his son William Elliot, when the lumber ran out in the Ottawa area, moved to Bruce County again homesteading on free crown land about 1856. William Elliot's son, James Kerr Elliot, my grandfather, drove a stagecoach on highway #6 in the Williamsford area and then established a farm dairy outside of Chesley, the town in Bruce County Adam Scott Elliot was credited with establishing. Apparently, he donated the land to the railroad to get rail service through the town. He needed this service to attract workers for the many businesses he and William were establishing (grist mills, foundries etc.). Another son, John, ran a private bank.

My father Francis James Elliot owned a butcher shop in Chesley where I was born. During the depression my father lost the business, began working on Highway #11, studied stationary engineering, moved into Sudbury and joined the navy in the second world war. I have six brothers and sisters; Frank, Isobel, Amos, Cameron, Brian and Audrey. Anne and I have a son, Paul and a daughter, Tina. Paul has two eighth generation Canadian daughters Emily and Katie.

WELCOME TO TWO NEW FAMILY

MEMBERS:

#1055 John and Marjorie Hoskin – Marjorie's mother was the daughter of Gordon Herbert Elliott (dob 1900); Grandfather was John Elliott Sr. (dob 1865); Great grandfather was James Elliott (dob 1824) in Roxborough, Scotland. John and Marjorie are interested in completing their family tree.

#1056 Jim and Sharon Feetham. Jim is interested in genealogy once he gets to know the clan.

NOTICE

It is with regret we report the passing of a long time member, Ruby (Elliott) Breadner: born September 25th, 1915 – died September 11th, 2008. The funeral service was held at first United Church in Owen Sound with interment in Evergreen Cemetery. Her daughter, Maureen Low, requested you all be notified of her death, as Ruby always enjoyed her association with the Elliot Clan.

2009 GATHERING IN SCOTLAND

Expect the information on The 2009 Gathering in Scotland in our chief's next newsletter.

Margaret Elliott of Redheugh requested the current changes in our membership list recently. This indicates her next newsletter is imminent. Watch for it.

BEN'S MARATHON, MAY 2008

As promised in our May newsletter, the following members and chapters sponsored his successful 26 mile run. Ben wishes to convey his sincere thanks to all of you. As well, those members who directly sent in sponsorships are thanked. The total from Canada was quite a bit higher than we reported in May.

Sir Arthur Elliott Trust

No. Name

81 Wm. Elliott

208 Patricia Elliott
187 Bessie Elliot
995 Allan & Hilary Elliott
93 Jean Elliott
1 James Elliot
225 Don & Margaret Creighton
37 Mark Elliott
894 Mac Elliot
135 Allan G. Curly Elliott
1010 Rosena Outhouse & Russell Prime
276 Ross Elliot
Ontario South West Chapter
411 Walt Elliot
898 Paul Elliot
854 Tina Elliot
37 George Elliot
593 Amos Elliot
54 Hewlitt White
Manitoba Chapter
Saskatchewan Chapter
National Society

CHAPTER REPORTS

EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

Chapter Treasurer Linda Elliott-Doshen reports:

I hope you had a wonderful summer and are enjoying the interesting fall weather. We had a busy and fun summer. We hosted the wedding of our beautiful daughter, Samme, and her adorable young man in our garden in August...between the summer rain and hail storms...and then I spent a wonderful three weeks in Paris, the Loire Valley and Nice, visiting gardens, Chateaus and maybe a petit bit of shopping and wine sipping.

But, since the roses and sweet peas are in their fall bloom, clearly it is time to get busy and bring you up-to-date on our Clan events for this year and remind you of your Elliott Clan fall and winter duties.

Our Annual Lamb Barbeque, Saturday, June 21st, was another grand event, with lots of catching up on family stories and laughter in Ross and Helene's exquisite, Navan country garden and home, with delicious lamb and potluck dishes, exceptional company and, as always, lots of family news. A huge thank you and round of applause to Ross and Helene for hosting us once again.



Unfortunately, scheduling difficulties made our planned August event at John and Colette's lovely home in Chelsea impossible, but a few of us were able to get together and have a lovely lunch at Julia's beautiful Sandy Hill home overlooking her lovely gardens.

Once again, Larry and I will be happy to host The Elliott Clan of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec's Annual Christmas Potluck on Sunday, November 23rd, at our home, 1799 Dorset Drive, Alta Vista, Ottawa, ElliottDoshen@rogers.com. Arrival - 4:30 for 5:00; happy hour (visiting, wine and appetizers) from 5:00 to 6:00; dinner - 6:15ish to whenever! We will take our usual collection of \$10.00 per person to cover any costs. We look forward to seeing you Sunday, November 23rd.

Also, another reminder that it is the Gathering of the Clans, July 24th to 26th, 2009 in Edinburgh with an Elliot, Elliott, Elliott gathering at Redheugh earlier in the week. You need to be there – it is a once in a lifetime event.

ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Marshall Elliott reports:

The summer of 2008 has been, if nothing else, Scottish weather, and hopefully both an exciting and a restful season for all of us. Throughout Ontario and the rest of Canada there have been dozens of the ever popular Scottish festivals and annual games. Clan Elliot continues to show a strong presence at these events. The most prestigious of the Canadian series is that of the “Fergus Highland Games and Festival” in August. That day, God was an Englishman as the rain was of Biblical proportions and all were sent running and the event was cancelled for the Saturday! Let me remind all the of “The Gathering,” July 25th and 26th, 2009 in Edinburgh. The Gathering is being hosted by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs and it is hoped that all clan associations will attend. The Gathering will host the 2009 World Heavy Event Championship at Edinburgh Castle. Last year, I met Lord Jamie Forbes-Sempel and he has warmly extended both his own and Margaret Elliott’s invitation for all of us to attend.

This year’s annual chapter get-together will be held again at the famous Harrop House restaurant in Milton from 12 noon to mid afternoon on Sunday November the 2nd. This time of year is a beautiful occasion to travel and enjoy the fall colours and catch up with other Elliots over a delightful lunch. The charge will be \$20 per person and kindly contact me so we will know to expect you (Marshall Elliott: 705-748-4843; marshallelliott@cogeco.ca). I will talk briefly about the Borders’ DNA Project and the specific Elliot component. Hope to see many of you there as this is a great opportunity to informally meet other clansfolk.

ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:

Greetings from Ontario West Chapter. I hope that you are all enjoying the wonderful fall weather that we are experiencing in Southwestern Ontario.

Our members gathered for our annual picnic on a sunny, summer day in July at the home of Len and Catherine Elliott. Although our numbers were small, we all enjoyed a lovely afternoon visiting in the shade of the

trees. We were pleased to have our Canadian President, Walter Elliot and his wife, Anne join us. The raffle was very successful, raising \$91 for our treasury. Many thanks to all for their contributions. A delicious potluck supper completed our day. Thank you, Len and Catherine for your great hospitality. Our thanks also go to Allan and Carole Nickels who represented our chapter at several Highland games this summer.

John D. Shaw and Catherine Elliot Shaw are making plans to attend the Clan Gathering in Scotland in July 2009. Catherine has been asked by our chief, Margaret, to contribute to the Ceilidh on the Saturday night.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 8th, 2008 at St. Aidan’s Anglican Church, London, Ontario. Turkey dinner will be served and all members are welcome to join in the fun.

Upcoming events for 2009 include a luncheon on April 18th; picnic on July 12th and AGM on November 7th.

A safe and happy fall and winter to all.



Cathy Elliott, Barbara Elliott and Len Elliott

SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Clifford Elliott reports:

Greetings from Saskatchewan. I hope everyone had a great summer. I didn’t go very far this summer as I house- and pet-sat for most of July and in August other activities were going on here in the city. The price of gasoline also played a factor in not travelling far.

The summer here was rather nice with rains coming at the opportune times. That made the farmers happy so that there were fairly good crops this year. The harvest is going at a good clip so it is just about finished by now. We haven’t had frost yet but the trees are turning colour and losing their leaves. They seem to know when it’s their time.

Well, this seems to be my time to close so, until next time, bye for now.

ALBERTA CHAPTER

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

It has been a rather unusual summer in Alberta with some weird and wacky weather. We have had both hot and cold extremes with numerous brief but unbelievably heavy rain showers. We do not have any disasters to report and the agricultural sector is now enjoying a fantastic harvest season with temperatures well above normal.

The Highland games have been much like the weather, rather hit and miss. We did not have an official representation at either the Ellerslie or Red Deer games. The Red Deer games are in a rebuilding phase but with united efforts by several Clans we hope to again have a proper "Avenue of the Clans" for 2009. The High River games were well attended with numerous Clans represented. Calgary was a little cool in the morning but our brave stalwarts Walter and Mary Elliott had our tent up and the welcome mat out as usual. They were joined for the day by Neil Herdman, plus a few other Chapter members who dropped by for a chat and a place to sit.

Curly and Bob Elliott had volunteered for the Canmore games and we were prepared for the early start but not for the snow. Yes – snow on August 31st. It was raining when we left Calgary at 6 o'clock in the morning but by the time we reached the mountains the ground was turning white and by the time we made it to the games site there was three inches of the white stuff on the ground. After brushing off a few signs we found our allotted spot and our

wet and soggy table. Wishing the organizers (in their parkas and rubber boots) a Merry Christmas, we made a remarkable decision for a couple of octogenarians. We had a hearty breakfast and came home. A few piping events did take place but for the most part the games were a complete "snow out". There is a tent for the spectators but no inside or covered area for the games participants.

The highlight of the summer was the Calgary visit by Walt and Anne from 11th to the 14th of September. Here again the weather did not cooperate. We held our pot luck dinner on Friday night at Catherine and Ray Huene's cottage at Ghost Lake. It was cold and raining but with a cheery fireplace and copious amounts of sumptuous food all fifteen present had a most enjoyable evening. Anne was our official photographer and I am sure pictures of the happy campers will appear elsewhere in this newsletter. We saw Walt and Anne off on the Rocky Mountaineer Train early Sunday morning for their journey to Vancouver and trust they enjoyed their stay as much as we did their company.



Photo by Pat Smart

ROYAL RANCHERS OF THE ROCKIES

The following is the final installment of the article submitted by A.C. "Curly" Elliott, our retiring Clan Historian.

One might ask just what did a King, Prince, Lord or Earl rancher add to the history of Alberta, and the answer is, not a great deal. Prince Edward certainly caused a stir during his visits in 1919 and 1923, but his Sovereign appeal totally evaporated when he abdicated the throne in 1936. Had he remained as the King of England and kept his Alberta ranch, the effect on this area would have been enormous. Lord Minto's ownership of the Two Dot Ranch was completely overshadowed by this royal neighbour and is largely unknown outside the local area. The reluctant Earls of Egmont shunned all notoriety and preferred to be identified and treated like any other ranchers in Alberta. On the other hand, the Bar U Ranch which was the magnet

for all the above, is now a National Heritage Site and is visited by thousands of tourists every year.

For economic reasons, the Cartwright's reduced the size of the original ranch bungalow from the 1923 version, but it is still referred to as "The Duke's House". They kept the large sitting-room, the original fireplace with the initials E.P. cut into the stone work and many of the original furnishings. For years the Cartwright's welcomed visitors from around the world, including British parliamentarians, convention goers and school day trippers. It was also always a place for community gatherings, meetings, movies and weddings. What romantic (or historian) could refuse the chance to sit in the big chair, gaze into the fireplace, and dream about the days when a King of England sat in that same spot and entertained his neighbours.