



# The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Walt Elliot

It has been a very busy Spring for Anne and me. We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The following weekend was our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion as graduates of McMaster University. Since I was on the reunion committee, these two major, happy events made for an unusually busy time. The saving grace was the fact that our children Paul and Tina planned and executed the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration. It was a great success and we got to see many friends including our complete wedding party. Collectively, the five principals in the wedding party represent over 250 years of married life.

We began our Elliot functions with an enjoyable lunch with our chapter centered in London, Ontario on April 24<sup>th</sup>. It was held at the Harmony Restaurant in London, an establishment run by our honorary member, David Chan. We were a featured clan at the Georgetown Highland Games held the second weekend in June. Greg and Bonnie Ball of Acton, our membership secretaries, are on the board of those games and do a fine job in organizing the Avenue of the Clans, the concessions and the opening parade. This year they had 36 bands in attendance. Unfortunately, just after the opening ceremony, the rains came down and the afternoon was more than damp.

We goofed the next weekend by going to Ottawa for the annual lamb roast a week early. All was not lost as we stayed with McMaster friends and had a super but brief

visit with Bob and Eve Elliott, the hosts for the event. We were sorry to miss the lamb roast on the 26<sup>th</sup>, as we had planned to attend the party in London celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ontario West Chapter on June 27<sup>th</sup>. It was a great success, in spite of the rain forcing the Elliots into the home of Catherine and John Shaw. The highlights of the meal were the delicious BBQed pork loin, the various pot luck dishes (all unique and tasty), and the anniversary cake served with fresh strawberries and ice cream. The cooks did a fine job and a super time was had by all.

The Fergus Games will be held the second full weekend in August. On Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> we will have a tent on the Avenue of the Clans. These games are always well attended and most enjoyable. Attend if you are able and drop by our tent to say hello. If you are there around noon, you are welcome to join us in the opening parade.

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR WANTED

After nine years of service, my daughter Tina Elliot has advised me that she is planning to step down from the position of Newsletter Editor. Please contact me if you are interested in filling this position. Tina will be more than happy to assist with preparing newsletters during a transitional period.

## PHOTOS FROM THE GEORGETOWN HIGHLAND GAMES



# SCOTLAND AND THE GATHERING, 2009

*By David Elliott Family, Cloyne Ontario*

“A trip of a lifetime” – that’s how I felt as we landed in Toronto in August 2009, after spending two weeks in Scotland for last year’s Gathering. I could not imagine how much fun it would be to have lunch at Redheugh with our Chief Margaret and a host of Elliot(t)s from around the world, partying at night, or driving through the beautiful rolling hills of the border country. It is difficult to describe the feelings I had walking where my ancestors had lived, loved, rode, fought, and died as proud people.

Our visit to Hermitage castle was the high point of our trip to The Borders. To touch the walls, climb the stairs or to just sit and wonder what Elliots had once walked in the same footsteps as I was taking gave me an indescribable feeling. My son Bruce, his wife Jennifer, and their daughters, Jessica and Sarah, joined Noreen and I on our adventure. At the Gathering, Jessica even won the Welly Toss (a fun highland game event for children).

After our visit to the Elliot Gathering at Redheugh, and our visit to Hermitage, we travelled to Edinburgh to participate in the Gathering of the Clans. The highlight of this event was the gathering at Hollyrood Palace and the parade up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh castle. Thousands of returning Scots from every clan, pipe bands and tartans were everywhere. Thousands more of our hosts of all ages greeted us along the route, waving and clapping as each clan walked by. The street was packed with smiling faces. It was like nothing that I had ever seen before!

If all this was the main course of our trip, the dessert was not too shabby either. We travelled for five more days up the west coast of Scotland hiking the Quiraing on the Isle of Skye, visiting Glen Cloe, and hiking through Glen Nevis. We also explored several ruins along the coast. The trails were rugged, with streams crashing down the forest slopes and for the most part we found ourselves in complete silence.

Everywhere we went we were treated with great hospitality – the Scots know how to host a party. What a wonderful nation!

You must plan to join us at the next Gathering.



*The march up the Royal Mile in Edinburgh – Noreen Elliott, Bruce Elliott, Alan Donovan and Paul Elliot from Ontario*

## LINDA ELLIOTT-DOSHEN

We were very sad to learn of the passing of an invaluable member of the Elliot Clan Society, Canadian Region. Linda has been an enthusiastic contributor to Elliot newsletters for many years and has been a key member of the Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec Chapter, serving as treasurer. She will be sorely missed.

*The following was published in the Ottawa Citizen:*



ELLIOTT-DOSHEN, Linda Peacefully at home on Thursday, May 13, 2010, after a brief, intense battle with cancer. Beloved wife of Larry Doshen. Loving mother of Samantha (Victor Fox) and Nanette (Daryl Engelman). Proud and devoted grandmother of Brendan, Matthew and Tessa. Predeceased by her parents Sinclair and Joy (Cox) Elliott, and her brother Davey. Survived by her sisters Carol (Rick Stevens) and Cheryl (Barry McIntyre), and brother Alan. Educator, writer and thinker, students from Nova Scotia to Saskatchewan, particularly those in special education, benefited from Linda’s skill and dedication. Ardent feminist, she was a purposeful advocate for the full participation of women in all aspects of modern life. In retirement Linda was an avid gardener, with blossoms spilling onto Dorset Drive from April to October, and a Mah Jong enthusiast, introducing the activity to groups in Ottawa (the Dorset Divas) and Florida ... She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

# CHAPTER REPORTS

## NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

*Chapter Secretary Barry Buckman reports:*

Greetings to all Elliot clansfolk across the country. Here in Nova Scotia we have experienced a drier than usual spring season with much sunshine. All of the blossoms are at least two to three weeks ahead of schedule.

It is with regret that I report the passing of long-time member, Geraldine Trueman, in late March. She was a resident of Wolfville and her pleasant personality will be missed at clan functions. On a related note, her sister, Doris Rundle, moved to British Columbia a few months ago and we wish her well as she settles in with family there and hope that she isn't too homesick for Nova Scotia.

Our Chapter held its Spring Fling on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the venerable Freeport Community Hall on Long Island. It was a pleasant day with fair skies as the thirty-one members and guests assembled in the early afternoon. Canon Russell Elliott opened with a prayer and the crowd was seated for the meal which consisted of fish chowder, chili con carne and baked beans, all with homemade rolls. Dessert choices were molasses cake and rhubarb upside-down cake. Among the guests were all seven daughters of the late Donald Elliott who was born in Central Grove here on Long Island. Donald was one of seventeen children born to Austin and Enola Elliott. Does anybody out there know of a larger Elliott family?

On behalf of our Chapter, I extend condolences to the family of the late Linda Elliott-Doshen who was the Treasurer for the Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec Chapter. Linda grew up in the Annapolis Valley and was a former Queen of the Apple Blossom Festival. Our Chapter Chair, Murray Elliott and Harold Elliott of Truro are cousins to her.

Chapter member Gail Fudge spent two weeks in May on a European river cruise. She had a wonderful time and was able to join us for our Spring Fling. I also had telephone chats last month with long-time members Joyce Earle and Lillian Elliott (wife of Harold). Health issues have prevented them from attending clan events of late, but they maintain an interest and will likely join us when activities are held at venues closer to their residences.

I am pleased to announce that the Nova Scotia Chapter has initiated a Clan Elliot scholarship fund. An amount of

\$500.00 will be awarded to a child or grandchild of an Elliott to aid in post secondary education.

Our Clan Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Port George Recreation Centre. In addition to the usual auction, there will be a bake sale as well. The International Gathering of the Clans will return to Nova Scotia in 2011. Clan Elliot will be planning our participation in the coming months and we'll keep you posted.

Take care everyone, and all the best for the summer ahead. My special wishes to all fellow gardeners for a good growing season and a bountiful harvest.

## EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

*Vice President J. Ross Elliott reports:*

The Eastern Ontario/Western Quebec Chapter was devastated to learn that the spark plug of the Chapter, Linda Elliott Doshen, became ill with cancer while on holiday in Florida. After a short battle, she passed away quietly at home surrounded by her family. Linda was proud of her Elliott heritage and wore her tartan colours at all Chapter events. She and her husband, Larry, hosted a Christmas pot luck dinner for the chapter for several years. Their house was ablaze with Red, Red, and more Red as they welcomed clan members. She refused to accept an elected position on the chapter executive – she acted as treasurer and general organizer – but she said she did the jobs for fun and if they stopped being fun she would quit. She never did! Most Chapter members attended her funeral where we heard that she lived life large with several other groups. Truly a wonderful woman. Larry, we share your loss.

## ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair Marshall Elliott reports:*

As has been mentioned in earlier editions, April 6<sup>th</sup> of every year is World Tartan Day, a day to remember our Scottish heritage and bring out a piece of family tartan. It celebrates the day in 1320 when Robert the Bruce signed the Treaty of Arbroath; a document submitted to the Pope requesting the Church's acknowledgment that Scotland is not under the dominion of England's king. This statement has been such a part of our culture and history right up to the present. Every year I have requested this formal decree



of the City of Peterborough that April 6<sup>th</sup> be proclaimed World Tartan Day. This decree is occurring right around the world where there is any local Scottish presence as there is in every town and city in Canada. In Peterborough, World Tartan Day is now becoming equated with Clan Elliot as it is our Clan which is pursuing it and getting great media coverage. As part of our efforts to expand interest in our Clan and things Scottish, may I challenge other Chapter Chairs to take up this challenge on behalf of Clan Elliot. I have the wording of my formal municipal requests which are available for use throughout Canada.

## ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

*Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:*

Our Spring Luncheon was held on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Harmony House in London, Ontario. Twenty-nine members gathered to enjoy a buffet and visit with good friends. Canadian President, Walt Elliot, brought greetings from our Chief, Margaret. We were pleased to welcome the Shaw Family from Kincardine. Best wishes were extended to Winona Elliot on her 84<sup>th</sup> birthday.

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, the first ever Elliot Clan Society Golf Tournament in Canada was held at Cobble Hills Country Club in Thamesford, Ontario. Golfers enjoyed a nice sunny day and played 18 holes. Dinner was served after golf. Thanks to Jeff Elliott for arranging the tournament.

A Barbecue to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ontario West Chapter was held at the home of John D. Shaw and Catherine Elliot Shaw on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Details about this exciting event will be included in the next newsletter.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 6, 2010, at the Church of St. Andrew Memorial. A special programme is planned for this event.

Happy and safe summer to all.



*Trevor Elliott, Al Nickels, Len Elliott, Jeff Elliott, Catherine Elliot Shaw, John D. Shaw*

## SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair Clifford Elliott reports:*

Greetings from Saskatchewan. The weather out here has not been great at all this year. We have had floods, and water is laying around everywhere, with no crops being planted. We did not have any considered spring and summer has not been that great either. Hopefully we'll be able to enjoy some summer before it ends. Because of the weather, we haven't been able to do any clan activities, but on Saturday, my old high school will be having a reunion. I hope everyone has a great summer and enjoys good times while on vacation.

## ALBERTA CHAPTER

*Chapter Chair Allan Elliott reports:*

The annual meeting of the Elliot Clan Society of Alberta was held at the Heritage Ranch in Red Deer on March 27, 2010. Bob Elliott, after many years as our chair, decided it was time to step down and Allan R. Elliott will be the chair for 2010/2011. Mary Elliot will be our treasurer, replacing our long time treasurer, Walter Elliot, and Hilary Elliott will be secretary, replacing Helen Elliott. Preceding the meeting, a lunch was enjoyed at the Heritage Ranch. Once again, we had a good representation from Calgary and central Alberta.

The branch will be quite busy over the summer, staffing the Elliot table at Highland Games throughout Alberta. There are four Highland events scheduled over the summer, beginning with the Red Deer Highland Games on June 26<sup>th</sup>, then the Foothills Highland Games in Okotoks on August 28<sup>th</sup>, the Calgary Highland Games on September 4<sup>th</sup> and the Canmore Highland Games on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

We are always more than happy to see and to meet Elliots from any Canadian branch who happen to be vacationing in the west this summer and who are able to attend any of the Games.

## JAMES ELLIOT UPDATE

*The following submission will be of interest to our Manitoba chapter members, as it has been submitted by the former chapter chair:*

When I was about 50, I had what was my first asthma attack and began treatment for same plus quit smoking (for the first time). I'd never had much trouble before but did have a bad cough and occasionally bronchitis. Five years ago, just as we were moving to Ottawa, I had a bad attack

in Banff and ended up in a emergency where I was told I had Pulmonary Fibrosis, a fatal disease of the lungs that, over time, completely scars them reducing lung volume eventually to the point that you can no longer get sufficient oxygen, even by artificial means, which is about where I am now.

Last August, I was told to call the family in and get my affairs in order, which I did, and here it is May and I'm still kicking thanks to excellent palliative care doctors who come to the house, and excellent support from the public system caregivers who help Elizabeth and give her some free time. Right now I can only walk a few steps without getting out of breath, am confined to a motorized wheelchair and on 10 litres of O<sup>2</sup> per minute. Funny, you know my mother always said that the Elliots had weak lungs, and my father, who died when I was twelve, always had trouble breathing. He retired at 50 in 1929 but did not marry until 1937. I often wonder if there is a genetic disposition to the condition in the family. There is a test but my respirologist discouraged me from taking it. How long I'll last, I have no idea now, as this is a very stop and go condition.

## DO YOU KNOW GEORGE ALEXANDER ELLIOTT?

Born in 1783-1784 he grew up in Newry, Armagh County, Ireland, appeared in the USA around the turn of the century, was pressed into 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 he was born in Newry but professional researches find no trace.

Does anyone have a George Alexander in their family who may have been 17 or 18 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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## HERMITAGE CASTLE PAINTING

“Hermitage castle has a history filled with intrigue, murder, trysts, torture, and treason.” David Crighton has captured this mood; beautiful but violent. It's location was chosen to control the border between Scotland and England. It became known as, “the guardhouse of the bloodiest valley in all of Briton.” Our ancestors rarely wandered too far from the influence of Hermitage.

David Crighton is a recognized and popular artist living in Toronto. Much of his work is concentrated in the architecture of cityscapes, downtown towers, popular locations around the city, heritage buildings and street panoramas.

This is his first project of Scottish heritage. This work was proposed by an Elliott, collaborated with Elliotts and endorsed by our Canadian president, Walter Elliot.

This is a unique opportunity to purchase this painting. To my knowledge, this is the only painting of Hermitage Castle. Limited edition digital prints are available in various sizes, \$75 to \$175 from the artist at this time.

Please contact David Crighton at (416) 656-7679 or david@davidcrighton.com

