



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Walt Elliot

IT IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Our membership year ends October 31st. Enclosed you will find a membership renewal form which should be returned along with a cheque for \$15 for an individual membership or \$20 for a family membership. Please check the information sticker on your membership form carefully and make any corrections so that our records are current. Because of having to send you this renewal form, we are sending print copies of the current newsletter to all members. After this, we will notify our web newsletter members whenever a Canadian or Clan Chief Margaret Elliott's newsletter is posted on the Elliot Clan web site. Print copies of newsletters will be sent to our print copy list only. If you would like to be added to the web list, please fill in the appropriate space on the membership form.

BREAKING NEWS

WEB NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Our webmaster, in collaboration with our Chief and the regional presidents, has decided to no longer require a password/ID to access the newsletters that are posted on the web site. We will still notify the web list each time a newsletter is posted. It is thought the newsletters may be of interest to prospective members. Also, the current members who are having trouble accessing the newsletters may have an easier time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Once again the Georgetown Highland games in June were a huge success. Bonnie and Greg Ball of Acton, who are on the board of directors for the games, should be very pleased with their success.

The Fergus Scottish Festival in August was most enjoyable. This year the weather even co-operated, holding off the rain showers until late in the day on Saturday and allowing the activities to be completed. At both events the

fun part is being in the clan parade to open the games and the Elliots were well represented in both parades. My granddaughters, Emily and Katie Elliot, have submitted a report as well as pictures of the Fergus games.

The highlight of my summer was my trip to Scotland. The Elliot gathering in Newcastleton every four years is reason enough to return to Scotland, but the first ever, big Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh made the trip particularly worthwhile. Meeting Elliots from around the world underlines the massive contribution Scots have made in developing many parts of the world: Canada, USA, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and Peru, to name a few. Of great interest to me, because of my political background, was the convention held in the 10-year-old new Parliament of Scotland. Over 100 of 149 Scottish Clan Chiefs and more than 300 invited guests and dignitaries attended this historic event. We discussed the future of the clan system in the 21st century and the advantages of holding the gathering of all the clans on a regular basis. To me it is obvious that, from a Scottish economic point of view, these gatherings should be held regularly. This would also generate much clan interest throughout the world.

I was accompanied by my son Paul Elliot of Milton, who did all the driving, which added greatly to my enjoyment. It was a terrific opportunity to share two weeks with him. Paul and Catherine Elliot Shaw, one of our Western Ontario chapter chairs, have written articles about their experiences at the gatherings in Scotland. Catherine Elliot Shaw is involved in Scottish Highland dancing and her contribution to the Ceilidh made it an exciting evening in Newcastleton.

I recommend strongly the trip to Scotland for the gatherings. The next Elliot gathering should be held in 2013. It's not too soon to start thinking about attending. I know the 40 plus Canadians who went this time had a lot of fun and a super time. The Canadian contingent would like to thank all the organizers of both events.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

Being President of the Elliot Clan Society of Canada is a very rewarding position. It has been great to visit Elliots across the country and to meet them from around the world at the gatherings. However, before the gathering in Scotland in 2013, I would like to step down. I will have been president for 10 years and served a total of about 20 years, as I have also been a chapter chair and assistant to the president. If you are interested in the position and wish more information please let me know. I would like to recommend my replacement for appointment by our Chief, Margaret Elliott of Redheugh, in the next year or two.

DNA REPORT

There has been a lot of discussion about DNA testing and how it can help in tracing our ancestors.

Before going to the gatherings in Scotland in July, I contracted with the Family Tree DNA group to get a 37 marker check done on my DNA. It is possible to get a 12, 25, 37 or 67 marker check. The more markers checked, the more chance of finding a match which will result in finding a relative. On my return I received the following information by email: there were 976, 12 marker matches, 1 exact 25 marker match plus 60 other 25 marker matches as well as 3 exact 37 marker matches, all with surname Elliott. In the cases of the 37 marker match there is a 99.9% chance we have common ancestors if we have the same surname (two "t"s instead of one). We are told these common ancestors have a 50% chance of being within 2 generations, a 90% chance of being within 5 generations or a 95% chance of being within 7 generations.

When you arrange to have your DNA test done you may consent to having your e-mail address given to anyone else who says they consent to having this information shared. I did this and so far have received 2 e-mails, one from Tennessee and one from France. I can't see a connection with the Tennessee Elliots at this time. The chap from France wrote wondering why all his relatives seemed to be in the UK. His family actually came from Belgium and perhaps there is a connection to the Elliots of Hawick because previous research indicates a possibility that some of the Hawick Elliots may have come from Belgium a long time ago. We are talking 20 generations of approximately 25 years each, or a total of 500 years. To me, the results and information provided by my DNA test have been extremely interesting. I am planning to e-mail all 3 of my 37 marker matches, hoping to find a distant cousin.

Previously I already found a 5th cousin in New York State who is a descendent of Thomas Elliot of Hawick, the

brother of my ancestor William Elliot. She still resides on the property homesteaded by Thomas Elliot over 200 years ago. Unfortunately, their church burned down before the birth records were transferred to Edinburgh. Several of my relatives have, over the years, done a lot of research in tracing our ancestors back to Scotland but have come to a dead end. DNA testing might help the search.

It is my intention to include the following information in communicating with DNA matches hoping to find more relatives:

William Elliot - emigrated from Scotland 1814-1818.
Settled near Perth ON
Son, Adam Scott Elliot - relocated to Bruce County 1856.
Founded the Town of Chesley
Son, William Elliot - built grist mills, foundries etc. throughout Grey and Bruce counties
Son, James Kerr Elliot - drove a stage coach near Chatsworth and owned a dairy farm in Chesley area
Son, Francis Walker Elliot - stationary engineer in Sudbury, Chesley, Kitchener and Waterloo
Son, Robert W. (Walt) Elliot - teacher, politician and financial advisor living in Milton
Son, Paul Alec Elliot - IT specialist, living in Milton, a seventh generation Canadian

The cost of the 37 marker check was \$175 US. I plan, over time, to increase the DNA check to the 67 marker level as it will probably give me even more exact leads to finding where I came from. It looks like this research will take several very interesting years. Updates to what I discover will appear in future newsletters.

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CHAPTER REPORTS

EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

Chapter Treasurer Linda Elliott-Doshen reports:

Our Annual Lamb Barbeque, Saturday, June 20th, 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 Ross's deliciously barbecued lamb roasts, delicious 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.

This fall we are planning a wonderful new venue for our Annual Christmas Potluck, on Sunday, November 22nd, 2009. Larry and I have enjoyed hosting it, at 1799 Dorset Drive, for the last two centuries. It has been great fun. Fortunately and generously, this year John and Colette have offered to host it at their lovely, country home on the river, in Chelsea, Quebec for our usual drinks and potluck...Sunday, November 22nd, 4:30ish to ... whenever! We are planning it for the earlier Sunday, in the hope that that date will be before any weather arrives to hinder the safety of your drive.

John and Colette would like to have an idea of who is attending, so please let them know if you are planning to attend the Annual Christmas Potluck November 22nd. We hope to see you Sunday, November 22nd, 4:30ish, at John and Colette's, 11 Williamson Road, Chelsea, Quebec, 819-827-1025.

Arrival - 4:30 for 5:00; Happy Hour (visiting, wine and appetizers) from 5:00 to 6:00;
Dinner - 6:15ish to whenever! As usual \$10.00 will be collected to cover any costs and toward a wee sip of Christmas Cheer.

We look forward to seeing you Sunday, November 22nd.

ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Marshall Elliott reports:

It is again a pleasure to communicate to our members in this part of Ontario and also throughout Canada where Clan Elliot remains strong and vibrant ... always remember or cry
"who daur meddle with me." This edition of the letter will document in some photos our Canadian President, Walter Elliot, and his son and chauffeur, Paul gathered at the recent Gathering in Edinburgh. A number of editions back I reported on my meeting with Lord Forbes who was the premier peer leading this on behalf of all clans. Please spend some time admiring these pictures as they truly represent both the best of Scotland and the international appeal of our homes.

Bonnie and I had the opportunity to chat with some of you at a few recent highland games in Ontario. The 'biggy' is Fergus and I need to thank as always Greg and Bonnie Ball and the President and his gracious wife, Anne, for their presence and support at these games. The Balls are actively involved in the various Games and are a great asset to our Clan.

On this November the 8th there is our annual luncheon at the historic Harrop House in Milton. It is a former

residence of an Elliott who settled in Halton Region along with my own great, great grandfather. The Harrop House is a wonderful restaurant on Steeles Avenue in Milton (right off the 401) and is hopefully convenient to those attending. The Sunday luncheon will begin at 11:30 to socialize, with a sit-down dinner at noon from their famous menu. Our President will be presenting on his 2009 Gathering visit which promises to be informative and entertaining. The price will be \$20 per person (also subsidized by Clan Elliot) and I would kindly ask those wishing to attend to phone me at (705) 748-4843 or e-mail me at marshalllelliott@cogeco.ca. Hope to see as many as possible for a most enjoyable few hours and a sterling opportunity to get to know other Elliots (perhaps your great uncle's grandson ... who knows!)

ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:

Our picnic was held on Sunday, July 12th, 2009 at the Buxton National Historic Site and Museum in North Buxton, Ontario. This was the last stop on the Underground Railroad for Fugitive Slaves in the 1850s. We had an excellent guide who explained the history and background of the museum. Their many artifacts, including quilts dating back to 1850, were most interesting. There are many original buildings from the area which have been moved to this site. In the Old Schoolhouse, a program is run for high schools students to learn about how it felt to live in those old days. If anyone is looking for an excellent day out, I would highly recommend this site. Visit their website at www.buxtonmuseum.com. Following the tour, we all enjoyed a good visit and an excellent potluck supper in the picnic grounds. Many thanks to Al and Carole Nickels for scouting out this museum.

The AGM will be held on Saturday, November 7th, 2009 at St. Andrew's Memorial Anglican Church, Foxbar Road, London, Ontario. Turkey dinner will be served. John D. Shaw and Catherine Elliot Shaw will present an overview of their trip to the Gathering of the Clans in Scotland this past summer.

Al and Carole Nickels attended the Clan Cameron Cattle Reiving Challenge in Orangeville, Ontario in September. There was a good turnout and everyone had a great time.

Upcoming events include:

Spring Event - April 17, 2010 - place to be determined
Picnic-Barbecue - June 27, 2010 - to be held at the home of John D. Shaw and Catharine Elliot Shaw to celebrate

the 20th Anniversary of the founding of our chapter
AGM - November 6, 2010

SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Clifford Elliott reports:

Greetings from Saskatchewan. Finally we are getting weather conducive to summer. We are having temperatures in the high twenties and low thirties now that should have shown up in July and August. The farmers are happy about the temperatures. It means that they are able to get the crops harvested and in the granaries before a hard frost hits.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer considering the weather and are getting back to normal activities and staying healthy. Here's hoping no one gets the H1N1 flu or, if they do, it is of the mild variety.

This is my report for now. Hope to be able to write another later this year.

ALBERTA CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Bob Elliott reports:

This summer has been quite active for the Alberta chapter as we were represented at four Highland Games sites and had a gathering of members in September. The Highland Games attended were Red Deer, High River, Calgary and Canmore. The Red Deer games, June 27th, were well attended and had dancers, pipers, bands and heavy events. The only other clan in attendance was Wallace, which set up beside us and were represented by a most congenial and helpful couple from Sylvan Lake, which is close to Red Deer. John Wallace is now on the Red Deer Highland Games board and assures us that there will be more Clan participation next year. We had the pleasure of a visit at the tent by Kathleen Elliot, who is our most elderly member at age 97. She was accompanied by a grand niece Karen McCulloch; they paid a short visit and then rushed off to watch the young dancers.

At High River on August 29th our clan tent was hosted by Mary and Walter Elliot, with help from Pat Smart, Bob, Helen and Curly Elliott. The crowd was probably the biggest ever for High River, partly because of a fine bright sun shiny day. The strong August winds came up again as usual for High River and our tent was struck early.

Calgary games were held on September 5th, Saturday of the Labor Day weekend. The Elliot clan was awarded a special

honour this year when Allan (Curly) Elliott was chosen as the Chieftain of the Day. Curly is an active member of the Alberta branch and Vice President of the Clan for Western Canada. He wore his R.C.M.P. kilt with a red serge Argyll jacket and was accompanied by Helen in a white blouse and matching tartan skirt. They made a resplendent couple as they were led to the podium by the R.C.M.P. "K" Division Pipes and Drums Band. Curly made an excellent opening ceremony speech and emphasized his belief the clans should be preserved and supported.

The Canmore games were on Sunday September 6th, the same holiday weekend as the Calgary games. The Elliotts and three other clans were represented in Canmore. There was a large attendance in the afternoon which turned sunny and bright after a cloudy morning. We had the pleasure of the company of one of our newest members Neil Herdman and his parents who are visiting from Scotland. Neil and his parents are great visitors and brought a special interest to our booth. The highlights of Canmore were two sheep dog demonstrations, one which involved children from the audience, and a superb performance of the massed bands which featured about 200 marchers.

The Chapter held a gathering at the Heritage Ranch in Red Deer on September 12th. This proved to be a popular event as it brought together members from Spruce Grove and Camrose, and members from the Red Deer district as well as those from the Calgary area. Alan Rowat Elliott and Arthur Elliott gave talks and circulated pictures of their trip to the clan gatherings in Scotland. They were both impressed with the friendliness of the Scottish people and particularly the hospitality of Margaret our Clan Chief. The Alberta Chapter was well represented at the Scottish clan gatherings by eight of our members from here, plus Dave and Liz Elliott from Holland.

This summer was not all joyous as in late August Alison A. Elliot of Stettler was called to her rest. She was a long time member of our Chapter and will be sorely missed.



Curly and Helen



Kathleen

OUR EXPERIENCE AT THE ELLIOT AND EDINBURGH GATHERINGS 2009

by Catherine Elliot Shaw and John D. Shaw

When we first heard that the Edinburgh Gathering and the Elliot Clan Gathering would coincide, we decided that it was an adventure not to be missed. And we were right!

Our experience began in Paris and London and then on to Scotland. After a train ride from London to Carlisle, we picked up a car and headed up to Newcastleton a day early. This afforded us the opportunity to drive around the Reivers Trail, the highlight of which was definitely Hermitage Castle. Our first visit 15 years ago had been somewhat disappointing as we could not venture very far into the interior. This time, we found that the castle had been adopted by the Scottish National Trust which had cleaned up the grounds, installed stairs up to the third floor levels and built a visitor centre with a friendly lady on staff. We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to linger among these ancient stones and imagine our forebears in command! The other pleasant experience that day was the drive over the moors from Langholm back to Newcastleton, during which we encountered many agreeable sheep who stopped to say hello.



That evening was the Officers' Dinner at the Liddesdale Hotel where we met many Elliots from throughout Scotland, England and U.S. The dinner was superb, with the chef's particular skill shining through in the appetizer, Crispy Haggis Bites, a delectable dish of haggis deep fried in pastry and topped with red onion marmalade. Needless to say, we asked for the recipe!



The Gathering itself began at the Clan Seat (Margaret's home), strolling the grounds, watching a drystone wall being built, checking on the walking sticks, shopping, and perusing the Clan Room. Then we were piped down to lunch on the field behind the house to a BBQ lamb dinner. Margaret and her overseas officers were piped in and our Chief welcomed all kinsmen most warmly. Canadian President Walt Elliot presented Margaret with a glass inukshuk from the Canadian Society. Afterward, there were demonstrations of archery, Scottish Olympic events, and 16th century dress. That evening, there was a Ceilidh in the local community hall with Roger Dobson and his band providing music. Margaret and family were joined

by other Scottish Country Dancers to do the dreaded Eightsome Reel to the delight of everyone there.

The next day walks and golf were scheduled but we were expected in Edinburgh so after a brief but interesting visit to the Newcastleton Museum, we got on the road. The drive proved to be more challenging than expected as we negotiated our way around roundabouts, got lost, and only just arrived to drop off our rental car in time.

The Hotel Missoni, only opened in June, was our base for the entire weekend. It could not have been better situated, only two blocks to Edinburgh Castle and 6 blocks to Holyrood Castle and Park, where the Gathering was taking place. On the Saturday morning, we walked down to the Gathering and heard that Prince Charles and Camilla had been in attendance to open the proceedings. Rumour has it that our own President Walt actually shook hands with Prince Charles!



The Gathering itself was most pleasant: well planned, well laid out, with lots to see and do. There was a Clan Village with 124 clans represented. The Highland Games were said to be the largest Edinburgh had ever seen.

Lots of music, including the Red Hot Chilli Pipers and lots of displays including an artisan's alley and a tent with no less than six Scottish Regiments represented. That evening, we participated in the Clan Parade from Holyrood Castle up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle. We were even on BBC World News in the background as a reporter made her live-to-air report. Since then, there have been several YouTube videos which show us proudly marching. It was an event to remember with over 7,000 people marching and 27,000 onlookers cheering us on. We waved Canadian flags which evoked even louder screams from the Canadians on the street and hanging out the windows. The paper next day said that there were more people in the parade than had fought at Culloden in 1745!

We understand that because of the overwhelming response to the event, there is some discussion about doing it again in four years. If so, you should think about attending as it is certainly a unique experience for all Scots.



Photos by Paul Elliot

PAUL AND WALT'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE by Paul Elliot

Two years ago, my father, Walt Elliot, suggested that I accompany him to Scotland to attend the double feature, the Elliot Clan Reunion and the 2009 Gathering of the Clans: the first being a quadrennial event planned and hosted by our Clan Chief Margaret Elliott of Redheugh, and the latter, the huge signature event of Homecoming Scotland 2009 which was to mark the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth.

We arrived in Glasgow at 5am on Sunday July 19th. The day was filled with tours of Glasgow on foot and by bus, and ended with a fine meal at my wife's relatives' house in Milngavie.

The next day, we headed down to the Borders to join in the Elliot Clan Reunion activities. We stayed at Sorbietrees B&B just outside of Newcastleton in the Liddesdale Valley. It is a wonderful place with spectacular views of the surrounding countryside, friendly and hospitable owners and a fantastic breakfast that essentially saw me through to suppertime.

We spent the Tuesday hiking in the Newcastleton Forest on the Viewpoint Trail and later exploring the history-rich and quite magnificent, yet sinister looking Hermitage Castle. The evening was spent in town and I accompanied Dad to the Officers' Dinner. It was a formal affair at the Liddesdale Hotel and the highlight for me was, of all things, the Crispy Haggis Bits appetizer. It consisted of Haggis in a pastry, deep-fried and topped with a red onion marmalade. My first taste of Haggis was a wonderful experience.

The next day, Wednesday, July 22nd, was the big family gathering at Redheugh. We headed into Newcastleton in the morning and caught a shuttle bus to Redheugh. At Redheugh, we proceeded down a very long stonewall lined laneway to the estate house. We were greeted by a piper and the receiving area was a U-shaped collection of outbuildings housing different activities. In one there was a walking stick-making demonstration, another housed a group of three lads demonstrating ancient weaponry and fighting techniques, one housed a gift shop while another, the Elliot museum. In another building, I found the author David Elliot, and bought his book "Clan." We explored the magnificent estate inside and out while the weather changed from sun to rain and back again on a minute-by-minute basis.

Eventually, it was time to descend to the lower meadow to partake of the lamb roast and many other activities. We gathered in a tent (about 200 or more I would guess) and

had an excellent meal of four barbequed lambs cooked on spits over an open fire since 6am that morning. Dad and I sat with a group of ladies from New Zealand and a young lady from Toronto. I found all the Elliots that I visited with were quite fascinating. There were American Elliots who traveled every year to canoe in Algonquin Park, New Zealand Elliots who participated in ocean yacht races, and local Elliots who had hiked from one side of Britain to the other. Whether local to Scotland or from the U.S., Jamaica, Canada, Australia or New Zealand, all were very interesting people with interesting stories to tell.

After the lunch, we all went outside the tent for the 2:30 firing of the canon, which was followed by the formalities. This consisted of Margaret and her family, along with a few honoured guests (the Presidents of the Clan from Canada (Dad), the U.S. and Australia), being piped into the event.

Margaret gave a very warm welcoming speech followed by short speeches from each of the Country heads. As Dad concluded his speech he presented Margaret with an Inukshuk on behalf of the Canadian Elliot Clan Society. The festivities continued with demonstrations by a Scottish Highland Games Silver Medalist (the Hammer throw and the Weight for Height throw), ancient longbow making and archery.

As the day's festivities concluded, we headed back to Newcastleton, and later that evening joined a number of Canadian Elliots for dinner which was followed by a Ceilidh at a local hall just around the corner. When we arrived, the Ceilidh was in full swing. The evening was quite wonderful with the music, impromptu poems, songs and stories. The highlight for me was the dancing led by Catherine Elliot Shaw, an Elliot from London Ontario. She led us through a reel and some very complex country-dances. Much laughter, confusion and collisions, but all in all quite entertaining.

The next day, the 23rd, was primarily spent getting to Edinburgh and getting settled into our hotel situated conveniently near the top of the Royal Mile. On Friday the 24th, Dad had to be at the Scottish parliament at 9am as he had been invited to a Convention of the Clan Chiefs. This was an historic event that saw 100 of Scotland's Clan Chiefs assembled together for the first time in recorded history. The purpose of this convention was to discuss the future of the Clan system in the 21st century and the ongoing role of the Clan Chief in working with the network of an estimated five hundred plus Clan and Family Associations scattered around the world. I was not on the

dignitaries list but was fortunate enough to secure one of the limited number of gallery observers' passes that was available. As an observer, I was only allowed to attend the morning presentations but was not allowed into the afternoon debates. Still, I found the presentations quite informative and really had the impression that I was attending quite a significant event.

The next day was the first day of The Gathering at Holyrood Park. We headed down early and found the Elliot Clan tent. We visited for a while then decided we should explore. Coming around the corner of the Clan Village we noticed a gathering of people circled around some activity. As we got to the edge of the crowd, we realized that Prince Charles was the centre of attention. The crowd was being opened up by security and we positioned ourselves to get a better view. We realized that Camilla was also part of the centre of interest. As events unfolded we found Prince Charles standing in front of us and we inexplicably ended up shaking his hand and having a brief conversation about his visit to Canada in November!

It was quite an exciting beginning to a day filled with soul stirring music, all things Tartan, and huge burly men tossing large objects in Scotland's largest ever Highland Games. The weekend celebrations were reported to have been attended by over 47,000 participants from over 40

countries. Saturday's festivities culminated with an additional 20,000 spectators lining the Royal Mile to watch as 8,000 people representing 140 Clans marched with their Clans up to Edinburgh Castle to watch a special pageant created and performed especially for this occasion. It was the first parade I have ever participated in and it was quite an emotional and exhilarating event with people pouring into the streets and literally hanging from the windows cheering on the parade participants. We found out, when we returned to Canada, that the Elliot Clan was featured in a BBC live news report covering the parade. For those interested, it can still be found online at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8169106.stm.

The Festivities continued on Sunday. My highlights that day were watching a concert put on by the Red Hot Chilli Pipers and an afternoon hike to Arthur's Seat, the uppermost point of Holyrood Park with spectacular overviews of Edinburgh and the Gathering. In the days following the Gathering, we completed our Scotland trip with visits to Edinburgh Castle, Camera Obscura, the National Museum and the Royal Yacht Britannia.

The trip overall was fantastic and there is already a push in Scotland to repeat the Gathering. If indeed this is the first of many, I strongly encourage you to join us 3 or 4 years from now for another memory making journey.

THE FERGUS HIGHLAND GAMES by Emily Elliot with pictures by Emily and Katie

On August 8th 2009 I went to the Fergus Highland Games. There were dancers and bagpipes and lots of other Scottish activities. I saw some bees and the Queen bee. The Queen bee is very easy to spot. She is the biggest bee and she has no black stripes. Then my sister, Katie and I went to this station called rope making from the Guelph museum.

The Elliot clan and all the other clans were in a parade. During the parade we saw some strong guys participating in a game called the Sheaf Toss. The sheaf toss is a traditional Scottish agricultural sporting event. A pitchfork is used to hurl a burlap bag stuffed with straw over a

horizontal bar above the competitor's head. Typical weight for the bag is 16 pounds (about 7 kg). Three chances are given to each competitor to cleanly go over the bar, without touching it. Some guy almost got it to the top but it fell off.

Another game that we saw was the Caber toss. It's a game involving the tossing of a large wooden pole called a caber, similar to a telephone pole or power pole. After the parade, we went back to the tent and had some lunch. Then it started to rain and got hot. We went home after a very fun day.



Katie and I making rope



My family holding the Elliot Clan banner



The bagpipers in the parade