



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



Volume 19, Issue 2

November, 2013

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Catherine Elliot Shaw

Hello everyone!

This year has continued to be a whirlwind of learning and activity. In addition to getting to know you across the country, I had the honour of representing Canada at this year's Gathering of the Clan in Scotland. There were many fellow Canadians in attendance and together we braved the cool temperatures and usual "mist" on the day itself and the gale force winds at the Flodden Field monument! More on that in my report on the gathering.



Over the last year, our membership has grown:

- 1100 Jayde Krysanda Westby, Calgary AB
- 1101 Cameron and Winnifred Sherry, Howick QC
- 1102 Patricia Fawcett, Calgary AB
- 1103 Donna Leslie Gagnon, Haliburton ON
- 1104 Nancy Brennan, Allan, Duncan, and Alanne Elliott, Chateauguay QC
- 1105 Terry Myles, Port Hope ON
- 1106 Terrance Charles and Giselle Elliott, Happy Valley/Goose Bay NL
- 1107 Lisa and Joshua Guitare, London ON

Elsewhere in this issue:

- Chapter Reports with news and future events;
- a report on the Gathering;
- another story on "things Elliot", this one on three generations of comedians.

If you have any ideas for features or stories in the newsletter, do get in touch with our editor, Tanya Hendsbee, or me. We'd love to hear from you.

Finally, I wish you all a most Blesséd Christmas and Joyous New Year.

Welcome all!

A reminder too that membership is now due. Please make any corrections needed on the enclosed form and send it to me at the address listed on the back page of this newsletter. Your cheque or money order should be made payable to "Elliot Clan Society Canada".

Yours aye,
Catherine

2013 Elliot Clan Gathering- Scotland

Over August 29 to September 1, 200 members of the Elliot Clan Society gathered at Redheugh, home of our Chief Margaret Elliott.

At Redheugh, attendees could browse through the Clan Room, purchase crested and tartan items, enjoy art and walking stick displays, and explore the grounds. In the dining tent erected on the back meadow, we were served a delicious meal of barbecue lamb. Afterward, Margaret and the Regional Presidents were piped onto the field where our Chief mounted a farm wagon to address her kinsmen. On your behalf, I presented her with a piece of 19th century Canadian pressed glass in the "Canadian Thistle" pattern.

The afternoon concluded with an impressive flying display of raptors (hawks, owls and other predatory birds) narrated by their handler. That evening, we enjoyed a ceilidh at the Village Hall with various entertainers. Margaret and family got up to dance the Eightsome Reel, a spirited and fun dance not for the faint of heart!

The next day, many of us attended the Holm Show, a fall fair, in Newcastleton while others toured the surrounding reiver country including our own Hermitage Castle. On Sunday, 47 of us participated in a bus tour organized by Margaret to Flodden Field. Passing through Hawick, we first attended a church service at the Ladykirk just over the Tweed River. Built by James IV in 1500, it was constructed entirely of stone so that it would survive both burning and flooding. The minister crafted the service to include hymns either written by Elliots or with music composed by Elliots. Afterward, we enjoyed a delicious lunch at a nearby hotel. Then it was on to a guided tour of Flodden Field, site of the 1513 battle in which James IV became the last Scottish King to die in combat. The winds were so fierce during our visit that we had to hold onto to each other to keep from being blown away!



Redheugh with the Chief's banner flying to welcome us



The Clan Room with its collection of Elliot-related memorabilia



Catherine presenting Margaret with a gift from Canada



Margaret and family dancing the Eightsome Reel, son Ben in the centre, daughter Kate on the right



Some of the intrepid Canadians gathered round the Flodden Field monument with Chief Margaret second from right

CHAPTER REPORTS

ALBERTA CHAPTER

Neil Herdman reports:

The AGM for the Alberta Chapter of the Elliott Clan Society was held again at the Chateaux on the Green, in Calgary on Sunday 5th May. Allan Elliott unfortunately has had to step down as the Alberta Chapter Chair, and I (Neil Herdman) was asked to fill his very capable shoes. Due to my work pattern, it makes it difficult for me to attend many of the events as I work most weekends, so have to take time off unpaid to attend meetings or events. With this in mind and the limited resources (in terms of members) able to attend the 4 Highland Games we normally have a presence at, we agreed to attend only the Calgary Highland Games this year, as it is the only one we have had any new member interest over the last few years.

With this in mind, Allan had already sent in an application to the Calgary Games. We were notified that this year, they were implementing the requirement for a \$50 prize donation and also the requirement for liability insurance. I followed up on this as it made no financial sense for us to attend as this potential cost heavily outweighs the return for us. Fortunately there was a change of plan by the Games organizers, dropping the donation, which made the show viable.



The Eightsome continues, Margaret on the right



Before the service at the Ladykirk, we were hosted with tea and coffee

On a beautiful sunny Alberta day on Saturday 31st August, we turned up to the Calgary Highland Games to find they had given the clans an excellent spot on the main roadway. Curly was the 'Gillie' again for this year, and chauffeured the Calgary Chief of Police, Rick Hanson around the show. Allan and Hilary Elliott, joined me for most of the day and it was a glorious day for the 100th Games.

Walter and Mary Elliot also gave excellent support (as always) and I think we all had a wonderful day. During the day I spoke to an interesting gentleman from Inverness in Scotland, who organizes their events for the city. He said they are hoping to have a large event next year to celebrate the 1314 Battle of Bannockburn. The date was not finalized, but it would be an excellent event to go to if time and funds allow!

With the winter months coming, I'm hoping to have more time to spend on the Society business and look into how we can continue to move forward and maintain a presence in Alberta with a dwindling active membership. Hopefully more news on this next time around!

CENTRAL ONTARIO CHAPTER

Walt Elliot reports:

Marshall and Bonnie Elliott of Peterborough Ontario have decided to step down as chairpersons of the Central Ontario Chapter of the Elliot Clan Society of Canada. Bonnie has recently retired from nursing at the Peterborough Hospital and they would like to spend more time on other activities.

Marshall was appointed chair by our former president Colonel Hank Elliott well before 2003, the year I became president. For their long continuous contribution of time to our chapter we issue a great big thank you. As well we wish them much happiness in their future endeavours.



The photo of Marshall and Bonnie in this newsletter was taken at our last fall luncheon in October 2012, held at the Harrop House Restaurant in Milton, Ontario.

This year the Harrop House luncheon is taking place on October 20th. Probably this newsletter will not reach you in time to attend if you live outside Ontario, but in future keep the luncheon in mind. We usually hold it in October and out of province members would be most welcome. We might even consider buying you lunch. The Harrop House Restaurant is the homestead of a pioneer Elliott family. It also houses an art gallery on the second floor which in itself is worth a visit. One shed from the farm is now a picture framing and art facility and the barn has been relocated to Country Heritage Park, also in Milton.

The second event in our area which we try to attend each year is the Fergus Scottish Games, always held the second full weekend in August. If the weather cooperates more than 100,000 visitors attend on the Saturday of the three day event. Tents can be rented by the individual clans and are an excellent venue for increasing membership as the games, dance competitions,

displays and pipe and drum bands attract big crowds of people interested in things Scottish. There is a prize each year for the best clan tent display. You might find this event of interest if you are in Ontario that weekend.

Until we find a replacement for Marshall, please contact me about any Central Ontario matters at 905-876-3377 or 42elliots@gmail.com.

ONTARIO EAST AND WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

Bob Elliott reports:

Since our last report in the spring, local clan members gathered once again on Saturday June 15, 2013 at the home of Eve and Bob Elliott who hosted the 28th edition of the annual lambfest / potluck.

Members and guests began to arrive around noon on a glorious sunny day and there was much chatting and the event was well attended by 19 clan members and friends.

The food was, as usual, outstanding in the contributions: lamb stew, a Strata (a multi-layered baked dish of various meats and vegetables), a rhubarb lunar cake (in tribute to Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield), roasted vegetables and various cheeses and selected fruits.

While the kitchen area was the hub for the food and beverages, attendees were able to enjoy the fine weather on both the front porch and rear deck. There was enough of a breeze to keep the insects away.

Later in the afternoon, we entertained each other with story time. Collette and John regaled us with the tale of their new neighbour from hell whose attitude to all seemed that height of "it being all about her and what she wanted." and nary a thought about her behaviour and the impact on her neighbour's peaceful enjoyment of their property.

Bob related his attendance at his first Robbie Burns Dinner in late January. This event was hosted by the Scottish and Irish Store in Ottawa and organized as a fund raiser for the Sens Foundation and Roger's House. It featured tastings, Robbie Burns poetry recitation, and a drum and bagpipe corps with highland dancers. There was a silent auction and a live auction and Bob displayed the results of his high bids - a gorgeous Newfoundland & Labrador plaid blanket, and a 1.89 L bottle of Remy Marten XO Cognac. With the assistance of Emma, all were able to sample more than a wee dram of that bottle. It was suggested that perhaps this event might be a fun evening for clan members to consider for a different get-together. And many agreed.

Our next event will be, if my counting is correct, the 28th edition of the annual lambfest potluck gathering on Saturday June 14, 2014 at the home of Eve and Bob Elliott beginning around noon.

ONTARIO WEST

Carole Nickels reports:

Our fourth annual Golf Tournament took place June 9, 2013 at the Dorchester Golf and Country Club, just east of London. Eleven golfers played the course on a sunny afternoon competing for the Mulligan plaque. The tournament is open to Elliot Clan members and friends. The day ended with dinner in the club house. Thank you to Jeff Elliott for arranging the tournament.

The Ontario West Chapter gathered at the Moore Museum in Mooretown, on July 14, 2013 for the annual picnic. Thirteen members stepped back in time to tour the village. Visitors were able to explore a one-room school house, carpentry shop, lighthouse, church, railroad station and CNR cabooses, cottages, fire hall with a 1925 LaFrance pumper and print shop. The picnic supper was pot luck and was enjoyed by everyone.

The Annual General Meeting of the chapter will be held November 2, 2013 at the Church of St. Andrew Memorial, 55 Foxbar Road. All family

members are welcome to join us for a catered lunch and entertainment. Our popular raffle of donated items is held at this time. Funds raised from the raffle are used to support the chapter.

MANITOBA

John Peach reports:



Back row: Jack Elliott, Avis Elliott, Howard Elliott
Front row: John Peach, Lisa Elliot, Gerry Lockhart, Pat Elliott. Photo by Charlotte Peach

On Sunday, September 15, the Manitoba Chapter enjoyed the gracious hospitality of Howard and Pat Elliott at their home in Winnipeg. Members Jack Elliot and his daughter, Lisa, showed pictures and told stories of their 2012 trip to England, Ireland and Scotland. We were particularly interested in the Elliot homeland including Hermitage Castle, Smale Castle, Newcastleton and Jedburgh Abbey. They told of visiting Chief Margaret Elliot and the clan headquarters.

Our chapter has had few gatherings in the last several years so we particularly enjoyed renewing acquaintances.

SASKATCHEWAN

Clifford Elliott reports:

Greetings from the Saskatchewan chapter! It has been a warm summer here but tolerable.

The farmers have had bumper crops as the grain terminals are filling up.

I had cataract surgery on one eye and all went well. I'm now looking forward to having the second eye done so I would like to step down as chapter chair. It has not been a lot of work and I would be happy to talk to anyone interested in taking it on.

In the meantime, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

NEW BRUNSWICK

J. Allison Elliott reports:

Activity in the New Brunswick chapter has been quiet this year but we hope to have a get-together in the near future.

NOVA SCOTIA

Tanya Elliott Hendsbee reports:

An Elliot Dinner was hosted at the beautiful home of Jim Feetham, the Chapter Chair, this summer. Those who attended had a lovely afternoon of food and fellowship surrounded by Jim's thousands of daylilies in all their glory. A dinner will be planned for 2014 so stay tuned for more details. In the interim you can contact Tanya Hendsbee thendsbee@accesswave.ca 902-435-6111.

A Big THANK YOU to retiring Chapter Chairs Allan Elliott (Alberta), Marshall and Bonnie Elliott (Central Ontario), J. Ross Elliot (Ontario East/Quebec West), Jim Feetham (Nova Scotia). Your hard work on behalf of the Society is much appreciated.

Thank you also to the following who have stepped into the reins for their chapters: Robert and Eve Elliott (Ontario East/Quebec West); Walt Elliot (Ontario Central); Tanya Elliott Hendsbee (Nova Scotia); and Neil Herdman (Alberta).

Catherine Elliot Shaw

THREE GENERATIONS OF COMEDIC ELLIOTTS HAVE KEPT US LAUGHING FOR OVER 60 YEARS.



Robert Brackett "Bob" Elliott is on the left

Robert Brackett "Bob" Elliott is one-half of the comedy duo of Bob and Ray who began in radio in the 1940s. Later, they moved on to their own television show in the early 1950s as hosts of an ostensibly serious radio program. Elliott and his partner Ray Goulding lent their voices to a variety of recurring characters creating a multi-layered world that parodied the real-life world of radio broadcasting. Their "staff" (all voiced by Elliott and Goulding) was a comic menagerie of reporters, book reviewers, actors and all other manner of radio personalities, all of whom interacted with "Bob" and "Ray" as well as with each other. Elliott appeared on a number of other television programs, including *Happy Days*, *Newhart*, and *Bob & Ray*, *Jane, Laraine & Gilda* in 1979 (with Goulding, Jane Curtin, Laraine Newman and Gilda Radner). He continued making appearances up until 2008 including *The American Radio Company of the Air* with Garrison Keillor. He is the father of comedian/actor Chris Elliott and the grandfather of former *Saturday Night Live* cast member Abby Elliott.

Chris Elliott is best known for his comedic sketches on *Late Night with David Letterman* in which, like his father, he created a series of oddball characters. He has also starred in the cult comedy series *Get a Life* and had recurring roles on *Saturday Night Live*, *Everybody Loves Raymond* and *How I Met Your Mother*. His movies include *Cabin Boy*, *There's Something About Mary*, *Scary Movie 2* and *Groundhog Day*. Elliott currently stars in the Adult Swim series *Eagleheart*, which starts its third season on November 14, 2013.

His daughter, Abby, decided on an acting career at an early age but switched to comedy after training and performing in various programs. She is the third generation of her family to be featured on *Saturday Night Live* and the second hired to be a cast member (2008 – 2012). She is known for her wide range of celebrity impressions including Christina Aguilera, Angelina Jolie, and Marilyn Monroe.

(Excerpt from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

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