



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



Volume 23, Issue 1

Winter 2017

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Catherine Elliot Shaw



Hello all,

As I write this, we are expecting a nasty bout of snow, freezing rain and then a substantial rain, all in one day. How does that song go...slip slidin'away?! Let's hope Wiarton Willie was right—only 6 more weeks of winter!

Thank you all for your membership renewals. If you haven't already done so, there is still time to renew and stay on the Canadian and Scottish rolls. 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. If you would like to make payment by e-transfer, just complete the necessities as you would normally, then email me at the_shaws@sympatico.ca with your security word or phrase and I will take care of the rest.

Remember you need to be a member in good standing to attend the Elliot Clan Gathering in Scotland in August. You'll find more details inside or at elliotclan.com. Something new this year, we will be the featured clan at the Edinburgh Tattoo on August 23rd! Chief Margaret has arranged for a bus to take us from Newcastleton to Edinburgh for the evening. Please let her know if you wish to book a seat.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find chapter reports with news and future events. We also have a new feature, Celebrations, an opportunity to showcase the special accomplishments and milestones of our Canadian members. Read all about Ceci Chanin and the accolades she has received for the dolls she knits for children in distress. Robert Elliott shares a shadowbox in memory of his courageous family members at Vimy Ridge and Normandy. Do you have a story to share? Please send it to our National Newsletter Editor, Tanya Hendsbee, at thendsbee@eastlink.ca

Wishing you a safe and early spring!

Yours aye,

Catherine

ONTARIO CENTRAL

Paul E J Elliot Chair reports:

I hope this finds all of our members happy and well in 2017.

We had a change in the executive. As of Nov 2016 I took over as chairman of the chapter and Andrew Patton has agreed to be Secretary, and my wife Wendy will act as Treasurer.

On behalf of the membership, I would like to give a huge THANK YOU to Walter Elliot for all his years of service. Walt will be lending me his experience and giving me advice along the way.

The first order of business is, as always, to increase membership. I believe one of the best ways to do so is to jump into some of the Social Media platforms. In that spirit I have created a Facebook page for our Chapter. Please have a look at it and feel free to "like" it and post info on the page.

https://www.facebook.com/Elliot-Clan-Society-Central-Ontario-Chapter-219364591802433/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

I would like to start planning a get together of some kind for the spring, to kick off the 2017 Scottish Festival season in southern Ontario. Please let me know if you have any Ideas for this. We will be maintaining a clan booth at the Fergus Games as usual. We would love to see as many members come out as possible.

Also I would encourage members to give me feedback and ideas or just get involved. You can contact me by Phone or Email 705 896 0545

centralontarioelliotclan@gmail.com

ONTARIO WEST

Carole Nickels, Co-Chair reports:

The Ontario West Chapter held its Annual General November 5, 2016 in London, Ontario. Our catered dinner was followed by a performance by the Ventures Quartet, a group of the Sweet Adelines.

We were pleased to have Paul Elliott and Andrew and Judy Patton from the Ontario Central Chapter join us. Our annual general meeting for 2017 will be held November 4.

The Ontario West Chapter has scheduled five events during the year.

April 8, 2017 Elliot Spring Lunch to take place at the Mandarin Restaurant in London

May 13, 2017 Elliot Clan Fundraiser at St. Anne's Anglican Church Annual yard sale to increase the chapter revenue and bring awareness of the Elliot Clan Society. The chapter rents a table at the Spring and Plant Sale at St. Anne's Anglican Church, 1344 Commissioners Road West in Byron. The sale will be held May 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is an event open to the public and an excellent opportunity to attract new members to the Elliot Clan.

July 16, 2017 Summer Lunch at a location to be announced

Our annual summer picnic has had a limited number of members attend this event due to extremely hot temperatures and unpredictable summer storms. In 2017 we will try something new by meeting at a local golf course for lunch and fellowship.

Sept. 24, 2017 Golf Tournament to be held at the Dorchester Golf and Country Club.

Nov. 4, 2017 Annual General Meeting to be held at the Church of St. Andrew Memoria.

We would like to remind everyone that all Elliot members and their families are welcome to join us at any of our events. If you are in our area during the time of a scheduled event, please contact the chapter for more information.

ONTARIO EAST & QUEBEC WEST

Bob Elliott, Chair reports:

Inasmuch as Issue 2 for 2016 was not released I feel comfortable in reporting on the EO&WQ June 18

2016 Lambfest. We experienced the greatest number of schedule conflicts in our history and as a result only 4 Elliotts were able to gather in Carp on the appointed day. Fortunately, we filled out the guest list with some close family friends.



Photo of Julia and Eric courtesy of Bob Elliott

On January 28th, 2017 Bob and Eve hosted extended family members and friends at the Robbie Burns fundraising dinner for Roger Neilson House and the Sens Foundation at the Ottawa Hunt & Golf Club. Bob and Eve's son Andrew Elliott chaired the event on behalf of sponsor Live 88.5FM and Ottawa's Scottish & Irish Store. Entertainment included the RCAF Pipe and Drum Band and the dancers from the Champagne School of Highland Dance.



Photos courtesy of LessardImages



Photos courtesy of LessardImages

The 2017 Lambfest is on the calendar for Saturday June 17 at the home of Bob and Eve Elliott in Carp. Hopefully more members will be able to make it this year. Bob will be in touch with local members to discuss themes and potluck contributions soon to get the ball rolling.

MANITOBA

John Peach reports:

Our chapter has been rather inactive lately, but my wife, Charlotte and I did some interesting travelling in the fall.

We crossed the pond to Britain. We experienced a bit of London, that huge, busy and old city. We saw some of the places we had been hearing about for years. We visited the Yorkshire Dales where we met cousins and saw fells and dales, old stone buildings and walls, sheep and other livestock, and gravestones of some of my maternal grandfather's family.

Scottish Highland Games & Celtic Festivals Canada Spring & Summer 2017

If you would like more information regarding Scottish Events in Canada, you can visit

www.cassoc.ca

The website contains a full listing with links to the various event and festivals and is updated on a regular basis.

From there we headed north to Carlisle and on to the Borders of Scotland. We enjoyed the hospitality of Margaret, our chief, at Redheugh. At her suggestion we drove on to Hermitage Castle. What a huge, dark and brooding structure it is, especially on a cloudy day.



Margaret our Chief at Redheugh

Even though I have yet to trace my Elliott roots back to the borders, it was good to set foot on that ancestral homeland and get a little better feel for that storied place.



Hermitage Castle

NOVA SCOTIA

Tanya Elliott Hendsbee reports:

The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo takes place in Halifax each year. Check website for more information.

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

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

SASKATCHEWAN

Hazel Arnold reports:

The Elliott Clan here in Saskatchewan has been very quiet. Nothing has been reported to me.

Our winter here has been kind of ordinary. We had cold weather before and after Christmas but it has been very acceptable since then. We have very little snow now as it has been warm enough for it to melt. The creek that goes through our yard has been running.

Once again, if anyone has anything to report or discuss please contact Hazel Arnold at Box 37, Tisdale, Saskatchewan S0E 1T0. Telephone 306-873-3574 or hazel.arnold@gmail.com

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

In light of our crazy weather a little groundhog humour!



CELEBRATIONS

CECI AND HER DOLLS



Calgarian knits thousands of dolls for kids at Children's Hospital

In a tireless effort to light up the faces and warm the hearts of sick kids, Ceci Chanin, 88, has knitted thousands of soft dolls for the Alberta Children's Hospital.

Just last week, yet another new bag of dolls made its way throughout the hospital, making patients feel better, providing distractions for their siblings, even helping staff educate and explain certain ailments to kids and their families.

"We use the dolls in so many different ways, they go all over the hospital," said Utah Hawley, director of giving with the Children's Hospital Foundation, explaining dolls are used by patients, family and staff.

"They bring a lot of comfort and joy. They lift the kids' spirits and they ensure that they can leave here with some happy memories, too."

Chanin, who started knitting the dolls decades ago for her grandchildren, now makes them for young patients. They are created in all different colours, using soft, washable yarn, purchased by Chanin herself, and with no added buttons or tags to ensure there is no choking hazard.

I do it because I just love to knit," Chanin said. "It keeps my hands busy. And I think the kids really do like them."

She estimates she knits about one doll every day, totalling more than 360 a year. I'm just happy to help any way that I can."

She has also received a certificate of recognition from the Children's Hospital as a thank you for her work.

"But Ceci never really wants a thank you," added Hawley. "She just keeps coming with a new bag of dolls for us."

Al Chanin, Ceci's husband, said they also recently travelled to Mexico a few years ago, where they donated dozens of the dolls to children at a Catholic Church.

"I remember how their faces just lit up, they were so happy to receive them," Ceci said.

By Eva Ferguson, Courtesy of the Calgary Herald

Ceci is a member of our Alberta Chapter!

COURTESY OF ROBERT ELLIOTT



The attached shadow box display shows two Elliotts. My grandfather who fought at Vimy Ridge 1917 and his son my favourite uncle "Leonard" who landed on Juno Beach D-day 6 June 1944 and survived to become a golf pro at Upper Canada Village near Morrisburg.



ELLIOT GATHERING 2017

PROGRAMME & TICKET INFORMATION

WEDNESDAY 23RD AUGUST – Edinburgh Tattoo featuring Clan Elliot.

Tickets available for this event will be available to our clan members from 1st November 2016. Tickets go on sale to general public 1st December. Charter bus available from Newcastleton. Contact Chief Margaret to book seats.

THURSDAY 24TH AUGUST – SCOCHA Concert

7.30pm The Holm Show and the Elliot Clan Society are hosting this event to take place on the Holm Show field, Newcastleton.

SCOCHA are an extremely popular and lively Hawick folk 'n rock band. This will kick off the Gathering with a bang! Bar.

FRIDAY 25TH AUGUST – MAIN GATHERING DAY

10.30 – 12.30 **REDHEUGH** Clan Room and House open. Shop. Refreshments.
Shuttle bus operating from Douglas Square, Newcastleton all day. (No parking up at the house apart from disabled)
Demonstration of dry stone wall and stick making.

1pm – 2.30pm **Barbecue** in the field below the house. Marquee. Bar. Toilets.

2.30 – 5pm **Formal Gathering**- We blast off with the cannon!

7.30pm **Officers' Dinner** - by invitation only for officials of the International Clan Society

Suggested restaurants in Newcastleton for reservations: The Grapes 01387 375245. Copshaw Kitchen 01387 375250

SATURDAY 26TH AUGUST – Holm Show Day

Morning: Suggest visit to **Hermitage Castle** and the **Heritage Centre** in Newcastleton. Entry fees.

From 12: **Holm Show**. Small entry fee at the gate. This is a perfect example of an old established local agricultural show with animals, sports, terrier racing, Cumberland wrestling, crafts and competitions. Good fun. Bar and ice creams. Stalls. Vintage machines.

6.00-7.30: **"An Evening of Debatable Crack"** event at Kirkandrews on Esk. (10 miles away) Admission by donation.
"Clans and Kilts at the Kirk" a weekend exhibition of the Clans who fought in the Debateable Lands open 11am to 5pm. Admission by donation. A beautiful location on the banks of the River Esk. 10 miles from Newcastleton. Home baking and soft drinks, tea & coffee.

SUNDAY 27TH AUGUST – Day coach trip

10.00 Pick up from Douglas Square, Newcastleton. 11.am Church service at Bedrule Church. 12.30 Lunch at Dryburgh Abbey. 3pm Afternoon guided tour of Abbotsford, home of the writer, Walter Scott. Return to Newcastleton about 6pm.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Disability access: Special parking passes available on request

Dress code: The weather is notoriously unpredictable so be prepared for the wet especially in the shoe department. However, wear as much Elliot tartan as you can muster.

Transport: Newcastleton is a rural community with appalling public transport and you will need a car. As we do not want your car to get stuck in our wet fields, there will be a shuttle bus provided to and from Douglas Square in the village to Redheugh all day – 2 miles.

Nearest stations: Carlisle and/or Lockerbie (both 45 mins drive away)

Nearest Airport: Newcastle 1½ hours drive, Edinburgh or Glasgow 2 hours drive.

Accommodation: There is a list of hotels and bed and breakfast in the area on www.elliotclan.com and www.visitnewcastleton.co.uk

Email: elliotgathering@btinternet.com if you would like help and we will do what we can.

TICKET APPLICATION FORM: <http://www.elliotclan.com/events/2017-elliott-clan-gathering/>



Entrance to Redheugh



Margaret, our Chief, accepting a gift from Catherine Elliot Shaw on behalf of the Canadian Region at the Gathering 2013