



# The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



Volume 15, Issue 1

February 2009

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Walt Elliot

Because we are instituting a number of changes in procedures, I am writing my report under a number of different headings. Please read all of these items carefully so there will be no confusion when these changes come into effect.

### MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Thank you for renewing your membership so promptly. Your membership card is enclosed with this newsletter. We have decided to discontinue sending out new cards every year. Instead, you will notice that the enclosed card now has the date when you joined the society. You may have joined before 1986 but our computerized lists only go back that far. Please keep your card in a safe place since you will need your clan number should you wish to contact me. Please note that your number is always on your mailing label and your membership renewal form as well. I will be happy to issue you a new card any time you need one.

### CANADIAN NEWSLETTER

A few years ago we started posting our newsletter on the Elliot Clan website, and Bonnie Ball notifies you when it becomes available. However, partly because of having to mail out the membership cards, we still found it necessary to send out a lot of printed newsletters. With the new cards, we will only need to mail one newsletter a year at membership renewal time. The renewal form that you mail back provides you an opportunity annually to correct outdated data.

We strongly encourage all our members with WEB access to sign up for WEB newsletters. The black and white photos in the printed newsletters do not do justice to our colourful pictures.

### SCOTTISH NEWSLETTER

In her last newsletter Margaret Elliott, our Chief, advised you that her newsletters will be posted on The Elliot Clan website and that she would only send printed copies of her newsletters to members who request printed copies. Our Canadian members do not have to notify her. After discussions with her we have devised a plan for our Canadian members that, I hope, will be more efficient and cost effective. Margaret will e-mail her newsletter to us, we will print it, and mail it from Canada to our non-web members. This should cut down considerably on her horrendous mailing costs. As with our Canadian newsletters, the Web members will now also be notified by Bonnie when Margaret's Scottish newsletter is posted on the website.

### SIGNING UP FOR WEB NEWSLETTERS

Unfortunately at the present time only about a third of our members are accessing the newsletter via the website. We hope to increase this number substantially and have a two step process in mind. The first starts with this newsletter. Bonnie Ball will be e-mailing those of you for whom we have an e-mail address but who have not signed up for the WEB service. Please just follow her instructions. If at all possible, always quote your clan number because that facilitates procedures for us. We strongly urge you to participate. Stay tuned for the second step in the next newsletter.

### IN MEMORIUM

It is with regret and sadness we report the death of Clifford Thomas Elliott of Old Orchard Lane, Saint John New Brunswick. Clifford was born in Knightsville, NB, October 31, 1935, and passed away in his home, November 5, 2008.

Marshall Elliott, our Central Ontario Chapter Chair, reported that his mother passed away in January 2009. Our thoughts are also with him and his family.

## NEW MEMBERS

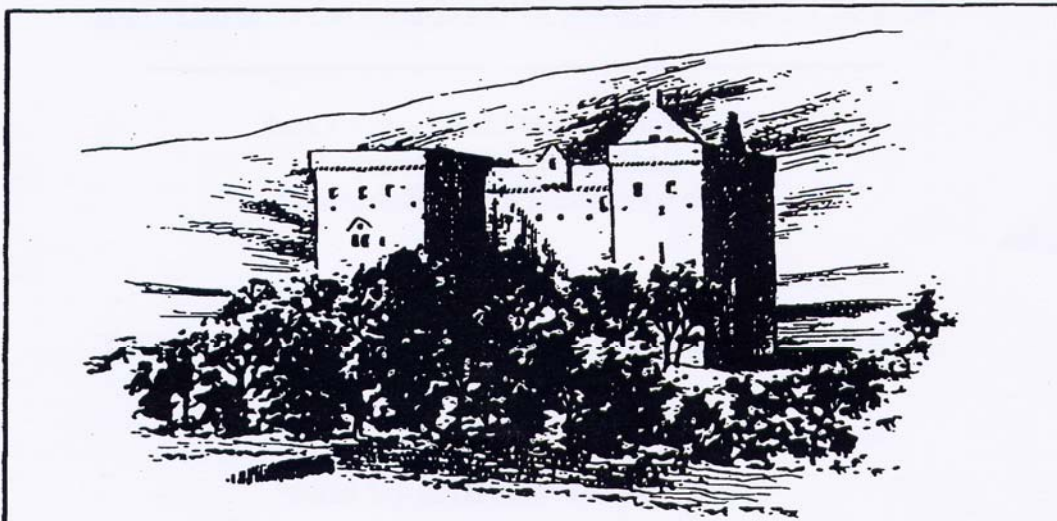
We would like to welcome the following new members to the clan:

- 1057 Heather Ballachey B.C.
- 1058 Graham Ballachey ON. E.
- 1059 Catherine Ballachey B.C.
- 1060 Sharon & Jim Smith ON. W.
- 1061 Eleanor & Alan Read ON. C.
- 1062 David & Noreen Elliott ON. C.
- 1063 Bruce & Jennifer Elliott ON. C.
- 1064 David & Liz Elliott AB
- 1065 John & Helena Elliott ON. E.

- 1066 Arthur & Jean Elliott AB
- 1067 Dennis Elliott AB
- 1068 Neil & Faith Bodnar Elliot SK
- 1069 Mark Weaver ON. E.
- 1070 Raymond J. Elliott ON. C.
- 1071 William (Bill) Raymond Elliott ON. C.
- 1072 James and Candace Elliott ON. C.

## 2009 GATHERING IN SCOTLAND

A concluding comment regarding the Scottish Gathering in July. I would appreciate confirmation from members planning to attend. It looks like Canada will be well represented, as more than 20 members have indicated a desire to attend. My son Paul and I have arranged everything but our air transportation and car rental and are getting excited.



Hermitage Castle

...was an important part of the Border's defense and communication system. Hermitage Castle was built in 1243 and its strength and proximity to the Border insured hot contention with the English for nearly four centuries. The Elliots' association with the Castle has always been a close one. It stands in the center of lands thought to have been granted to the Elliots' Chief in 1320 by Robert the Bruce. After the Union of the Crowns in 1603, Hermitage Castle played no further part in history, with ownership passing to the Scotts of Buccleuch. It was partly restored in 1820 and in 1930 was placed under the guardianship of the Office of Works. As the Newsletter of the Elliot Clan Society, The Signal Tower is mailed to all currently subscribed members free of charge.

*The above is from the front cover of the USA newsletter*

# CHAPTER REPORTS

## NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

*Chapter Secretary Barry Buckman reports:*

Greetings to all Elliot Clan members throughout the country and I hope that you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. We are at the mid-winter point now and, thus far, the season has been rather average in regards to the weather here in Nova Scotia.

Our chapter's Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held at the Kentville Legion on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008. After the thirty members and guests were seated, Chair Murray Elliott welcomed everyone and did the blessing for the gathering. Russell Elliott then gave the Loyal Toast to the Queen and asked all in attendance to join with him in singing God Save Our Queen. Barry Buckman followed with deliverance of the Toast to Clan Elliot.

The dinner consisted of roast beef with rolls and vegetables and assorted puddings for dessert with tea and coffee. Oh, and I mustn't forget the wine which was in good supply and well enjoyed! The catering job by the Legion staff was superb as expected and I'm sure we'll make use of their facilities again.

Following the meal, our Annual General Meeting took place with Chair Murray Elliott presiding. After several matters were discussed, the Nominating Committee presented its slate of officers for the new term. Each of the nominees accepted and therefore retained their positions with Edith Haverstock and Marion McKinley rounding out the Executive as additional Directors.

In regard to upcoming events, our chapter's 2009 Spring Fling is to be held at a Royal Canadian Legion branch in Dartmouth. The date is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and we are returning to a catered format with this event. Our Summer Picnic/Auction will be staged at Port George along the beautiful Bay of Fundy in July; the date has yet to be finalized.

Finally, in the spirit of social news, congratulations are in order for Mrs. Lillian Elliott on reaching her milestone 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in December. Still residing at her home in Tiverton, Lil rarely declines an offer to get out and mingle. As well, we are delighted to welcome Jim and Sharon Feetham as our chapter's newest members. They live in South Rawdon where the Elliott name has existed since the

late 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is always pleasing to broaden the geographic base of our membership across Nova Scotia.

In closing, I hope that you are all coping well in the second half of winter and are looking forward to a gorgeous spring.

## EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

*Chapter Treasurer Linda Elliott-Doshen reports:*

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a magical and sparkling New Year. Once again, the Elliott Clan of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec had a lovely, winter evening for our Annual Christmas Potluck, Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1799 Dorset Drive.

As always, the Christmas Open House was an excellent get-together, as 18 members and guests of our Chapter had a wee sip, wee visit, caught up with 'the news' and had a delicious homemade potluck dinner. It was great fun to host it once again and to catch up with everyone's news. A Happy Birthday dinner for Colette and Julia again this year!

After dinner we had a discussion of Clan finances and the cost of Clan dues and wondered if it would be fairer for all if we all paid the same dues. It might also be possible to reduce the National Clan costs if the newsletters were made *easily* accessible by email with *no* password required, so even the least talented of us could receive a more environmentally friendly non-print newsletter! A couple of things for chapters and the national executive to consider.

In 2009 we are planning to repeat the same excellent EOWQ Clan events that we had this year. We will begin with our Annual Lamb Barbeque on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at Ross and Helene's lovely, warm home and garden in Navan. We hope to see you all there. As usual, \$10 will be collected to cover Lamb costs. We had enthusiastic response to the "Pool-Side Party" chez Colette and John in Chelsea, but had trouble picking a date. The event "is on" with a date to be announced in the next newsletter.

And in other news: 'Cinderella' left her red jacket at the Potluck but the rest of you did very well this year at remembering to take your belongings home with you...good job!

We hope to see all of you at Ross and Helene's home. Our warmest wishes and thoughts continue to be with all of you. We hope you have a healthy and awesome 2009.

## ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER

*Canadian President Walt Elliot reports:*

As previously mentioned, Marshall Elliott, our Central Ontario Chapter Chair, reported that his mother passed away in January 2009. Our thoughts are with him and his family at this sad time.

In October, the annual fall luncheon was a most enjoyable and successful event at the Harrop House restaurant again.

The members in attendance included five new members, some of whom plan to go to the gathering in Scotland. Our chapter chair, Marshall Elliott, was our featured speaker. He recounted his visit to Scotland in which he discovered the Elliots were originally a highland clan. When Robert The Bruce needed reliable supporters along the border he requested the Elliots, Armstrongs, Kerrs and Johnstones, among others, to relocate to the borders and gave them lands as an incentive. A most interesting presentation with Marshall ingeniously substituting a painting for the map of Scotland.

See you in Fergus on the second full weekend in August!

## ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON



*Bonnie Ball, Marshall Elliott, Bonnie Elliott, Kevin & Fran Elliot, Bob & Barbara Morris, Alan & Heather Donovan, Walt & Anne Elliot, Amos Elliot. Photo by Paul Elliot*



*Front row: Walt Elliot, Lyn Elliot, Anne Elliot, Bonnie & Greg Ball, Marshall Elliott  
Back row: Paul Elliot, Alan & Heather Donovan, Barbara Morris, Kevin Elliot, Bonnie Elliott, Bob Morris, Leslie Elliot, Fran Elliot, Amos Elliot. Photo by Evelyn Elliot*



*Marshall Elliott's presentation.  
Photo by Paul Elliot*

## ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

*Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:*

Ontario West Chapter held our Annual General Meeting/Christmas get-together on Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at St. Aidan's Anglican Church, London, Ontario. Twenty-nine members attended and enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner catered by Belmont Town Restaurant and Catering. Many thanks to John D. Shaw for making these arrangements.

Guest speakers were Michael Brandt and Deborah Dennis who told us about their collection of antique toys and the joys of collecting. They brought along a number of their pieces and many of us could remember some of these toys from our childhood. Thanks to Catherine Elliot-Shaw for arranging the speakers.

We were pleased to welcome our Canadian President, Walter Elliot and his lovely wife, Anne, to our gathering. Walter brought greetings from our Chief, Margaret and updated us on the plans for the Clan Gathering in July 2009.

Once again, our raffle was most successful. Many thanks for all the donations. The current Executive have agreed to remain in their respective positions for another two years.

Future meetings are as follows:

April 18, 2009 – Luncheon, Harmony House, London  
July 12, 2009 – Picnic, place to be determined  
November 7, 2009 – Annual General Meeting, St. Aidan's, London

A social time followed the meeting.



*Catherine Elliot Shaw and Barbara Elliott with antique toy collectors Deborah Dennis and Michael Brandt*

## SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair Clifford Elliott reports:*

Greetings from Saskatchewan. Just a short note this time because there wasn't anything much going on because of the inclement weather we've had here this year. From the first week of December to the first week of January we have had nothing but cold weather.

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. Because of the weather here I didn't go out of the city. I was invited over to two different friends' places, so I didn't have to be alone for Christmas and the same for New Years. All in all it was rather quiet.

Well this is it for now from here. Hopefully the weather will improve before the next report.

## ALBERTA CHAPTER

*Vice President for Western Canada Allan (Curly) Elliott reports:*

We have had no meetings over the past few months and with winter dragging on our members are thinking "Holidays." Our Chairman, Bob Elliott and friend Pat Smart are leaving on March 15<sup>th</sup> for a forty day cruise around South America. Curly and Helen Elliott are spending two weeks in Victoria, while several others are looking for sunshine in the southern USA.

At the moment, the Chapter has six hardy souls committed to the Scottish Gatherings in July. Allan and Hillary Elliott of Calgary are fortunate to be able to combine a visit with relatives and then take in the Gatherings. Helen and I are going to The Netherlands to visit our son David and his wife Liz and then the four of us plan on roaming around Scotland for ten days. Rooms and passports are booked for both Newcastleton and Edinburgh. Bob Elliott is still thinking about Scotland but has his little sea journey to complete before making further plans.

It is our intention to attend as many Highland Games over the summer months as manpower will permit. There were eleven Highland festivals in Alberta in 2008, but only four have their 2009 dates posted to date. For all Highland festivals in Canada I suggest you check out *Canada Bagpipe Links – Highland Games & Festivals*.

In view of all the travel plans, our Chapter AGM has been set over until Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. Mark you calendars accordingly and watch for further details.

## HERE'S TO THE HAGGIS AND HUMAN RIGHTS?

Tens of thousand of people around the world, in exotic and wind-swept locations like Khazakstan, Libya, the Kingdom of Fife and even Swansea (in Toronto), celebrated the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the poet, plowman and tax collector, Robert Burns in January.

Burn's Immortal Memory was toasted on January 25<sup>th</sup>, as it is every year, with a measure of verse and, in many cases, a wee dram. But what has become of the man born in a two-room cottage in hardscrabble rural Ayrshire, who fathered 13 children, penned 600 stirring poems and songs and died penniless and tragically young at 37? A lot, actually.

This year the memory of Burns, along with a couple of other pillars of Scots culture, whisky and golf, are being used to entice the estimated 50 million people around the world with Scottish ancestry (see: Scottish Genealogy: [www.ancestralscotland.com](http://www.ancestralscotland.com)) back to enjoy a grand homecoming and what hopes to be the largest Gathering of the Clans since Sir Walter Scott's day in 1822 (see: Homecoming Scotland 2009: [www.eventscotland.org](http://www.eventscotland.org)). Burns, the rock star, will undoubtedly help sell countless tea towels and hip flasks.

Burns is clearly many things to many different people. His work has never been out of print since the first edition of his poems and songs was published in 1786 and he's influenced Woodsworth, Whitman and Bob Dylan. He's been described as one of the finest poets at capturing the awesome beauty and delicate frailty of love and, in the same breath, a scallywag, sensualist and subversive.

And yet, each year, we declaim the comic mock-epic Address to the Haggis, "chieftain of the pudding race", and then raise our glasses for an often saucy Toast to the Lassies, with an even saucier Lassies' Response at our Burns Dinners here and around the world.

A few years ago, Burns' memory and spirit was also celebrated in a speech by then head of the UN, Kofi Annan; "Let us dream, as he did, of a true brotherhood and sisterhood that embraces and encompasses all humankind, and allows all people a chance to enjoy their inalienable rights, dignity and freedom".

Certainly high praise from among the bashed neeps and tatties. Perhaps that is the enduring and tender attraction of Robbie Burns to Scots and others all over the world; that he was a visionary, with a keen sense of his own humanity, who spoke with delicacy, depth and elegance of the pleasures of being alive and living with friendship, honesty and integrity.

At the end of the day, Robert Burns, rock star, immortal poet, non-kilt wearer and instiller of the longings of ancestry, would have been happy to see people gather to enjoy each others company and raise a communal glass, not to him, but to the "warm-reekin" haggis, and for all that it stands.

*Andrew Patton*



*The first Burns Dinner in 18 years was held at Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church in Swansea, Toronto to a standing-room only gathering.*

*The haggis is being toasted by (l to r) Allen Stuart (Clerk of Session), Andrew Patton (who did the address to the haggis) and Sonny Allinson (M.C.).*

*The event was organized by the Mission and Outreach Team of Morningside-High Park P.C.*

## **‘CLAN’ BY DAVID P ELLIOT**

If you are fascinated by your ancestry; and probably none are more enthusiastic than those of Scottish descent; you will probably identify with David Elliot, who became so intrigued with his family history that he wrote a novel based on it.

The story of ‘CLAN’ is told through the eyes of David Elliot (the author perhaps?) who, at 57 years of age is alone, frustrated and has three failed marriages behind him.

When, in 2007 he finds himself out of work, he goes to the Borders of Scotland in search of some validation of his life through his bloodline, the notorious “Border Reivers” – the Elliot Clan.

Accompanied by his daughter, son-in-law and beloved grandson Thomas, far from resolving issues, he finds that he has led them into terrifying danger as 700 years of Scottish Border history and the myth and reality of “The Bloodiest Valley in Britain” combine to threaten all he holds dear in his life.

The corruption of the rich and powerful meets legend as Good and Evil clash for the ancient throne of Scotland and power in the modern world.

William Wallace (“Braveheart”), Robert the Bruce, Border Reivers, creatures of supernatural horror and past heroes of the Elliot Clan are all involved as the Master of Hermitage Castle, the evil Lord, William de Soulis, actions his plan to assume power over an unsuspecting world.

All that stands against him is an ordinary family fighting desperately to protect a child.

Their only weapon is the love of family... the power of their ‘Clan’.

The book is an absolute “must” for Elliots (of any of the 70 different versions of that name!) and it has been endorsed by the current Clan Chief of the Elliots, Madam Margaret Elliott of Redheugh who describes it as “A great read!”

Much of the action is based around Hermitage Castle in that part of the Borders of Scotland historically known as “The Debateable Lands” between England & Scotland.

Hermitage still stands for modern day visitors and is considered one of the most haunted sites in Britain. As Margaret Elliott says, “My father (Sir Arthur Elliott, 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Stobs) and some friends tried to stay there overnight when he was young. They were driven out by 10 p.m.!”

If you are an Elliot, or descended from that or any other of the famous Border Clans, if you have an interest in Scottish history or just love thrillers – this book is for you.

You can order ‘CLAN’ at [www.davidpelliot.com](http://www.davidpelliot.com) and if you also send an email to the author at [david@davidelliott.plus.com](mailto:david@davidelliott.plus.com) he will personally sign a copy for you.

David will also be at the Elliot Clan Gathering in July 2009 at Redheugh and at the Homecoming 2009 in Edinburgh the same month and would love to meet his family from around the world.

We hope to publish excerpts from ‘CLAN’ in future issues of the newsletter.

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### **GENEALOGY: DO YOU KNOW GEORGE ALEXANDER ELLIOTT?**

Born in 1783-84, he grew up in Newry, Armagh County, Ireland, appeared in the USA around the turn of the century, was pressed into service in the US navy and, when released, came to Halifax and joined the Nova Scotia Fencibles, a militia regiment; after Waterloo, he and other disbanded soldiers received land grants to start New Ross in 1816. He is my great great grandfather. His obituary claimed that he was born in Newry but professional researches find no trace.

Does anyone have a George Alexander in your family who may have been seventeen or eighteen by 1800, born elsewhere in Ireland or maybe Scotland? If so, share him with me – and I can tell you lots about him and his family since that time! Thanks.

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