



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



Volume 19, Issue 1

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Catherine Elliot Shaw

Hello everyone!

As I write, it is a cold and snowy day in southern Ontario so, by the time you read this, hopefully we are all enjoying more spring-like weather.

The last few months have been a steep learning curve as I assumed responsibilities for the Canadian Region but, with Walt and Anne's wonderfully organized records and the help of my husband John, it has not been too onerous. The biggest job by far was processing membership renewals. Thank you all for responding so quickly although I am still looking for some of you. If you have not already done so, please take a moment to do it soon. And we are growing too; recently, I had the pleasure of issuing membership card #1102! Of course, there is always room for more so if you know people who have Elliot(t) family connections, why not offer them the membership form or send them to have a look at our splendid website?

One great reason to join would be to attend the international Gathering of Elliot (t) s at our clan seat in Newcastleton, Scotland. Our clan Chief, Margaret Eliott of Redheugh, will open her home to receive all Elliot kin over the last weekend of August with a wonderful array of events for us to enjoy: a delicious barbecue, access to the Clan Room and Hermitage Castle, a fun ceilidh in the evening, and a guided day tour of Flodden Battlefield.

It even coincides with the Holm Show, a local agricultural fair. But, you must be a current member of the Society to attend.



For more information, please see the website at www.elliotclan.com/events/2013-elliott-clan-gathering . Hope to see you there!

Elsewhere in this newsletter:

- Our chapter reports with past and upcoming events;
- News from our Canadian genealogist, Brian Elliott;
- The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal recipients;
- A new feature on things historical, geographical or just plain interesting associated with the Elliot(t) name. The inaugural story is on a World War II Victoria Cross recipient.

As always, if you have ideas or comments, please let me hear from you via any of the contact methods listed on the back page.

Yours aye,
Catherine

Congratulations- Catherine Elliot Shaw

From Walt Elliot

May I congratulate Catherine Elliot Shaw (742) as the new president of the Elliot Clan Society in Canada. The transition has been seamless and I know the clan is in good hands.

Members may be surprised to learn that Catherine is only the fourth president since the establishment of our clan in Canada in 1977, exactly 35 years ago in 2012. Robbins Elliott (12), our first president, was a civil servant working in Veterans Affairs in Ottawa. He travelled across the country in his position and generated interest in forming the Canadian branch of the Elliot Clan Society.

In 1985 Sir Arthur Elliott, the first chief of the Elliot Clan Society International, augmented Robbins' efforts by making a successful cross-Canada tour to generate support. Col. H.F.C. Elliot (187), our second president, took over when Robbins retired from the civil service in 1987.

Col. Hank Elliot retired from the presidency in 2003 after more than 17 years of dedicated service. This handover of the Clan to the third president, Walt Elliot (411) took place in August at the Fergus Games with our present Chief, Margaret Elliott of Redheugh, doing the honours.

FORMER AND CURRENT CANADIAN PRESIDENT DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL RECIPIENTS!



Walt being presented with Queen's Jubilee Medal-L to R: Anne Elliot, Walt Elliot, Paul Elliot, Tina Elliot

Our Past President Walt Elliot was presented with a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in honour of his significant contributions and achievements by Bonnie Brown, former MP for Oakville and a good friend, in Milton in December 2012.

This medal marks the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne as Queen of Canada and recognizes Canadians who, like the Queen, devote themselves to the well-being of family, community and country. The men and women awarded the Diamond Jubilee Medal represent the best of Canada's caring and diverse society.

Walt was surprised, humbled and honoured to receive this award.



Catherine proudly wearing her Queen's Jubilee Medal.

Catherine Elliot Shaw has been awarded The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

She and her husband John were nominated by a prominent Ottawa citizen for their unofficial ambassadorial activities during their travels throughout the United States. For many years, they have dispensed Canadian flag pins and bestowed honorary Canadian citizenship on grateful Americans who have been particularly helpful and welcoming.

CHAPTER REPORTS

CENTRAL ONTARIO CHAPTER

Marshall Elliott reports:

The following document “The Annals of a Border Club (Jedforest)” is a very interesting read about the early history of our clan in Scotland. The article was written well over a hundred years ago in 1899 by a George Tancred. It is quite lengthy and gives interesting historical perspectives on several border clans including the Elliot/ts. In it Mr. Tancred presents the following research carried out by a William Scott in 1775. To quote Scott’s research in the “Annals of a Border Club (Jedforest)”: “Now it has been widely acknowledged that the families of the surname of Elliott (the 2 T spelling) in Scotland were settled upon the borders of Liddesdale towards the close of the 14th century, in the reign of King Robert III, on or about the year of 1395; that for many generations before that period had been seated in Angus, or Forfarshire, at or near a village then called Elliot (one T), which still subsists, that about the same time specified they were brought hence by means of the first Douglas Earl of Angus, as is supposed, to strengthen the Douglas’ upon the border of England.”

There is much more of our Clan’s history in that Annals paper. It is my understanding that the village today in Angus is called Arbirlot, not Elliot, situated by a river known as Elliot Water not far from Arbroath.

It was at Arbroath that a most significant historical event occurred in April 1320. It was then that the famous treaty or declaration of Arbroath was signed and sent to the Pope regarding Scotland’s independence from England. It is this same event that is celebrated as part of “World Tartan Day” around the world in early April. Our federal and provincial governments have declared this event as part of World Tartan Week. My home community of Peterborough, Ontario has for years now declared the

same and I give my own Flag of St Andrew to fly along with the Maple Leaf for the week in front of City Hall. As in the past I encourage our members to write to the Mayor or other Chief Elected Officer of their municipalities to request that a week in April be formally declared as World Tartan Week; better still to lend the municipality the Flag of St Andrew and it will be flown at City Hall. Every year it generates some media attention about Scots in general and, of course, the Elliot Clan. If anyone wants to contact me to discuss this please do so at marshalllelliott@cogeco.ca.

As we roll into spring we will shortly be part of the Highland Games and Festivals season throughout Ontario. There are many different areas in Ontario and Canada that sponsor these games and are usually either listed in our newsletter or easily found on the web. In particular I would like to acknowledge and thank Bonnie and Greg Ball, Elliot Clan members from Georgetown, for their energy and enthusiasm at the Georgetown Highland Games; this year Saturday June 8 in Georgetown. For members requiring additional information or better still to assist the Balls please contact them leebon2606@hotmail.ca.

DON’T FORGET APRIL 6TH



TARTAN DAY

ALBERTA CHAPTER

Allan Elliott reports:

We are fortunate to have been able to welcome a number of new members to our Alberta Branch over the past few months. We are also pleased to report that a number of our members will be attending the Gathering at Redheugh in August. At last count, 4 members and their families from Alberta will be going to Scotland.

We hope to attend the Alberta Highland Games again this summer with our Clan Elliot booth and look forward to meeting any members who are traveling to Alberta this year. The dates and locations are as follows:

- Red Deer Highland Games – TBA
<http://www.reddeerhighlandgames.ca/>
- Foothills Highland Games (Okotoks) – TBA
<http://www.foothillshighlandgames.com/>
- Calgary Highland Games – Saturday August 31, 2013. This will be the 100th anniversary of the Calgary Games, one of the oldest gatherings in North America.
<http://calgaryhighlandgames.org/>
- Canmore Highland Games – Sunday Sept. 1, 2013
<http://www.canmorehighlandgames.ca/>

ONTARIO EAST AND WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

Bob Elliott reports:

We really didn't plan to do anything after the June 2012 lamb session but decided to wait until June 2013. But there was enough interest and availability of many members that we were able to hold a gathering on December 2nd. There were actually more people at this gathering in December than attended the June gathering!

The "Year-End" Potluck was hosted in the home of Eve and Bob Elliott and was attended by 19 clan members and friends. The food was, as usual, outstanding in the contributions and the weather while seasonal was not too untoward. While hovering around zero and threatening freezing rain, it actually turned out not too bad although it did deter one member from venturing out. We missed you Julia.

David and Gail Elliott were first-timers to our gathering and we warmly welcomed these canoeing travellers to join with our regular gang. Plagiarizing the style of past wintery gatherings hosts John and Collete Trent, Eve arranged a long table which spanned the great room and ensured that we were all able to move about and share stories while consuming the tasty treats that arrived with the crowd.

Our photos were a little blurred perhaps due to lower light of an overcast December afternoon and too- fast- moving guests, so we have none to share with our clan colleagues across the country.

Our next event, will be, if my counting is correct, the 28th edition of the annual lamb fest / potluck gathering on Saturday June 15, 2013 at the home of Eve and Bob Elliott beginning around noon.

ONTARIO WEST

Carole Nickels reports:

The Ontario West Chapter held its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 3, 2012 at the Church of St. Andrew Memorial in London. Twenty-seven members gathered for dinner on a fall afternoon.

Catherine Elliot Shaw, our Clan Elliot Society president, gave greetings from Margaret, our clan chief. Catherine is looking forward to the challenge of her new position and we wish her well in the future.

Our featured guest was the Rev'd Canon Nick Wells portraying Col. Thomas Talbot. The character of Col. Thomas Talbot explained his early life as an upper class child and how he came to Canada as a member of the British army. He recounted his days during the War of 1812 and how the war affected the area of Southern Ontario. Everyone present enjoyed the re-enactment by Col. Talbot.



Upcoming events for 2013

- Spring Event April 13, 2013 (gathering for lunch)
- Annual Golf Tournament June 9, 2013 (Dorchester Golf and Country Club)
- Annual Picnic July 14, 2013 (plans at a later date)
- Annual General Meeting November 2, 2013 (St. Andrew Memorial church)

The golf tournament is open to all Elliot clan members or family and friends. Please contact the Ontario West chapter if you would like to join us.

NEW BRUNSWICK

As reported to Catherine Elliot Shaw

It is with great sadness we received word of the passing of the wife of our long time New Brunswick Chapter Chair, Allison Elliott. Florence Elliott passed away on February 7th, 2013. Florence was very active in

activities of the New Brunswick Chapter. Her obituary follows:



ELLIOTT, FLORENCE JANE - Florence Jane Elliott (nee Folkins), 81, of Anagance Ridge, passed away at the Moncton Hospital on Thursday, February 7, 2013. Born on November 8, 1931 in Searsville, NB she was a daughter of the late Harold and Annie (nee Ward) Folkins. Florence graduated as Valedictorian from Sussex High School in 1948 and attended New Brunswick Teachers College in Fredericton from July to December 1948 and began teaching in January, 1949 (two months past her 17th birthday). For the next 6 ½ years she taught in various Kings County Schools. Florence married in Belleisle Creek to Allison Elliott on August 20, 1955. She worked for the next 36 years as a farm wife while raising four children, before semi-retiring in 1992. Florence was a founding member of Anagance Ridge United Church Women and received a 50 year certificate in the fall of 2012. She was active in 4-H, Women's Institute, Petitcodiac Partners Square Dance Club and the Kings County Historical Society. Florence is survived by her husband, Allison Elliott of Anagance Ridge; her children: John Elliott of Searsville; Brenda (Gordie) Kelly of Apohaqui and his sons, Patrick, Andrew & Anthony; Gordon (Heather) Elliott of Anagance Ridge and their son Logan; and Lloyd (Jenn) Elliott of Cupar, SK; and by her cousin Audrey Price of Sussex. Besides her parents, Florence was predeceased by her only sister Mildred Reid in 2011. In lieu of flowers, donations to Palliative Care Unit of the Moncton City Hospital, Canadian Cancer Society, Canadian Lung Association or to a charity of the donor's choice would be appreciated by the family.

SASKATCHEWAN

Clifford Elliott

I am beginning my report on a sad note. It is to inform you that one of our founding members, Charles W. Elliott passed away on December 4th, 2012 at 89 years of age. Charles and his wife Betty and my wife Hannah and I started the chapter in the 1990's. I am the only remaining founding member of our chapter. I have done some visiting with family despite some illness and the cold snowy winter and look forward to the warmer weather, Happy Spring and Happy Easter everyone.

Tour Company Information for 2013 Clan Gathering

Our tour company is Auld Country Tours Inc. We are a Canadian tour company providing travel opportunities to Canadians and Americans. We offer competitively priced tours of Scotland, England, and Ireland, with our next tours in the summer of 2013.

We are specifically marketing to the Scottish clan organizations in Canada and the U.S. and hope that you will take a few minutes to explore the tours that we offer (www.auldcountrytours.com),

As a special introductory offer, we'd like to give your members our promotional deal for any tours in 2013. Interested members or associates of the Elliot clan can give the PROMO code **ELLIOT-CAN** (on the website Booking form), and receive an immediate \$100 discount on the price of any tour that we offer.

Newsletter Submissions

Calling all historians, geographers and trivia specialists! Have you discovered something interesting related to the Elliot (t) name? It could be the origin of a place name, a notable award winner, a scientific term, anything. Send it along in 150 words or less to Tanya, our Editor, at thendsbee@accesswave.ca

Opportunity to Participate

My name is Olivia Clark and I'm a researcher at BBC Scotland. I'm looking for contributors to be part of the 2nd series of the hit children's programme, **My Story** which airs on the CBeebies channel in the UK [more info on our first series can be found here - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/mystory> or check out an episode from series 1 here - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzoYR0DptN4>]. We will be airing this new series in 2014 which coincides with the Commonwealth Games and with this in mind; we are keen to make some of our episodes within Commonwealth Countries, such as Canada.

To better explain, *My Story* pioneers the concept of history to pre-schoolers. It is a unique child-led history brand, taking children on a journey to find out their own family's history through fun, adventure and play – and to discover that every family has a story!

We'd be really keen to feature a story in our new series about "The Highland Games" and so are looking for someone that could tell it! We obviously know that Scotland, where we're based, is essentially the 'Motherland' of The Highland Games but as there is such a rich heritage based in Canada as well, we feel it would be a fantastic episode to film and tie in with our Commonwealth theme. Ideally we are looking for a charismatic family member that can retell their own life story to a bubbly 4 to 6 year old member in their family - a great grandchild, grandchild, niece/nephew, son/daughter or even a godchild. The storytelling would be filmed in key locations from the story and we would incorporate fun activities that tie into the experience. The older member of the family may have tossed the caber, danced at the Highland show or been part of any number of the sporting events. We basically want someone with a great story and a family member of the right age (4-6 years old).

If you would like to discuss this further then please do not hesitate to contact me on the details below. In addition, if you could pass this on to anyone you think that may be interested, it would be hugely appreciated – please encourage people to contact me directly.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks and best wishes,
Olivia

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VICTORIA CROSS MEDAL RECIPIENT



Keith Elliott VC (25 April 1916 – 7 October 1989) was a soldier in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, and recipient of the Victoria Cross, during the Second World War. Elliott was born in Apiti, New Zealand. When he was 26 years old, and a Sergeant in the 22nd Battalion, 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force during the Second World War, he was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on 15 July 1942 at Ruweisat, Western Desert, Egypt. Sergeant Elliott, while leading his platoon in an attack under heavy machine-gun and mortar fire, was wounded in the chest. Nevertheless, he carried on and led his men in a bayonet charge which resulted in the capture of four enemy machine-gun posts and an anti-tank gun. Seven of the enemy was killed and 50 taken prisoner. In spite of his wounds Sergeant Elliott refused to leave his platoon until he had reformed them and handed over the prisoners, the number of which had by then increased to 130.

(Excerpt from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Elliot Clan Society - Genealogy Project

Brian A Elliott

The Elliot Clan Society is currently working on a large Elliot Genealogy Project. At this time, the Society is in the information gathering process, and would welcome your input. As members, we are all encouraged (where interested) to submit our genealogies for indexing and input into the Elliot Clan Canadian Genealogical database.

For those interested in submitting your information to the Elliot Genealogy Project, (and yes, that includes Elliots, Elliotts, Eliots, Eliotts) you may submit your info as a GEDCOM file (preferred method, already computerized using say PAF or other software), or on

forms that can be downloaded from the Clan Society website: <http://www.elliotclan.com/docs/geneform.pdf>.

These forms have been designed so that information is submitted in a CONSISTANT, ORGANIZED manner. Please remember that we have to input all this data!

Periodic updates, from this database, as new information goes in, are sent for incorporation to a larger International Society database.

The overriding objective of the Genealogy Project is to help **Elliot Clan Society members** in their research by electronically compiling the data of its members, worldwide. This will provide searching and linking capabilities in this database. We will not undertake full on research for any member.

In terms of what we have done so far, here are our Canadian numbers that I am aware of:

Genealogies in-my-hands:	60
Computerized and Submitted:	21
(To the International Project)	
Represents:	673 Individuals
	265 Marriages
Additional Computerized:	8

(To be submitted)

My goals as Canadian Clan Society Genealogist, time allowing, are as follows:

- 1) Secure genealogies provided by members of the society and others who provide them,
- 2) Help you to try and find answers to your questions of an ELLIOT(T) Genealogical/Historical nature, if possible,
- 2) Promote Genealogical research in the Canadian Region,
- 3) Facilitate the Canadian Region portion of the International Society Genealogical project,
- 4) Anything else that seems to fit with the above.

So, I'm hoping you'll write, email, or phone to let me know your questions, comments, and ideas on the subject of Elliot(t) Genealogy. You can find my contact information on the last page of the newsletter.

We'll need to talk about Genealogical software and the need for help with data entry, but that will be in future columns. Stay tuned and happy hunting.