



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



Volume 24, Issue 2

Fall 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Catherine Elliot Shaw

Hello everyone,

Like many of you, we have already had our first heavy snowfall of the season with the usual spate of accidents as people adjust to winter driving.

Inside this issue are chapter reports with news and future events, and interesting articles related to the clan. Can you add to the short list of locations around the world bearing the Elliot(t) name?



As we close the centenary year marking the end of the First World War, there is an article on Private John Elliott of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment as documented by The Rooms Archives in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Many thanks to Norreen Baker for her fascinating tribute to longtime member Allan (Curly) Elliott and his career in the RCMP. Belated Happy 90th, Curly!

And finally, I am thrilled to announce that Andrew Patton of the Ontario Central chapter

has graciously volunteered to be our new national newsletter editor. Welcome Andrew and thank you for this, your inaugural issue.

Wishing you all the best for a lovely Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Catherine

2018-2019 Membership Fees

Membership fees are now due for the 2018-2019 year. If you have already renewed, thank you. If not, you can remit your membership fee in two ways:

- 1) your **personal cheque** made out to **Elliot Clan Society Canada** and mailed to:
Catherine Elliot Shaw
58 Cottonwood Crescent
London, Ontario N6G 2Y8
or
- 2) an e-transfer by emailing Catherine Elliot Shaw at the_shaws@sympatico.ca with your security word or phrase.

ONTARIO WEST

Carole Nickels, Co-Chair reports:

The Ontario West Chapter attended three Highland Games during the summer. Allan Nickels had an Elliot clan display at the Embro Highland Games in Woodstock and the Cambridge Scottish Festival in Cambridge. The Fergus Scottish Festival display was hosted by Paul Elliot. Catherine Elliot Shaw, Canadian President, and Allan Nickels, Ontario West Co-Chair, joined Paul in the Avenue of Clans procession during the opening ceremonies.



Allan Nickels at the Cambridge Scottish Festival, Churchill Park, Cambridge, Ontario July 21, 2018 (Photo courtesy Carole Nickels)

NOVEMBER 10, 2018

The Ontario West Chapter held its Annual General Meeting at the Church of St. Andrew Memorial, 55 Foxbar Road in London, Ontario. We paid tribute to our Canadian Veterans with guest speaker, Randy Warren, President of Vimy Legion Branch 145 in London. The meeting included a pot-luck lunch served at 12:00 noon. A raffle of donated items was held, and the proceeds will be used to maintain our chapter funds.

APRIL 2019

A spring luncheon will be held at the Mandarin Restaurant and all family members are welcome to join us. The time and date will be announced later.

MAY 11, 2019

Spring fundraiser at St. Anne's Anglican Church in Byron. This is an opportunity to introduce the Elliot clan to the community and attract new members. All Elliot clan members and their families are welcome to attend any of our events.

ONTARIO CENTRAL

Paul E. J. Elliot, Chair reports:

This year's Fergus Highland Games, held in August in bustling Fergus, Ontario, was well attended and we



Paul Elliot, Al Nickels and President Catherine Elliot Shaw (Photo courtesy Paul Elliot)

enjoyed great

weather. Our Clan Society tent was tended by myself,

our President Catherine Elliot Shaw, and Ontario West Co-Chair Allan Nickels. We were able to connect with lots of Elliots/Elliotts. Thanks to all.



Ontario Central Chair Paul Elliot in front of the Elliot tent at the Fergus Highland Games in August (Photo courtesy Paul Elliot)

DID YOU KNOW...?

The name **Elliot** in Greek is the Greek form of the Hebrew Elijah, meaning “Jehovah is God”.



In English, the meaning is “God on high, my God is Jehovah” from a surname derived from a medieval abbreviation of the Greek Elias. In French, its meaning is “Believes in God”. In Scottish, curiously, it means “Old Welshman”. (Source: sheknows.com)

ELLIOT PLACE NAMES:

Elliot Point, Saskatchewan – on Lake Athabasca

Baie Elliot, Quebec – near Barkmere, Les Laurentides

Mount Elliot, Queensland, Australia – named after James Elliott who discovered gold and copper there in 1889

Elliott, Northern Territory, Australia - founded as an Australian Army camp during the Second World War, named after Captain R. D. Elliott

Elliotsdale, Eastern Cape, South Africa (Xhora) – founded in 1885 and named after Sir Henry Elliot, chief magistrate of the Transkeian Territories (1891-1902).

(Source: The Concise Dictionary of World Place-Names)

Port Elliot, SA, Australia – site of the Southern Fleurieu Historical Museum, Port Elliot National Trust Historical Display. The heritage listed Railway Station Building serves as an information centre. Tickets are sold for “Steamranger” trips, Port Elliot to Goolwa being the first railway line in Australia.

(Source: Australian Museums and Galleries, aumuseums.com)

ELLIOTS AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR

As we mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, it is fitting to remember that many Elliots made the ultimate sacrifice for Canada in this global conflict. Below is the story of Private John Elliott, Royal Newfoundland Regiment.



(Courtesy of Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador)

Private John Edward Elliott (Regimental Number 22) enlisted at the *declared* age of twenty years on September 2, 1914, a recruit of the First Draft. Private Elliott then attested a month later, on October 1, before embarking for overseas service two days later.

In the United Kingdom, Private Elliott trained with the Battalion: firstly in southern England on the Salisbury Plain; then in Scotland at Fort George; at Edinburgh Castle; and then for three months at Stobs Camp near the Scottish town of Hawick. (N.B.: Clan Members will recognize Stobs and Hawick as part of traditional Elliot lands.)

At the beginning of August, Private Elliott was transferred to Aldershot, for some three weeks of final training - and a royal inspection - in preparation for active service at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea at Gallipoli.



Newfoundlanders immediately set to work to improve the communication trenches.

They would also soon be preparing for the British campaign of that summer, to be fought on the ground named for that meandering river, *the Somme*. The losses sustained by the Regiment on that day were staggering, even for the First World War, after just 30 minutes of action. Of the 800 Newfoundlanders who went into battle at Beaumont-Hamel, only 68 were able to answer the roll call the next day.

(The Newfoundland Regiment on parade at Stobs Camp is presented with its Colours on June 10, 1915. Courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo)



(Courtesy of The Rooms, St. John's NL)

For some undocumented reason Private Elliott did not embark for Gallipoli with 'A' Company in August of 1915, but was posted to the new Regimental Depot. He was to remain there for more than three months.

On November 14, he embarked in Devonport onto His Majesty's Transport *Olympic*, sister ship to the *Britannic* and the ill-fated *Titanic*, arriving at Suvla Bay.

When the British evacuated the entire Gallipoli Peninsula in January of 1916, 1st Battalion was sent to Alexandria, arriving there on the 15th of that month. From there the Newfoundlanders were transferred, almost immediately, south to Suez and, two months later, the officers and men of 1st Battalion embarked for the French port of Marseilles, destined ultimately by train for the small provincial town of Pont-Rémy.

It had been a cold, miserable journey, the blankets provided for them travelling unused in a separate wagon. De-training at the station at two in the morning, the Newfoundlanders still had a long march ahead of them before they would reach their billets at Buigny l'Abbé.

On April 13, 1st Battalion marched into the village of Englebelmer – perhaps some fifty kilometres in all from Pont-Rémy - where the

Private Elliott's remains were buried beneath the Caribou in Beaumont-Hamel Memorial Park in France.

(Edited from the website of The Rooms, St John's NL)

Scottish Highland Games and Celtic Festivals Spring and Summer 2019

For a full listing and links to Scottish Events
in Canada, visit Clans and Scottish Societies
of Canada online:

www.cassoc.ca

CELEBRATIONS

A Story Sixty Years in the Making

Allan (Curly) Elliott was born in the Red Cross Outpost Hospital at Paddockwood, Saskatchewan. He grew up on the farm along with his six siblings and he attended a one room school for all his education.

Allan had aspirations to leave the farm and to join the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. At age eighteen he applied and, after a few hurdles, was accepted into the RCMP. He was sent to Rockcliffe, near Ottawa, to join a squad already in training. His training was completed in Regina before being posted to Edmonton. After a short stay in Edmonton, he was shipped off to Peace River where his twenty-six years of doing real police work began.



Sunrise Fort Vermilion, Alberta (photo courtesy Jacob Marfo)

In 1957 he was posted to Fort Vermilion, the most northerly detachment in Alberta. He brought his wife Helen and two small boys to this outpost. The quarters at Fort Vermilion consisted of a run-down ten room house built from logs and rough lumber. It took five stoves to heat, there was no running water and the police office and prisoner's cell were part of the living quarters. There were no telephones, radio or communications with the outside world except for a very unreliable telegraph line. This was a one-man detachment and it covered a large part of the north-west corner of Alberta. Allan's posting lasted for three years.



Photo courtesy of Fort Vermilion Heritage Centre

On August 15, 2017 Staff Sergeant Elliott (retired) returned to Fort Vermilion accompanied by his partner, brother and sister-in-law. It was exactly sixty years to the day since he first took over the policing of this vast area. There are now three detachments with forty-seven members covering the same area. S/Sgt. Bill Mooney is the present Detachment Commander and he was joined by Staff Sergeant Brad Giles from High Level Detachment, to warmly welcome Allan back to his old stomping grounds. A delightful BBQ was held with wives and family present. Allan regaled them with stories leading from training practices through twenty-five years of policing in Alberta. Later, a public gathering was held where Allan shared his photos and tales regarding life at Fort Vermilion in the late 1950s. He spent the next morning with the museum curator updating their historic displays.

Fast forward to September 7, 2018, when Allan Elliott celebrated his ninetieth birthday. A party was held in his honour at the Silver Springs Golf and Country Club with about one hundred guests attending. The event was enhanced by a piper who welcomed guests as they arrived. She also piped in the birthday cake and played Happy Birthday. But the biggest surprise of all was the arrival of the two Staff Sergeants from Fort Vermilion and High Level along with their spouses. They had travelled over seven hundred kilometers – one way – to honour Allan on his birthday. He was delighted to see them, but they had surprises for him! Staff Sergeant Brad Giles presented Allan with a hockey jersey from the RCMP High Level Hockey Club, complete with his nickname CURLY on the back along with his

number 90. Staff Sergeant Bill Mooney then presented him with a “Certificate of Appreciation” signed by the current RCMP District Commander for Western Alberta. Wording on the Certificate thanked Allan for his leadership and dedication to upholding the law and providing a safe community in that area. He was also presented with a beautiful painting done by Elliott, a native artist.

Allan was humbled and very grateful for the recognition of his leadership, dedication and service sixty years ago! He responded to the presentation with a sincere Thank you in a short speech.

He may be 90 years old but he still has a sense of humour, a twinkle in his eye and exemplifies the hospitality and good name of the Elliott family.

Norreen Baker
October 6th 2018



**Christmas
is Coming!**

**Give the gift of Clan...
with a membership in
the Elliot Clan Society**

All new members receive a welcome letter and membership cards from the Canadian President and a welcome package from our Chief Margaret!

MORE CELEBRATIONS

C. Russell Elliott of the Nova Scotia Chapter has published an 80-page memoir ***Glimpses Into Old New Ross***, a fascinating collection of stories of his family and early years in the village of New Ross, Nova Scotia, with a tip of the hat to the Elliott Clan.

He forwarded a copy by email with a note giving permission to share it with clan members. Below is a brief excerpt; **if you would like to receive the full publication, please email Catherine Elliot Shaw at the_shaws@sympatico.ca.**

Thank you, Russell, for a delightful book of pioneer times!



C. Russell Elliott (photo courtesy of Dale Hennigar)

In 1926, at the age of nine, I came to live with my grandparents in the home across from the church. Like most homes, ours included three generations. Oscar and Linda, Aunt Jennie (who remained single), Uncle Minto, and I lived there. Oscar was a strict Victorian who believed idle hands were the devil's game. Though we had a somewhat love-hate relationship he was always very fair and never lifted a hand in punishment.

Though he limped his way into the twentieth century on an improperly

mended broken leg, he was upright in every other way. When I was given his honorary gold watch at his death I recalled that he never changed his watch or clock for Daylight Saving Time, remaining staunchly on God's Time year in and year out.

The nine-year-old boy, bare-footed with bushy blond hair already bleached white by the sun, stood looking up at the May afternoon sky. He was in the middle of the newly plowed and harrowed house garden and was holding his hoe with both hands. His ears had caught a distant and unfamiliar sound. It seemed to be high in the sky, moving from the west towards the east.

He searched the blue sky and thought he could see something, but was not sure, though he kept scanning upwards long after the sound had completely faded away. He knew about airplanes, from the still very fresh war stories, but he had never seen one, and this was a long distance from where any plane would be flying. Was it really a plane?

*A few days later my grandfather, lying on the kitchen couch one evening, smoking his pipe and reading *The Halifax Herald*, announced to us that an American, Charles Lindberg, had made a solo non-stop flight from New York to Paris, in his *Spirit of St. Louis*. It took more than thirty hours to cross the Atlantic, the first such flight ever! Was it his plane that I had heard? Who else could it have been? Was I that close to touching a page of world history?*



IN MEMORIAM

HELEN ELLIOTT

(July 25, 1935 – November 9, 2018)

The Elliot Clan Society of Canada sends its sincere sympathies to the family of **Helen Elliott of Aylmer-Gatineau, Quebec**. Helen and her beloved sister, Dorothy, joined the Society at its founding in 1986 and maintained their membership consistently over the years. They often hosted the clan in the lovely gardens at their home on the aptly named Rue de Garden. Helen served as Chair of the Ontario East/Quebec West chapter from the late 1980s to the early 1990s. Bob Elliott, current Chapter Chair, recalls “Helen presiding most notably at our Christmas Gatherings.”

Excerpt from *Glimpses Into Old New Ross* by C. Russell Elliott. If you would like to receive the full publication, please email Catherine Elliot Shaw at the_shaws@sympatico.ca.

Celebrations is an occasional series showcasing the special accomplishments and milestones of our Canadian members. If you have a story to share about yourself or another member, please send it along.