



The Elliot Clan Society

Canadian Region



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Walt Elliot

I hope all members and their families are having an enjoyable 2010 so far. No doubt we are all following the Olympics in Vancouver with interest. The Winter has been terrific so far with just enough snow to cover up the drab landscape.

On November 8th, the Central Ontario Chapter had their annual fall luncheon at the Harrop House in Milton; always an enjoyable affair. The previous day we travelled to London, Ontario to take part in the Southwestern Ontario Chapter's annual meeting; an equally enjoyable visit.

Following in this newsletter is a notice by Bonnie Ball, our membership secretary, inviting all members to the Georgetown Highland Games, held the second weekend in June. We are a featured clan and you are invited to attend and march in the parade at noon.

DNA UPDATE

As explained in our October 2009 newsletter, I signed up for a 37 marker check of my Y-DNA with Family Tree DNA. They have been updating my matches periodically, with the following results to date. I have 1114 - 12 marker matches, 72 - 25 marker matches and 4 - 37 marker matches. All 4 of the 37 marker matches are 2 T Elliots which means there is a 99% probability of us having a common ancestor. As well, there is a 50% probability that a common ancestor lived two generations ago, a 90% probability he lived no longer than five generations ago, and a 95% probability he lived no longer than seven generations ago. A generation is considered to be approximately 25 years.

I have emailed all the 37 marker matches and it looks like our branch of the Elliot Clan came from Belgium to the Highlands way back before Robert The Bruce, who requested the Elliots, the Armstrongs, the Johnsons, the Kerrs and other clans to move to the borders to protect Scotland from English invaders.

What I propose to do next is to upgrade my DNA profile to a 67 marker check, as two of the four Elliots in the 37 marker match have done 67 marker checks. I'd like to see if we are 67 marker matches and how that would change our relationship. At the same time, I will continue to research DNA profiling to get a better understanding of what it all means.

You may be interested to know that Anne has just mailed her DNA swab to National Geographic to participate in their Genography project. A maternal check will hopefully tell where her Estonian ancestors came from.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal is coming along nicely. Thank you for your cooperation in this regard. It would be appreciated if those members who still have to renew do it soon. You are reminded our membership year end is October 31st each year. \$8 of a \$20 family membership goes to Scotland, \$5 to the chapter and \$7 is used by the national executive for mailings and other expenses. The individual \$15 fee is split evenly among the three groups. Because of these limited resources members in arrears for a full year are deleted from the membership list.

GEORGETOWN HIGHLAND GAMES

Attention all Elliots. This year is the **35th Anniversary of the Georgetown Highland Games** and, as some of you know, Greg and I are directors of the games, as well as representatives of the Elliot Clan at the games. As a director, I am in charge of Clan Avenue and Greg is in charge of the parade. Last year we started having a feature clan at the games. This year the feature clan is going to be Clan Elliot.

The Georgetown Highland Games is the first games of the season and is only one day. The date is June

12th. The weather will be great and there are many booths, events and things to see and do at the games. The 78th Fraser Highland Guard put on an awesome show in the afternoon and the massed bands are incredible. Last year we had at least 33 bands involved in the massed bands, including the world champion 78th Frasers, and the sound was thrilling.

The Elliot tent will be up and open to welcome all who can come. The tickets are not overly expensive and it is well worth the trip to Georgetown.

I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Bonnie & Greg Ball

CHAPTER REPORTS

NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

Chapter Secretary Barry Buckman reports:

Best wishes to all are extended from Nova Scotia where winter has settled in and the air is rather frigid.

Our Chapter held its Annual General Meeting and Dinner on October 24th, 2009 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Kentville. Cloudy skies and light rain did not dampen the spirits of the thirty-one in attendance.

After some mingling, the crowd was seated around the tables at 1:30 pm. Canon Russell Elliott gave the blessing and prayer which was followed by a Loyal Toast to the Queen by Barry Buckman. Murray Elliott then delivered the Toast to Clan Elliot.

A lovely meal was served which consisted of roast beef with assorted vegetables, rolls and condiments. Red wine accompanied the main course. For dessert, there was a selection of bread pudding, rice pudding and apple crisp.

The Annual General Meeting followed with several topics being discussed. An Election of Officers also took place with the current slate returning as well as the addition of Jim Feetham as a new Director.

Planning is underway for our Spring Fling which will be held in May; place and date yet to be determined. Our Chapter's Summer Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, July 10th at the Port George Recreation Centre. A bake sale will be staged in addition to our auction.

That's all for now; everyone take care and enjoy a wonderful spring which will be with us again soon!

EASTERN ONTARIO & WESTERN QUEBEC CHAPTER

Chapter Treasurer Linda Elliott-Doshen reports:

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a magical and sparkling New Year. We were so fortunate this year to have a lovely warm...no snow... November evening for The Elliott Clan of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec's Annual Christmas Potluck, Sunday, November 22nd at John and Colette's beautifully decorated lakeside home in Chelsea.

Many thanks to John, Colette and Andrew for hosting us this year. We all so enjoyed this new setting for our Christmas event. As always, for the Christmas Open House we had an excellent get together as 14 members and guests of our Chapter had a wee sip, wee visit, caught up with 'the news' and had a delicious homemade potluck dinner. It was great fun to all be able to sit around their lovely, large dining room table and catch up with everyone's news.

Our Christmas event was a Happy Birthday dinner for Colette and Julia again this year! Colette's sister brought a delightful book of new 'recipes' for Colette's birthday, which we all enjoyed greatly, although I am not sure cougars should be in a recipe book, but if you're into 'Wild Games' I suppose it might be expected... if a bit startling!

In sad news we were so sorry to learn of Isabel's passing. Isabel and her late husband were so active and such wonderful supporters of all clan events that they are both greatly missed.

In other sad news both Prudie and Jim continue to be in frail health and were greatly missed as well.

In 2010, we are planning to repeat the same excellent EOWQ Clan events that we had this year. We will begin with a new venue for our Annual Lamb Barbeque on Saturday, June 19th, 2010.

We have so enjoyed Ross and Helene's gracious and generous hosting of the June Lamb Roast in past years, but this year Bob and Eve have kindly offered to host us at their wonderful new country home which we have all been looking forward to seeing.

We hope to see all of you at Bob and Eve's for the Spring Lamb Barbeque. As usual, \$10 will be collected to cover Lamb costs.

Our warmest wishes and thoughts continue to be with all of you. We hope you have a healthy and awesome 2010.

ONTARIO CENTRAL CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Marshall Elliott reports:

May I wish, from Bonnie and me, a very Happy New Year to all the membership of Central Ontario. In the same vein, a Happy Robbie Burns to all as a lot of us dig into haggis, sip single malts and listen to the Address to the Haggis during the weekend of the great bard's birthday (January 25th). As an Elliot Clan member, I get out to two or three events here in Peterborough (known for its Irish, not Scottish, heritage) every year to 'show the tartan' and talk about clans and our heritage.

As we move into spring and summer of 2010, we are again offered a range of Celtic and Scottish festivals and highland games. Whether we are kids or not, these events are truly wonderful ways of appreciating our heritage: from dancing and piping to literature and culture, there is an interest for all of us. The premier festival of them all....for Canada, if not North America.....is held each year in Fergus, Ontario in August (the first weekend after the long weekend each and every year). For us in Central Ontario this is just a short drive north of Guelph on Hwy 6. There are many other festivals in our area plus throughout Ontario. Just go to your google-machine and enter something like "Scottish festivals Ontario" and you will get the links and contacts for a host of games and events.

I am very pleased to announce that in 2010 Clan Elliot will be the featured clan at the 35th Annual Highland Games in Georgetown. The date is Saturday, June 12th, at the Georgetown Fairgrounds, beginning at 8:30 am. We all need to thank two of our members, Greg and Bonnie Ball, who are directors and major enthusiast of this event. They

may have had a small influence in the selection of Clan Elliot as the featured clan!

On another theme, in the fall of 2009 we sponsored our annual luncheon social for our members at the beautiful and historic Harrop House in Milton, Ontario. A great meal was presented at this fine dining establishment and we all appreciated an informative presentation by our President Walter Elliot and his son Paul on the recent Gathering in Scotland! There were many pictures and humorous stories by Walter and Paul and others who had attended this special international gathering in Edinburgh for all clans and also their visit with our Chief, Margaret Elliott, in Newcastleton.

ONTARIO WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Co-Chair Barbara Elliott reports:

Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone had a safe and healthy Christmas season.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on November 7th, 2009 at The Church of St. Andrew Memorial in London with 26 members present. A delicious Roast Beef and Ham luncheon was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Al and Carole Nickels for arranging the church facility and to John D. Shaw for coordinating the catering.

Catherine Elliot Shaw and John D. Shaw presented an overview of their trip to Scotland for the Gathering of the Clans and visit to Redheugh Castle. They had many photos and memories to share with us. While at Redheugh, they participated in the Saturday evening Ceilidh, leading out in the dancing.

As always, it was a pleasure to welcome our Canadian President, Walter Elliot, his wife Anne and their son Paul with his family – Evelyn, Katie and Emily Elliot. Walter brought us greetings from our Chief, Margaret as well as sharing some of his memories from the Gathering. It sounded like they all had a wonderful time.

The raffle was a great success; thanks to all who contributed.

Upcoming events:

Spring Luncheon – April 17th, 2010, place to be determined.

Picnic/BBQ – June 27th, 2010, celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the founding of our chapter. This event will be hosted by Catherine and John Shaw at their

home. We hope everyone can come for this event. More details will follow.

Annual General Meeting – November 6th, 2010, at Church of St. Andrew Memorial, London, ON.

Jeff Elliott is investigating the feasibility of a Golf Day for the spring – more details later.

SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

Chapter Chair Clifford Elliott reports:

Greetings from wintery Saskatchewan. This past weekend we had 25 centimeters of snow dumped on us with high winds, so there are snowdrifts everywhere.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas, which I spent with my daughter and her family. I had a quiet New Year's because it was really cold out, so I didn't feel like going anywhere. Then we had a nice mild spell for a couple of weeks, then we got this on the weekend.

It has been a fairly quiet winter this year, with nothing much to report this time, but I hope there will be something to report next time. Until then, everyone have a good winter.

SAP'S RUNNIN'

The following article was forwarded to us by Wendy Elliott last year:

Long Island man motivated by the sweet products of his labour, by Jeanne Whitehead/Digby Courier

Barry Buckman's sugar bush is a small one, just 15 trees, but it provides him with more than enough sap to keep his pancakes drenched in syrup and his French toast tasting sweet year-round.

The work involved—a three-quarter mile hike into the woods to make his way to seven trees, a three-quarter mile hike back to his car carrying pails filled with syrup, then the same all over again on the other side of the highway—means he gets enough exercise to not have to worry about piling on the pounds.

He boils the sap up in a large cauldron on the top of cook-stove in his home, with 5 gallons of sap yielding about 1 pint.

Sap generally runs from mid-March to early April and in a good year, three weeks of tapping results in about 18 pints of syrup.



SPECIAL NOTES

Page 5 is a précis of an address Harry Ferguson gave on Sir Walter Scott. We think it may whet your appetite for the complete presentation, which is a bit too long for inclusion in the newsletter. If you wish a copy of the complete presentation, let Walt Elliot know, and he will mail you a copy.

Cyril Arthur Elliott passed away on February 4th, 2010, in Richmond BC. Condolences have been sent to his daughter Susan Brockley on behalf of the Elliot Clan Society. We regret losing a valued long-time member.

HARRY FERGUSON REVEALS SCOTT'S MULTIFACETED ROLE IN THE SHAPING OF A NATION By Henri-Lee Stalk

The following article was originally published in "EDUCT News, The Newsletter of the Edinburgh University Club of Toronto," September 2007.



(from left to right) Simon Miles, Willadean Leo, Harry Ferguson and Donald Gillies.

On May 4th, the University of Edinburgh Alumni Club was fortunate to hear Harry Ferguson, President of the Sir Walter Scott Club discuss Walter Scott's influential role in the development of Scotland as a nation. In contrast to his stereotypical image as a stiff, old conservative lost in an idealized past, Harry presented Scott as a forward thinking activist who used his persuasive penmanship to protect Scottish interests.

Aware that Scotland would struggle for recognition against the weight of the much larger nation of England, Harry recounted how Scott employed a romanticized writing style, using his novels as politicized mediums to paint a lasting, glorified image of Scotland to stand against cultural English invasion. By introducing tartans and kilts as icons of Scottish nationalism, Scott popularized many of the emblems which are recognized around the world today as symbols of Scotland. Though Scott is well known for pioneering the historical novel; being the first to make a chronicle sweep of Scottish history, *Tales of a Grandfather*, Harry also emphasized Scott's key role in protecting Scottish banking.

Harry cited that, from its inception, Scottish banking was always very different from English banking. Scottish banking enjoyed greater freedom by focusing on the needs of commerce, as opposed to English banking which faced greater restriction as a result of being both closely aligned with government and being responsible for lending money to the monarchy.

Highlighting how important £1 notes were to the Scottish economy, Harry recounted how low value paper currency offered a reliable and convenient means of payment for the great number of less affluent Scottish citizens. In reaction to the failure of over sixty English banks and considerable public losses, an Act was passed in 1826 which prohibited the circulation of any notes under £5 in England. Harry detailed how Scott galvanized a movement against adhering to the English banking approach. Foreseeing a calamity for Scottish banking, the author, writing under the pen name "Malachi Malagrowther", drafted numerous letters and protest publications against the English banking move towards metals, famously proclaiming: "If you unscotch us you will find us damned mischievous Englishmen". At the insistence of Members of Parliament, the Press, Scott and other pamphleteers', the government relented and did not apply banking changes to Scotland, thus allowing the nation to keep their note issues. Harry reiterated the importance of Scott's stand against the banking moves, citing how the author's actions have allowed for the freedom Scottish banking has today. There remains a different interlending policy between English and Scottish banks and Scotland did maintain 1 pound notes in contrast to England's 1 pound coins.

Facing mounting debts and having used his beloved manor, Abbotsford, as collateral, Scott literally "wrote himself to death" passing away in 1832. His novels enjoyed great success, allowing him to assuage his financial pressures and regain his home. Harry showed that Scott was not only an author and political activist but also a trail blazer. Scott understood the importance of environmental conservationism, planting trees was his obsessive hobby. He was also intrigued by scientific innovations enabling Abbotsford to be the first house in Scotland to have gas lighting. He summarized his captivating portrayal of the author's life by stating that "Scott knew well what he meant by Scotland."

Harry concluded by stating that the life and works of Walter Scott persist in drawing great fascination because Scott forged and fought a path for Scottish national identity; a concept which continues to be hotly debated today.

Henri-Lee Stalk graduated from Edinburgh University with a Master of Arts in Scottish and English Literature in 2004.