



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



Volume 20, Issue 2

November, 2014

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Catherine Elliot Shaw

Hello everyone!

As I write, the weather has been quite balmy for the season but the odd cold wind reminds us of winter to come.

This past summer, John and I travelled to the Maritimes where we enjoyed the hospitality of the chapters in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. We flew into Halifax just ahead of Hurricane Arthur which was quite interesting, particularly for Tanya Hendsbee, the NS chapter chair who had a luncheon all organized in Wolfville. Unfortunately, Wolfville was right in the path of the storm and the Inn lost its power. Tanya gamely relocated the event to Halifax and we enjoyed meeting everyone who could attend. Thank you Tanya for all your work to bring off the event in the midst of a hurricane!

John and I then drove along the south shore toward Cape Breton. Our intention was to drive all the way around the island from east to west. Ten minutes inside the park, though, we were flagged down by the local volunteer fire chief who explained that a tourist bus had been in an accident and the road was closed. We had the choice of waiting 2-3 hours or driving back the way we had come. We chose the latter which turned out to be the better choice as we heard later on the radio that it had been 7 hours before they had been able to open the road. We also saw 7 ambulances and several medivac helicopters rushing to the scene so we knew it was serious.



We carried on to enjoy Prince Edward Island especially as it was the 150th anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference with lots of programs in the downtown area. We spent a few days in Summerside before driving across the Confederation Bridge to New Brunswick where we enjoyed the hospitality of the NB chapter. Thank you to J. Allison and his executive for a lovely evening.

Throughout we took the opportunity to enjoy local lobster, scallops and other seafood – a treat I won't soon forget!

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find chapter reports with news and future events and photos of the trip to the Maritimes.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with your ideas or concerns.

Yours aye,

Catherine

CHAPTER REPORTS

ALBERTA CHAPTER

Neil Herdman reports:

Activity has been quiet over the summer months, again as my work schedule makes it difficult to be available to attend events at weekends.

Our Chapter AGM was held on 2nd June 2014 in Calgary. The event again shows the difficulty of holding an event for a Society that covers the whole of a province. The majority of members are based in or around Calgary, so it is asking a lot of older members based here to travel a good distance even to make a meeting in say Red Deer (150km away).

With the number of members dwindling who are able to set up the event tent, we agreed to only support the Calgary event, even though requests were received for Canmore, Foothills and Red Deer.

Calgary Highland Games were held on the 30th of August 2014, on a day that didn't promise to be favourable weather-wise. Fortunately the Weather Gods looked favourably on the day, and although it started really cold in the morning, it warmed up during the day. There is a new organizing group this year, and the layout of the event changed. I believe it affected the number of the spectators travelling past our tent as most of the heavy events were located near the entrance, which meant many people stayed there.

I was there at 7am to set up, and the great part of the event was all the clans supported each other to set up. In talking to the other clans, the majority are supported by only one family from each clan, but it was good to see 2 clans supported by young members in their 20's. It was great to be able to have Curly supporting with his partner Noreen. Curly is usually the 'gillie' for the event but has retired from the duties, so his and Noreen's support was much appreciated. It was also great to have Allan and Hilary Elliott's support again along with Walter and Mary Elliot. We did see 3 potential new

members, and hopefully they will follow up as all appeared keen.

It was a great day, and it was good to be able to escape the tent for a few minutes to walk around the event knowing the clan Elliot was still represented at the tent.

Hopefully next year will allow more events to be covered.

Scotland's Vote Sept 18th 2014

By sheer coincidence (I would like to say it was planned), I was back in Scotland the day of the big vote to see if Scotland would decide for full independence from the rest of the UK. The whole debate for 'YES' or 'NO' vote was even splitting families! My brother and his wife were at opposite sides for the decision, and spirited arguments were held daily by all. I was not able to vote, but it was extremely interesting to see the passion and enthusiasm of both sides. It was particularly impressive that 85% of the eligible voters (even 16 year olds were allowed to vote on their future) turned out. I bet all politicians would love it if they could entice that level of interest. I think the result was for the best, as there are too many unknowns financially (in my opinion) for a separate country. But the issue could easily re-ignite if the new promises of further devolution of power do not follow through. I believe it will be a case of 'watch this space'. It was truly an experience I will remember.

CENTRAL ONTARIO CHAPTER

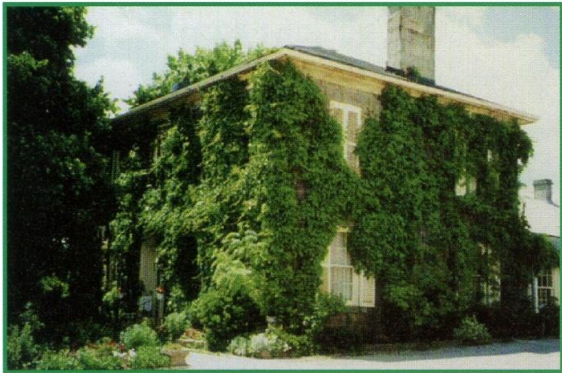
Walt Elliot (Interim Chair) reports:

The Central Ontario Chapter held its annual fall luncheon at the Harrop House Restaurant and Gallery in Milton, Ontario on Sunday October 19, 2014. The Harrop House is the pioneer homestead of William Elliott. Below is a brief write-up of the history of the homestead. The regal house is still in excellent condition.

The house and gallery are well worth a visit if you are ever visiting in Milton.

The second annual event in our area is The Fergus Highland Games held the second full week end in August. We generally have a tent on the avenue of the clans and would be pleased to see you.

Harrop Restaurant and Art Gallery



Our History

The elegant colonial mansion was built by an emigrant Scottish family, in a slower, more gracious era. Constructed of local limestone, in 1870, the house originally stood on a 200 acre grant of crown land.

In 1882, the Elliott family added an English style barn to the property. Measuring 55 feet by 120 feet, it featured a low gabled roof and a unique curved tile silo. Dismantled in 1975, piece by piece, the barn was reconstructed on the Kelso site at the Ontario Agricultural Museum.

The true regency character of the house is discernible only from within. The former living room features what used to be a music area, containing a piano. Each of the main living rooms contains a fireplace, although these were not the only sources of heat. Stoves were also used for cooking and heating. A wood burning furnace was added later. The regency style of the house is emphasized by the two feet deep window wells and by the wide and ornamented door frame mouldings. The trim in the entrance hall, drawing room and dining room is more strongly moulded and retains the corner box, while that in the rooms that were of lesser importance are narrower and less ornamented. The upstairs back portion of the house was used as a servant's quarters.

In 1912, Edwin Harrop purchased the property for \$22,000 - a sizable sum in those days. The Harrops remained in the home until 1969. During their 57 years in Milton, the Harrops raised a family of five sons and became well known as good community participants. Today our fine food and comfortable atmosphere recall many traditions of "old world" Ontario.

ONTARIO EAST AND WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

Bob Elliott reports:

As previously forecast, the Chapter's 31st (?) Annual Lambfest was held as almost always on the Saturday preceding Father's Day, this year June 14, 2014.

The event was held again at Bob and Eve's home in Carp. This event was graced by the presence of our Canadian leader Catherine Elliot Shaw and JD Shaw, who was splendidly attired in full kilt and tam. We celebrated with a special cake.

The menu was the usual potluck of members and friends contributions.

- Raw Veggies & Dip-Colette & John Trent
- Green Salad-Ross & Hélène
- Potato Salad-Julia
- Cheese & Crackers-Eric
- Homemade Bread-Ross & Hélène
- Chestnut appetizer-Ivana & Pat
- Lamb kebobs- Eve
- Fresh cooked Green Beans-Colette & John Trent
- Strata Medley (layered pasta, meat, veggies, cheese)
- Rice pilaff-Helen & Dorothy
- Fruit Salad-Ivana & Pat
- Strawberry Shortcake-Ross & Hélène
- The Cake



J Ross and the lamb kebabs



Catherine cutting "The Cake"

Since Bob is not a BBQer, we enlisted our neighbours, Ross and Renée Orsi, to provide their BBQ. Ross and JD volunteered to cook the kebobs and they were wonderful as were all the other contributions.

Ross Elliot and H el ene were particularly welcomed as they returned from a two year absence occasioned by conflicting travel plans. Ross, who is handing off many of his Canadian Clan responsibilities after more than 30 years playing a significant role in the Canadian organization, brought along clan merchandise for transfer to Catherine and John. Seizing the opportunity, many of the items were offered for sale. This realized some \$80 in revenues for the Canadian Clan. I was able to acquire two outstanding Clan emblazoned ball caps!

If other members are interested in what is available, contact Catherine and John.

Events for the holiday season are under discussion but for sure, the next Lambfest will take place on June 13, 2015. A doubly special day as it will be our firstborn's 36th birthday.

All the best to our clan colleagues across Canada!

ONTARIO WEST

Carole Nickels, Co-Chair reports:

The summer months have passed quickly in southern Ontario with the trees gradually changing into their beautiful autumn colours. Mother Nature was not kind to our area this year as cool temperatures and rain caused two summer events to be rescheduled.

Our annual Elliot golf tournament planned for June 8, 2014 had to be held June 22. It was the fifth tournament organized by Jeff Elliott and had 13 golfers enjoying a sunny afternoon. Other members joined us for supper in the clubhouse and a piece of anniversary cake.



The annual picnic was to be held Sunday, July 13, 2014 in MacNaughton Park, Exeter but, due to warnings of a severe thunderstorm, had to be rescheduled to August 17. A small group gathered for the picnic and were able to catch a glimpse of the famous white squirrels found in Exeter.

November 1, 2014 Annual General Meeting was held at the Church of St. Andrew Memorial, 55 Foxbar Avenue, London, Ontario. The meeting included a hot dinner and featured the Hamilton Road Songsters.

Thank You

John Shaw has served the Ontario West Chapter for many years as treasurer and has announced his retirement as of October 31, 2014. We appreciate all the support and guidance John has given the chapter in this position and wish him all the best. John will assume a role as a director and remain on the Executive Committee.

The Ontario West Chapter would like to remind all Elliots that they are welcome to attend all our events held throughout the year.



Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in front of Ralph Connor House

MANITOBA

John Peach reports:

Seven of us came together on Sunday, October 5, for the annual gathering of the Manitoba Chapter. We enjoyed food and conversation in a Winnipeg restaurant. We swapped stories of recent activities, travel and ancestry. We regretted the absence of some members and rejoiced in the news of two prospective new members.

Earlier in the day several of our number attended a garden party at the University Women's Club (Ralph Connor House). The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, the Saint Andrew's Society of Winnipeg and Friends of Ralph Connor House sponsored the event to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the historic building. Ralph Connor was the pen name of Rev. Charles W. Gordon (1860 –1937), a Presbyterian minister, writer and, in World War I, padre of the 79th Cameron Highlanders, precursor of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

Guests enjoyed piping and drumming, and good Scottish food and drink.



Pat with Ralph Connor

SASKATCHEWAN

Hazel Arnold reports:

Greetings from Saskatchewan! Clifford Elliott who has been the Chapter Chair has decided to retire and I have agreed to try to fill the position. My husband and I are retired and live on a farm near Tisdale.

My e-mail address is h_tarnold@hotmail.com and I would be very happy to hear from any of our members. Please let me know if anyone has anything they would like to discuss, report or to just chat about. If there is anything you wish to share with the Elliott Clan let me know so it can go in the newsletter. Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to everyone.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Dale Elliott reports:

On July 23, 2014 N.B Chapter members and guests held a meeting at the Timberland Motel near Sussex, N.B. A total of 24 members and guests attended the meeting. Our newly elected Canadian Clan President, Catherine Elliot Shaw, was in attendance along with her husband John.

After a short “meet and greet”, dinner was served. Dinner choices included N.B Salmon as well as roast beef, chicken and turkey followed by a fine dessert tray. It was a meal fit for any Elliot- who always seems to be ready to eat after a hard day’s work. The next item on the agenda was a presentation by Canadian President Catherine Elliot Shaw detailing her recent visit with the Clan Chief Margaret in Scotland. She stated that the hospitality she received during the visit is something she will always remember! Catherine showed a number of pictures and slides of the people she met and the castles and countryside along with an outline of the history of the Elliot Clan that related to the visual presentation.

A business meeting was held with President Elliot Shaw expressing the desire for a strong and vibrant New Brunswick Branch to continue. The following Executive was elected: Past President- Allison Elliott, President- Dale Elliott, Vice President- Jean Norden, Treasurer- Ruth Wilband and Secretary- Margaret Elliott. The evening was capped off with Scottish dancing tunes and other songs by Jean Norden, Ruth Wilband and Sylvia Steeper. A good time was had by all!



NB Chapter at the Timberland Motel



Entertainment by Jean Norden,
Ruth Wilband and Sylvia Steeper

NOVA SCOTIA

Tanya Elliott Hendsbee reports:



Hurricane Arthur

The Nova Scotia Elliots planned a social gathering with our National President Catherine Elliot Shaw and her husband John, at the Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville NS on Saturday July 5th, 2014 but the weather had other ideas. Hurricane Arthur cut a path through the Annapolis Valley with high winds and rain knocking out power to many homes and making travel risky. At the last minute, plans were made to move the event to Halifax where Arthur did not have as much of an impact. Despite the difficulties, we did have a gathering of 10 hardy folks who braved the elements.

The luncheon was held at the Best Western Chocolate Lake Hotel in Halifax. We had an enjoyable meal and then Catherine spoke about her trip to the Clan Gathering in Scotland and the hospitality of our Clan Chief Margaret.



Our National President Catherine, her husband John and the hardy hurricane- fighting Elliotts.

If you are interested in social gatherings of NS Elliotts, you can contact me at:
thendsbee@accesswave.ca or 902-435-6111.

DAVID ELLIOTT: THE FIRST WORLD WAR



In February 1916, David Elliott joined the 173rd Battalion Highlanders in Hamilton, Ontario. The youngest of eight children, he lived with his parents and worked for a local haberdasher. His rugby-football team, the Hamilton Alerts, won the Grey Cup for the year 1912. Following enlistment, he and his fellow recruits trained during that summer, posed for photographs, played baseball, and competed in the 1st Brigade field day. Arriving in England in November, he was immediately placed in the Canadian Machine Gun Depot, stationed in Sussex. By April 1917, his training completed, he left to reinforce the 1st Brigade Canadian Machine Gun Company after its severe losses at

Vimy Ridge. Through the rest of the year, he fought and survived battles at Lens (Hill 70) and Passchendaele, a remarkable achievement considering that, in the first two weeks of November alone, his Division lost 160 machine gunners. He would not survive the war, however, and was killed in action in April 1918 under a heavy barrage of artillery during the German Lys Offensive. David Elliott was buried at Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

(Local History Scrapbooks, Archives, Hamilton Public Library, Hamilton, Ontario)

JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!

Looking for that perfect Elliot stocking stuffer? Our lapel pin of the Elliot crest is beautifully crafted in enameled metal, a tasteful addition to any jacket. They are \$2 each or three for \$5 Canadian.

Our stationery bearing the Elliot crest on both the notelet paper and envelope proudly proclaims your clan affiliation. Packet of 25 sheets and envelopes \$3 Canadian. Free shipping within Canada. Order from:
 Catherine Elliot Shaw
 58 Cottonwood Crescent
 London, Ontario N6G 2Y8
 519-641-3929 the_shaws@sympatico.ca

On behalf of Chief Margaret and the Elliot Clan Society of Canada, I would like to thank the following Chairs for their many years of dedicated service to their respective chapters:

Clifford Elliott of Saskatchewan
 J. Allison Elliott of New Brunswick
 Thomas Westley Elliott of British Columbia.
 Your contributions are very much appreciated.

A warm welcome to incoming Chairs, C. Dale Elliott of New Brunswick and Hazel Arnold of Saskatchewan.

We are looking for someone to take over the Chair in British Columbia. If you are interested, please feel free to email or call me.

Catherine