



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



Volume 21, Issue 1

Summer 2015

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Catherine Elliot Shaw

Hello everyone!

Is it safe to say that we have survived the winter? I know many of you have had a rough time with snow, rain and floods. Hoping you are all now enjoying the colours and new life of summer?

In Chief Margaret's newsletter last fall, we learned of the marriage of her daughter Kate Frances Elliott to Nic Merlijn Verbij on the 2nd of August 2014. On your behalf, I purchased and sent a wedding gift to them in Haarlem, The Netherlands. The gift was a turned wood bowl by London artisan John van Kessel of Stoney Creek Wood Turning, made from wood he had gathered in British Columbia. Kate and Nic sent a lovely thank you card:

Dear Catherine and the Canadian Elliot Society!

Thank you so much for the very unexpected and very beautiful wedding gift. We absolutely love it and look forward to finding it a place in our home that will do it justice! We are currently in the middle of building works but hope to have reached a semblance of order in a few months' time (not least because we are happily expecting our first child). Nic has always dreamed of going to Vancouver Island so your gift to us of a tiny piece of it means a huge amount. Thank you again.

Kate and Nic

Thank you all for your membership renewals. If it has slipped past you, there is still time to renew and stay on the rolls of your chapter and

Scotland; you can find the form on the Elliot clan website

(elliotclan.com/docs/ElliotClanSociety_Membership_Canada.pdf)

or just drop a cheque in the mail to me.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find chapter reports with news and future events.

Wishing you a happy and safe summer!



Yours aye,
Catherine

CHAPTER REPORTS

ALBERTA CHAPTER

Neil Herdman reports:

The Alberta Chapter AGM is to be held slightly earlier this year on Sunday 3rd May at 2 pm. The venue is the Uplands Rec Center in Hawkwood NW Calgary. I called the meeting earlier this year as our secretary Hilary Elliott and her husband Allan are upping sticks and moving east to Ottawa at the end of May to be closer to their family. Holding the meeting earlier allows them to attend the meeting and say good-byes. A formal invitation for the meeting will be sent out shortly. I'm sure I can say that we all wish them well for their future and thanks for their help for the Alberta Chapter over the years. You will both be greatly missed!

Hopefully, we will see some new blood at the meeting this year who will be willing to take up positions on the Alberta Chapter to ensure it continues into the future.

We will discuss which Highland Games we intend to support this year, and also how to continue the chapter with declining active support and such a large Province and the resulting difficulty of holding inclusive meetings for all members.

My wife passed me some interesting information about the 'Scots Gathering 2015' to be held in Canmore Alberta from 9-12th October 2015. Hopefully we won't be snowed under by then! If you want more information on what it is all about, their web-site is:

www.calgaryscots.org

The gathering is focused on Scottish Dance and includes Cape Breton dance too. Meetings, dinner and lodging information can all be found on their website or:

www.tourismcanmore.com

The Calgary St. Andrews Caledonian Society is holding their annual fun golf Tournament on

August 15th at the Muirfield Lakes Golf Club in Lyalta Alberta. If you would like to participate please contact me, and I will pass you on information as my wife Doreen is organizing the event.

CENTRAL ONTARIO CHAPTER

Walt Elliot (Interim Chair) reports:

The second full weekend in August the Central Ontario Elliot Clan will attend the Fergus Games.

A tent avenue houses the various clan Societies who advertise for memberships and whose members march in a Clan parade which takes place at Noon on Saturday. One large tent centrally located on the avenue is used for many performances over the weekend. A tattoo is held to open the weekend on Friday evening and a church service is usually held in a local church on Sunday morning.

In October usually after Thanksgiving the Central Ontario Elliot Clan members have a luncheon at the Harrop House Restaurant and Art Gallery in Milton, Ontario. The Harrop House was originally an Elliot pioneer homestead. The barn is now located at Country Heritage Park formerly known as The Ontario Agricultural Museum. We gather at 11:30 for lunch at noon.

Please consider this notice your invitation to one or both events. Give me a call closer to the event(s) you wish to attend and I will supply you with final details. Email: 42elliots@gmail.com or Phone: 905-876-3377

Our Apologies
For the lateness of this Newsletter!

Tanya had a computer meltdown which necessitated buying a new computer and a full newsletter re-build from scratch and Catherine lost her internet during the proofing process.

ONTARIO EAST AND WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

Bob Elliott reports:

It has been a brutal winter so if Eve and I are representative of the other Society members in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec, hibernation was the order of the day. And for those with the wherewithal to travel south, in some cases I understand even places south were cool. As a result there were no chapter events.

Upcoming is the annual lamb fest scheduled for Saturday June 20th, 2015 (the day before the usual Father's Day observance). Eve and I will be delighted to host once again this gathering but given the expanse of our membership in our chapter area, we would be open to consider other venues that may be more appropriate.

I will survey the chapter membership in early May to evaluate interest.

But for the moment, the event will take place at 105 Sentinel Pine Way Carp, Ontario. If you need directions, send me an email at lower case L underscore @ sympatico.ca or L_cubed@sympatico.ca or call 613 831 6524

ONTARIO WEST

Carole Nickels, Co-Chair reports:

The Ontario West chapter held its golf day on June 14 instead of June 21 because of Father's Day. Our picnic this year will be in Exeter, Ontario, at McNaughton Park on July 19, 2015. A map was sent with the newsletter. Our annual general meeting will be held on October 31 at St. Andrew Memorial Church. Feel free to contact Al Nickels at 519-4559076 for information.

SASKATCHEWAN

Hazel Arnold reports:

Ah, there is nothing like springtime in Saskatchewan. The snow is melting, the birds are returning and everyone is getting ready for spring work here on the farm.

The Elliott clan in Saskatchewan has been very quiet. Perhaps they are just coming out of winter hibernation.

If anyone has anything they would like to pass along, please get in touch with me at Hazel Arnold, Box 37, Tisdale, Sask. S0E 1T0

Until next time, have a good summer and stay happy and healthy.

MANITOBA

John Peach reports:

The days are lengthening and the soil is thawing. The "snow birds" are returning. The calves are coming and I am getting ready for seeding. That means leaving my genealogy activities to do other things. I didn't make as much progress with my Elliott family tree as intended, partly because I was distracted by opportunities to gather interesting information about other branches of my roots. Perhaps I will get it ready to submit to the clan genealogist next winter. I hope other members will also submit their information.

This summer I will contact our Manitoba Chapter members about a get-together.

A Thoughtful Scottish Husband

Did you hear about the thoughtful Scotsman who was heading out to the pub? He turned to his wee wife before leaving and said, 'Jackie - put your hat and coat on lassie.'

She replied, 'Awe Iain that's nice - are you taking me to the pub with you?'

'Nah, I'm just switching the central heating off while I'm oot.'

NOVA SCOTIA

Tanya Elliott Hendsbee reports:

International Tattoo takes place in Halifax each year, check website for more information.

<http://www.nstattoo.ca/>

Check out the article on page 5 for what is happening in the Celtic music scene right here in Nova Scotia

If you are interested in social gatherings of NS Elliots, you can contact me at:

thendsbee@accesswave.ca or 902-435-6111.



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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

BEAUTIFUL BRITISH COLUMBIA

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



"It all started after he saw that 'Billy Elliot' movie on the telly."

CELTIC MUSICAL TRADITIONS ALIVE AND WELL IN CAPE BRETON, NOVA SCOTIA- RANNIE GILLIS

Why would four young talented musicians, three from Ireland and one from Scotland, travel across the Atlantic Ocean to study Cape Breton-style Celtic music? Why indeed?

Probably because our Cape Breton style of music making, especially with regard to fiddle playing, has become internationally recognized as a rather unique form of traditional music. The same would also be true for Cape Breton square dancing, step dancing and Gaelic songs.

These old music styles came to Nova Scotia with the arrival of Gaelic speaking immigrants from the Highlands and Western Islands of Scotland, especially those who arrived between 1750 and 1850. Most of them came because they were basically evicted from their traditional crofts, but others came because of overpopulation pressures, lack of work and even a desire to see the world.

Down through the years our "Scotch" music has survived, while back in Scotland the original traditions have pretty well disappeared.

Prior to the opening of the Canso Causeway in 1955 and the arrival of television in the 1950s and 1960s, the relative isolation of Cape Breton made it possible for the original Gaelic-based traditions to survive. Today we have one of the few surviving Gaelic cultures in the world and the only one that exists outside of Europe.

Because of this fact, over the last 30 to 40 years a new generation of young musicians, especially from Ireland and Scotland, have made their way to Cape Breton to experience first-hand our thriving and vibrant "Celtic" traditions.

At first they came mainly on their own, or as part of an international student exchange program, like the one between Cape Breton University www.cbu.ca and the University of Limerick in Ireland as well as the Gaelic College in Englishtown, Cape Breton. www.gaeliccollege.edu

Also, for the last 19 years, the annual Celtic Colours International Festival has brought hundreds of musicians from various countries around the world, to enjoy our cultural traditions, our hospitality and the magnificent display of autumn colours.

Our four exchange students, who were spending four months (January to April) at Cape Breton University, were all accomplished musicians.

Maire Neville, from the city of Limerick, plays the Irish or 'Celtic' harp, a smaller version of the traditional harp. This instrument, with its soft tones and wonderful harmonies, is popular in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Brittany region of northern France.

Brona Graham, from County Antrim in Northern Ireland, is a talented young woman who won the All-Ireland Banjo Competition at the age of 21. She also plays the fiddle and the mandolin, and has appeared at various folk festivals in the British Isles, the United States and the European continent.

Scottish Highland Games & Celtic Festivals in Canada: Spring 2015

This listing was compiled by our webmaster, Pat Tuskin, and is updated regularly on our website: www.cassoc.ca
Information is provided for reference only. Please contact organizers of the event for up- to-date information. CASSOC cannot be held responsible for any errors that may occur. Member events are **in bold**. Please Support Our Members!

Provided courtesy of CASSOC and An Drochaid

May 15-17	Regina Highland Games	Regina, SK	http://www.saskhighland.ca
May 16-17	Victoria Highland Games	Victoria, BC	www.victoriahighlandgames.com
May 23	Kingston Scottish Festival	Kingston, ON	www.kingstonscottishfestival.com
May 30-31	Canadian International Military Tattoo	Hamilton, ON	www.canadianmilitarytattoo.ca
Jun 13	Georgetown Highland Games	Georgetown, ON	www.georgetownhighlandgames.com
Jun 13	Grande Prairie Highland Games	Grande Prairie, AB	www.gphighlandgames.com
Jun 20	Cobourg Highland Games	Cobourg, ON	www.cobourghighlandgames.ca
Jun 20	Manitoba Highland Gathering	Winnipeg, MB	www.manitobahighlandgathering.org
Jun 20	Moncton Highland Games	Moncton, NB	www.monctonhighlandgames.ca
Jun 20	BC Highland Games	Coquitlam, BC	http://bchighlandgames.com
Jun 20	The Georgina Gathering	Sutton West, ON	info@georginagathering.com
Jun 27	Red Deer Highland Games	Red Deer, AB	www.reddeerhighlandgames.ca
Jun 28	Edmonton Scottish Society Highland Games	Edmonton, AB	https://sites.google.com/site/edmontonscottishsociety
Jun 30-Jul 7	Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo	Halifax, NS	www.nstatattoo.ca
Jul 1	Embro Highland Games	Embro, ON	www.embrohighlandgames.ca
Jul 04	Penticton Scottish Festival	Penticton, BC	www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca
Jul 3-5	Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games	Kincardine, ON	www.kincardinescottishfestival.ca
Jul 5-12	Antigonish Highland Games	Antigonish, NS	www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca
Jul 11	Kamloops Highland Games	Kamloops, BC	www.kamloopshighlandgames.ca
Jul 15-19	Festival of Tartans & H. Games	Pictou, NS	www.festivalofthetartans.ca
Jul 17-18	Cambridge Highland Games	Cambridge, ON	www.cambridgehighlandgames.com
Jul 24-26	New Brunswick Highland Games & Scottish Festival	Fredericton, NB	www.highlandgames.ca
Jul 25-26	Highlands of Durham Games	Uxbridge, ON	http://highlandsofdurhamgames.com
Jul 31-Aug 1	Glengarry Highland Games	Maxville, ON	www.glengarryhighlandgames.com
Aug 1-3	Montreal Scottish Festival & H G	Parc Arthur-Therrien, QC	http://montrealhighlandgames.qc.ca
Aug 7-9	Fergus Scottish Festival & H G	Fergus, ON	www.fergusscottishfestival.com/
Aug 14-15	Bracebridge Highland Games	Bracebridge, ON	www.bracebridgehighlandgames.com
Aug 22	North Lanark Highland Games	Almonte, ON	www.almontehighlandgames.com