



# The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Walt Elliot

This will be my final report as president of the Elliot Clan Society Canadian Region. I have enjoyed the experience immensely and wish to thank the many clan members who ably assisted me since 2003. My travels east and west and throughout Ontario were most worthwhile. Having clan contacts throughout Canada made those trips extremely informative. Anne and I got an intimate look at many interesting venues.

This year, in June as usual, we visited with the Ontario East Chapter at their annual lamb luncheon. The South Western Ontario annual picnic was held at the Greenview Aviaries Park and Zoo in Ridgeway and we enjoyed a fascinating afternoon. The Fergus Highland Games in Central Ontario, the second full weekend in August, as usual was a premier affair although the dancing competitions were held in the arena because of the iffy weather. We were fortunate to be packed and ready for home when the rain came in the late afternoon.

Catherine Elliot Shaw of London, Ontario, will be your new president effective November 1, 2012. The official handover of the presidency will take place at the Central Ontario Luncheon held at the Harrop House restaurant in Milton on October 21, 2012. Please make her job as painless and enjoyable as mine was. Also note that your membership renewals should be sent to Catherine.



### Newsletters

My final comment as your president is to thank those members who have decided to access the Elliot Clan Newsletters on the internet. This is saving your society mailing costs and the full color photos on the internet make that approach very worthwhile. All Canadian newsletters beginning with Issue #1 2005 are posted on the Elliot Clan website as are newsletters from Scotland beginning with the spring 2009 issue. Accessing them is very straight forward. Google the Elliot Clan Society and go to the Canadian section. You will arrive at our home page which includes a segment on our newsletters. Good Luck!

Everyone still also receives a paper copy of this fall newsletter in order to facilitate membership renewals.

## INCOMING PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Catherine Elliot Shaw



What an honour to be the new incoming President of the Canadian Region, Elliot Clan Society! As I have come to know both our Chief, Margaret, and numerous kinfolk here and in Scotland, it is an exciting prospect to be the national representative of Canada in our international family. I am humbled by the messages of congratulations I have already received from across the country. Thank you all for the warm welcome.

It is also a little daunting to think of steering the Canadian Elliots through the next few years of challenges; however, I know that our retiring President, Walt Elliot, with the most able assistance of his wife Anne have laid a solid foundation. They created a computerized database of our membership which has streamlined the renewal process and newsletter distribution. They have kept a close eye on expenditures to ensure that our funds are spent wisely. And they have visited chapters across Canada to develop our national network. Thank

you, Walt and Anne, for all your dedicated work to The Elliot Clan Society over the years.

In speaking with chapter chairs recently, it is clear that one of our key issues is growing the membership. Like many organizations, we face a twofold challenge of not only getting our message out to prospective members but also convincing them to take that next step to join. To that end, we need to look at existing methods of communications and think about how we can augment them with other approaches. In my experience, face-to-face conversation is often the most appealing.

Information tables at Scottish games and events, invitations to chapter functions in local papers, even contacting Elliots in the telephone book, are already practiced successfully in some chapters and I am sure there are other opportunities available. It need not be a huge undertaking; as Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

The solution to this and other topics lies with all of us in the sharing of ideas. In the coming months, I welcome your discussion so that together we can continue to enjoy our collective heritage.

## CHAPTER REPORTS

### CENTRAL ONTARIO CHAPTER

*Marshall Elliott reports:*

There are some occasions in life that are bittersweet. . . . quite often involving significant change such as leaving a job and one's friends behind! As the Elliot Clan Society of Canada we are faced with such a moment presently: our President, Walt Elliot, is stepping down from that leadership role after years of faithful service. Walt is from the Central Ontario Region and this has allowed my wife and I to thoroughly get to know enjoy Walt and his charming wife Anne.

Walt and Anne have been our anchors and will be sincerely missed by the regional chairs and all members.

The sweet side to this is that Catherine Elliot Shaw will aptly fill the duties in both a most professional and collegial manner. We all look forward to welcoming Catherine as the Canadian President and I look forward to supporting her in my role as the regional chair for Central Ontario. As readers will note every fall the Central Ontario chapter sponsors a fall luncheon at the Harrop House in Milton ([www.harroprestaurant.com](http://www.harroprestaurant.com)) for directions and the homes history). Of significance this year is that the formal transfer of presidential duties from Walt to Catherine will occur at this luncheon on Sunday October 21, 2012 at 12:30 pm. Every year gives us a wonderful

opportunity to renew our friendships with other Elliots/Elliotts of our clan society.



*Mayor Daryl Bennett and Marshall Elliott shake hands after the reading of the proclamation, just before they raise the flag of St. Andrew at City Hall in Peterborough in celebration of World Tartan Day*

For those who have not attended in the past the luncheon is superb in a most delightful Elliot country heritage home in Milton. The cost is \$20 per person. All our invited and please contact me by October 14 if you are attending ( email: [marshalllelliott@cogeco.ca](mailto:marshalllelliott@cogeco.ca) or 705 748 4843). This venue and celebration will be a fitting opportunity to both thank Walt for years of leadership and to welcome Catherine as our new President.

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### ALBERTA CHAPTER

*Allan Elliott reports:*

Our annual meeting was held on Sunday May 27, 2012 at Chateaux on the Green, courtesy of Allan (Curly) Elliott. We had a good Calgary showing with ten members in attendance and following the meeting, a lunch was served. The main items of business were the representation of the Clan at the Alberta Highland Games and the plans for 2012 activities. We were able to attend two Highland Games this year. The Red Deer Games were a great success, as were the

Calgary Games. There was good clan attendance overall at the Calgary games and the Elliot booth attracted two new members. At the Calgary Games, Allan (Curly) Elliott was once again the ghillie and did a superb job directing, guiding, and protecting the Chieftain for the Day. A number of our members have expressed an interest in attending the 2013 Gathering at Redheugh, hopefully as part of a large Canadian contingent. The Calgary Games next year will be held on August 31 and will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Calgary Highland Games. More information on this anniversary can be found at <http://calgaryhighlandgames.org/>

## Eastern Ontario, Western Quebec Chapter

*Robert Elliott reports:*

It was a solemn occasion on a sunny and warm Saturday June 16, 2012 when the core membership and several guests of the Elliott Clan Society Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec Chapter gathered at the home of Eve and Bob Elliott in the countryside south of the Carp Airport for their annual lamb fest potluck gathering. The solemnity was occasioned by the farewell tour by Canadian Region Secretary R Walter Elliot and his lovely wife Anne. We were gathered to thank Walt and Anne Elliott for their years of service to the Canadian Region of the Society since 1984.



*John Elliott Trent's Presentation speech to Walt Elliott, Eric Elliott on the sofa, with Helen Elliott and Walt's wife Anne at the table Bru the fox terrier front and centre photo by Colette Elliott Trent*

The solemnity lasted about only as long as it took to get people laughing as John Elliott Trent and Julia Elliott paid tribute to Walt and Anne with a series of stories and vignettes about Clan Elliot. On behalf of the chapter, Ross Elliot presented Walt and Anne with a lovely pyramidal weather centre engraved with a small plaque reflecting the EA&WQ chapter's esteem. Walt then regaled us with several stories of his genealogical searches and others soon joined in about their family history researches.



*Anne and Walt Elliott with their gift from the chapter in recognition of their contribution to the Canadian Region photo by Colette Elliott Trent*

It should be noted that Walt and Anne always make a special effort to attend this event and this year was no exception. Leaving Milton at about 7:30 in the morning, they arrived in Carp about 12:30 p.m., enjoyed the event and then at 4:30 in the afternoon drove back to Milton, Nine hundred kilometres to share some time with our group. We all very much enjoyed the time to share with them. And two years ago, they came a week early!

The Chapter's 27th Annual Lamb and Potluck Event (but who is counting) has taken place in various forms and at various venues over the years but almost always on the Saturday before Father's Day in June. This year the event was attended by fifteen members and guests of the Clan.

The potluck meal centred around a Tuscany Stew , Colcannon, three salads (potato, Greek and green) and a lamb stew. Assorted fresh cut veggies and cheese and crackers and a strawberry chocolate fondue began and ended the meal.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the annual November function cannot be hosted by Colette and John Trent so the next formal gathering will again be in June 2013 on June 15.

Our chapter members wish all our fellow clans folk well for the end of the year celebrations and for the new year.

## Ontario West Chapter Report

*Carole Nickels Co-Chair, reports:*

This has been a busy 2012 for the Ontario West Chapter. Our spring lunch was held April 14, at the Mandarin Restaurant in London with twenty-four members attending. We were very pleased to have so many of our out of town members at the lunch.

The annual golf tournament was held June 12 at the Dorchester Golf and Country Club. The tournament welcomes all Elliot's and other clans to play golf and end the day with dinner in the club house. This year, the tournament had eight golfers and fifteen people for dinner. This is the third year for golf and we are pleased the event is growing.



The chapter annual picnic was held July 15, 2012 at Greenview Aviaries Park and Zoo in Ridgetown. Greenview Aviaries Park and Zoo is a twenty-five acre site that offers a self-guided tour of the park featuring wild and exotic animals, domestic animals, Shakespearland, splash pads, play area and picnic site. Eighteen members joined us for the pot luck supper. Our raffle was held and \$70.00 was raised to maintain our chapter funds.

During the Highland Games season, Co-Chairs Allan and Carole Nickels attended the Zorra Caledonia Highland Games in Embro, the Cambridge Highland Games in Cambridge and Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games.

While at the Cambridge games Allan and Carole met Roy Winders portraying Col. Matthew Elliot during the War of 1812. A War of 1812 display was set up at the games to recognize the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war.



The Annual General Meeting for the chapter will be held November 3 in London at the Church of St. Andrew Memorial. The meeting will feature guest speaker, Rev. Canon Nick Wells portraying Col. Talbot during the War of 1812. A ham and turkey dinner will be served and our raffle will be held at this event.

Future events for 2013:

April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Lunch
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Golf Tournament
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Picnic
Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Annual General Meeting

## **FUNDING THE SCOTTISH STUDIES FOUNDATION: Part 2 of 2**

*Transcript of speech presented by:*

*Harry Stewart Ferguson*

*First President of the Scottish Studies Foundation  
Annual Elliot Clan Gathering Harrop House, Milton  
October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011*

Today, I want to give you a brief background as to how the Foundation began. There is not time to go in to the history of how we grew and achieved our aims. The following are therefore only some of the high points:

The University of Guelph introduced the Scottish Studies programme in 1969. The late professor W. Stanford Reid, former chairman of the Department of History, was founder of the Canadian Association for Scottish Studies, and under his direction the programme commenced and expanded. He was a most accomplished individual and had tremendous energy, which he brought to the task of building a collection of Scottish documents of a very rich and wide variety for the University library. These included rare books, papers, manuscripts and letters, parish records and pamphlets. He never stopped in this mission and was constantly badgering, cajoling and charming money from the University coffers.

As a Scottish Canadian, (he was born in Montreal) he liked nothing more than being sent on various trips to Scotland, by the University to acquire these artifacts, usually by auction. He delighted in telling tales of acquisitions carried out under adverse conditions and could raise many a chuckle with stories of his deal-making and resultant coups of attainment from varied collections. A hard headed Canadian Scot making a deal with other hard headed Scots, on their own turf, is the stuff of classic humour. It is thanks mainly to this man that Guelph has the largest collection of original Jacobite documents outside of Scotland. In conjunction with the graduate programmes at the University, a series of Spring Colloquia were presented at Guelph and it was there that I first met Stanford Reid in 1975.

As time went on, the collection of rare and precious documents was growing larger and the problem of properly housing them was an oft debated subject. It was

at this time that a young Scot and vibrant Professor of Scottish history, Ted Cowan, joined the faculty in 1979 as Chairman of the Scottish Studies Programme in the department of history. I met him that spring during the lecture series on campus. Ted was full of life on the lectern and not only was he steeped in history; he could impart it with a dash and fire, the likes of which I had not seen before, all without notes; or only from the back of an envelope. This coupled with a delightful sense of humour and lack of pomposity made him much loved by his students and admired by his colleagues.

Ted Cowan and I had many discussions after the Colloquia and at meetings in Toronto, concerning the wealth of material at Guelph and how best to take care of it. In the spring of 1986, over lunch one day, he expressed his chief concern that, although the University and Government bodies had been very supportive of the programs he had been working on with other members of the faculty, these were times of change and with most Universities under increasing financial pressure to meet their budgets, there was now a real need to create a permanent and rotating chair in Scottish studies to preserve it from possible cuts imposed by fickle political motives or bureaucratic disinterest or incompetence. His message was: if we Scots in Canada don't look after our heritage, then we can't expect anyone else to do it for us.

He confirmed that the funding for such a chair would have to come from outside the University, and he asked me, as a businessman outside of academe, to form a group to raise funds for this enterprise. This was the beginning of the Scottish Studies Foundation, and at subsequent meetings we set the three priorities of this Foundation. First to raise 1.5 million dollars to fund in perpetuity a chair of Scottish studies at the University of Guelph. Second to support with funding the Scottish library collection at the University of Guelph, and lastly, to provide funds for scholarships in Scottish studies.

We recruited people into the Foundation initially who had been to the Scottish colloquia and who had the same interest at heart. As its first President it was my job to recruit members and work with the Federal Government in order to obtain our charitable status, also to prepare a brochure and to set some form of fundraising in motion. With the help of Hugh MacMillan, (then an archivist with the Ontario Government and a previous Governor of SSF) and Helga Loverseed (our first secretary) we put together the first official brochure, which through repetitive mail-outs slowly increased our membership. Hugh and I decided that we should take as our crest the two enduring symbols of both nations, the Beaver and the Thistle. This was presented to the board and approved. At this stage, like all fledgling organizations, we always looked for “freebies” in the form of services to the organization and Hugh came through by getting very good art work done at no cost. Slowly contributions came in but the first couple of years were rather desperate and very lean. Then at last after two years of constant phone calls and letter writing we received our Registered Canadian Charity status number from the Government. This helped because we could now give tax receipts. Even so it was touch and go and several times Hugh and I had to put our hands in our pockets to meet the cost of mail-outs to our ever expanding membership, money from that membership slowly trickled in and started to accumulate. At all times during those early days, as well as later, Ted Cowan was very supportive, lending his presence to our meetings and working with us on new ideas.

I recruited one of my old friends at this stage, with whom I had worked before on a funding project, Alan MacKenzie, who was to give very valuable service to the board and subsequently became President. Alan, as secretary, was a great help in those early days and it was through him that we finally held our board meetings in the boardroom of Barclays Bank. There were times when funding was pretty much down to a trickle but we struggled on. In 1992, Bill Sommerville became President and during his term of office the Ontario Government passed a Bill recognizing April 6th, as a day of historical significance to the Scottish community, as it marks the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320, our declaration of independence from England. This was called Tartan Day, it was also to have some significance for the SSF, around which they built an awards dinner for Scot of the Year.

I proposed to the board, and it was accepted, that we celebrate the arrival of the Hector (which was Canada’s Mayflower) on September 15th, 1773. I had the pleasure of organizing the first sail past in Toronto harbour with a squadron of yachts from various clubs around Lake Ontario. Along with the Scot of the Year this has become a regular event with sailings on the tall ship Empire Sandy.

In 1993 we had to say goodbye to Ted Cowan, who was offered the chair of Scottish History at Glasgow University. In parting with Ted we realized how supportive he had been with all our efforts, his work was done here and very good work it was indeed, for he started me down the road with the idea for a Foundation. One only has to look at what we achieved. As an example here are just a few names from the list of some previous Scots of the Year, honoured at the Tartan Day Dinner, funded by the Scottish Studies Society:

- 1993- Major-General Lewis Mackenzie
- 1994- Madame Justice Bertha Wilson (first woman member of the Supreme Court of Canada)
- 1995- Lloyd Robertson, CTV
- 1996- The Hon. Donald S. Macdonald
- 1997- The Hon. Henry N.R. Jackman (former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario)
- 1998- John Cleghorn (Chairman and CEO. Royal Bank of Canada)
- 1999- Michael MacMillan, Chairman and CEO of Alliance Atlantis Communications
- 2000- Lyton Wilson Chairman of Bell Canada Enterprises

As I look back over the years and see all of these accomplishments plus this enormous sum that we have raised, it is a most pleasing prospect. I had no idea that when I started this with Ted Cowan and became the Foundation’s first President that the future results would be so spectacular. As a native born Scot it was wonderful to see the eventual response, that we all hoped for in those early days, in recognizing the contribution Scotland has made to Canada.

As I said it proves that all of us have done a wonderful thing and something of which we can be very proud.

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen.