



# Hunters' Halloo

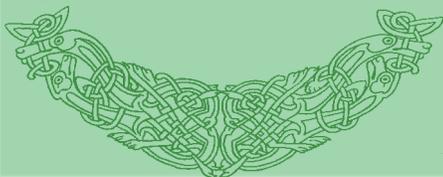
Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

April 2004 Vol 4,2

Crest Badge of a  
Member of Clan Hunter

## Inside this Issue

- 1** *Editors Note*
- 2** *International Clan Gathering*
- 3** *Annual General Meeting*
- 3** *A Dance Called America*
- 3** *The River with Two Names*
- 4** *Changing your Address*
- 4** *Newsletter by Email*
- 5** *Hunter Turns Talent to Burns*
- 6** *Heretics of Perth*
- 6** *Highland Games*



*Greeting everyone! I was about to say at last the winter has gone but I see that even today at the end of April there are some snow flakes in the air. However I suppose it really is Spring and as I take my morning walk I see hosts of golden daffodils just as in the famous poem. I have the feeling of coming out of hibernation along with the bears and other creatures. It has been a long winter with some parts of our country being hit very hard indeed by Winter's icy blast. Now we need to look to another season of Clan activity. The Scottish Highland Games season will soon be upon us here in Canada and I would like to take this opportunity of inviting anyone in our far flung membership to host a tent at any of the Games in your area on our behalf. We would be happy to supply you with some material for your tent and any registration fee necessary. If you are interested contact me at the address on page 5. Christine (my wife) and I will only manage to host a couple of Games this year as we are attending the Clan Gathering in August at Hunterston and will be gone for almost a month visiting with family and friends. It is our intention ,(and I know where the road of good intentions leads), at some future time, to try and visit our membership on both the East and West coasts. This a bit of a tough task for us at the moment, personally, but we hope to be able to solve the problems reasonably soon.*

*Unfortunately I have just heard from our Clan Chief that due to a serious drop in the number of folks attending, the program for the Gathering has had to be seriously curtailed. This is a great disappointment to all concerned and this lack of attendance is always a great worry to anyone trying to organise such an event. Without the membership participation it is impossible to host such an event in a top class manner and compromises must then be made to the program. (See item page 2) keep checking out the clanhunter websites for updates at:*

*<http://www.clanhunter.com> <http://www.clanhuntercanada.com>*

*In this issue you will find a special sheet as an insert. This sheet has three items we would like you to address. The first item is the usual reminder that the annual fees will be due at the end of June. Please consider writing the cheque right away and popping it in the envelope provided. (No envelope for our e-mail subscribers.... Sorry) The second item is there because of a request I received from someone requesting the ability to pay membership dues by electronic credit card. Please read this part and give us your opinion. The third section deals with the fact that our Office Bearers have been in office for 3 years and our constitution says that we must extend the right to our membership to nominate others to the position as well as re-nominating the present slate of officers. So please use this section of the form if you have someone you wish to nominate for one of the positions listed. The nominating committee will present all nominations to the membership at the annual General Meeting. If you receive your newsletter electronically then please print off the sheet and send your membership fees and opinions to us by conventional mail.*

*The intention of the membership at last year's meeting was to hold the 2004 annual General Meeting at Hunterston at the Clan Gathering. While this seemed a good idea at the time it is now obvious that we will not have enough people attending to make this feasible. Please take note of the special rescheduling notice on page 3.*

*I hope you enjoy our little historical piece on "The Heretics of Perth" We usually try to find a Hunter connection in our little forays into Scottish History. By coincidence more than intention we have two book reviews for your enjoyment. The first one being "A Dance Called America" by James Hunter of the UK which having read myself I can heartily recommend and the other "Robert Burns: A Tribute" by Ian Hunter of London Ontario, which I have yet to read.*

## ***International Clan Hunter Gathering 2004***

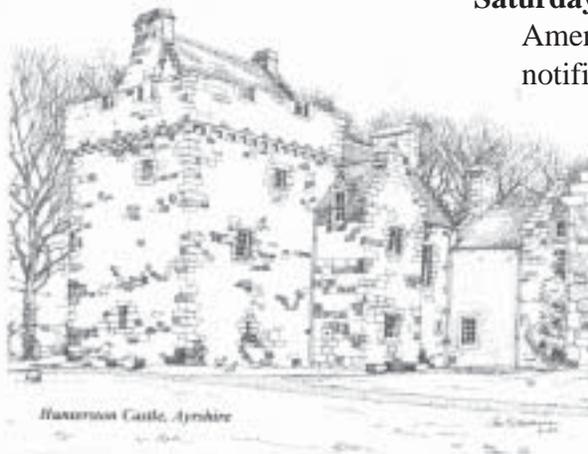
*The following info is supplied by  
the UK branch of Clan Hunter.*

**Due to a significant drop in the number of people intimating their intention to attend the International Ian Hunter Gathering 2004 at Hunterston Castle, Scotland, it has become necessary to downscale the planned events. At this time the details have not yet been clarified but will probably include lunch in the castle and hopefully, Saturday evening dinner and entertainment in a local hotel instead of on the grounds. The RBLs Pipe Band and Dancers are still scheduled for Sunday morning. The Gathering**

**will now assume the following format:**

them. This will not be an Official Gathering Day as far as Programmed Activities.

**Saturday 7th August 2004**  
Amended Program to be notified shortly.



**Sunday 8th August 2004**  
Amended Program to be notified shortly.

**Friday 6th August 2004**  
Treated as an Open Day, the Castle and Castle Shop will be Open for those that wish to use

Hunterston Castle, West Kilbride, Ayrshire, KA23 9QG. Telephone; 01294-82 -

Email [shop@clanhunter.info](mailto:shop@clanhunter.info)

### **Annual General Meeting:**

It was decided at last year's Annual General meeting to hold the 2004 AGM at Hunterston. At the time of the meeting it appeared that there would be more than enough Canadian members attending to produce a quorum (10 required). However since that time the number of those intimating their intentions of attending the Clan Gathering at Hunterston have greatly diminished leaving us with no other course than to re-schedule the AGM to allow for greater participation of our membership. Notice is therefore given that the Annual General Meeting will be held at **3.00p.m. on 28 Aug 2004** at Chalmers Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario.

### **Nomination of Office Bearers**

The Nominating committee will meet at the beginning of June for the purpose of recommending a slate of officers to be presented at the 2004 Annual General Meeting. Nominations should be delivered to the committee by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2004 and should be sent to the Secretary at:

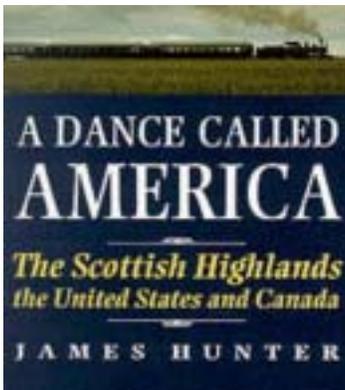
Christine Hunter  
61 Downing Cres.  
London, Ontario  
N6C 3C7

Or e-mailed to  
[cbhhunter@rogers.com](mailto:cbhhunter@rogers.com)

Incumbent officers are:  
Don Hunter – Treasurer  
Christine Hunter – Secretary  
Nadine Hunter – Recording Secretary

book is also the story of human tragedy and greed. The story of the Kildonan people is typical. They were forcibly evicted from their land and homes in Kildonan in Sutherland and packed off like so many head of cattle and led via Hudsons Bay to a settlement on the Red River near Winnipeg. There are also stories of other clearances and whole families carried in leaky, smelly timber ships rife with disease. This book lucidly describes the trials and tribulations endured by ordinary people caught up in other men's politics and greed. What kind of a man was Patrick Sellar who could not disguise his joy at seeing men, women and children turned out of their houses and then burn their homes, possessions and crops? Was he evil or just a product of a violent and narrow minded age? Who knows? I could not help thinking as I read these stories that not much changes - what happened in the Scottish Highlands was nothing short of genocide or as we call it today "ethnic-cleansing".

### **A Dance Called America: James Hunter**



Reviewed by: Unknown

This book interweaves the social history of Scotland and North America in a fascinating and readable way. In particular it puts the bare facts of Canadian history into a human context. It is about the Scottish Highlanders who left their land and homes, voluntarily at first and later by force, and settled in North America. It is also about heroism, tragedy and greed. In most cases they made a better life and some of the men went

on to shape the country itself. What kind of men were Alexander Mackenzie and Simon Fraser who came from small villages in the wilds of Scotland but were prepared to disappear into unmapped and un-



known wilderness without any modern medical or navigational equipment? Their heroism is uplifting. So too the story of John Macdonald, whose drive and vision led him to become the father of modern Canada despite his love of the bottle and some dodgy business dealings. This

what became of its people. The Highland Clearances were just like the Russian pogroms, the Holocaust, the destruction of the American Indian and the events in the 1990s Balkans. This book is both fascinating and readable and I recommend it to anyone who has any interest in the social history of the Scottish Highlands and

### **The River with Two Names**

by Erin Bentley

The Hunter River stretches from Hartsville to Rustico Bay and has

been an integral part of the vibrant communities through which it travels. In his 1765 survey of PEI, Samuel Holland named Hunter River after Thomas Orby Hunter, a deputy paymaster to the English and Dutch troops and who became Lord of Admiralty in 1761. However, some older residents of the community claim that the name Hunter River originates from the Fred Hunter, a soldier in the war of 1812-1814. The legend claims that Fred Hunter returned from war after being presumed dead, only to find his fiancée at the altar with another man. Hunter was later found frozen in the snow on the banks of what is known as Hunter River.

Where the Hunter River meanders through New Glasgow, the river is known as the River Clyde. Families of Scottish descent settled in this area and named the community New Glasgow and christened the River Clyde, after the river of the same name that travels through Glasgow, Scotland. Although the river is primarily known as the Hunter River, the name River Clyde has been passed down from the originating families to their descendants and exists as the common name for the section of river that passes through New Glasgow.

At the mouth of the river lies the Rustico area and Rustico Bay, which was settled in the 1760's mainly by Acadian families with the surnames of Gallant, Martin, and Doiron. The place name Rustico Bay is thought to originate from Rene Rassicot, a native of Normandy, France who settled on the North side of PEI in 1724. In 1765, Samuel Holland called it Harris Bay, with Grand Rastico as a secondary name. Later, the name

Rustico Bay took precedence. Development along the river blossomed with the advent of the railway that passed through Hunter River. Mixed farming, dairying and lumbering were the most common industries and the railway allowed products of these industries to be exported and imported with ease. The river was essential for providing power for mills and water for livestock. Until the invention of diesel engines, trains stopped in Hunter River to refill their steam engines from an abundant water reservoir. In fact, the width of the river necessitated a ferry crossing in the 1820's to assist travelers in crossing the Hunter River.

A few kilometers north in New Glasgow, water was essential for farming families and for the New Glasgow Fire Department, which presently and historically served the areas of Hunter River and Rustico as well. Earlier, shipbuilding was popular in this area because of the abundant mature stands of forest and the convenience of easy passage from the River Clyde to the Gulf of St.

Lawrence. On the North Shore, the River Clyde flows into Rustico Bay. In South Rustico, the first Credit Union in North America was established in 1863 to support the demands of a thriving farming and fishing community. Today, fishing remains a lucrative resource and the harbour exists as an important passage for migratory species of fish to enter and exit the Hunter-Clyde River watershed. A community group has been formed to preserve and restore the health of the river so that it can continue to enhance and support the communities and the current farming and fishing industries. More recently, this area has become a popular tourist

destination and the growing eco-tourism market has a promising future.

## *Changing your address?*



Thinking of moving?

Remember to tell us of any change of address, change of e-mail address or change of status (married) so that our records can be kept up to date.

## *Newsletter by e-mail*

Are you still reading your copy of the Hunters' Halloo in hard copy format? Can you imagine how much more you might enjoy it in full colour? If you would like to sample what it might look like send me an e-mail at [thunter01@rogers.com](mailto:thunter01@rogers.com) and type "sample newsletter please" in the content line. I will then send you a sample newsletter via e-mail for you to enjoy without committing to anything. Should you decide you really like the format you can let me know and we can begin sending you your newsletter by that method. Don't forget to give me your regular address or membership number so that I can positively identify you. Always remember that you can switch back to the regular newsletter at any time.

Send your submissions  
for the Newsletter to  
Tom Hunter  
61 Downing Crescent  
London, Ontario  
N6C 3C7  
Tel (519) 681-4101  
e-mail [thunter01@rogers.com](mailto:thunter01@rogers.com)  
<http://www.clanhuntercanada.com>

## *Hunter turns talent to Burns*

*Herman Gooden*

London lawyer, law professor emeritus, biographer and national newspaper columnist Ian Hunter is of Scottish descent. That fact right there could have been enough to ensure that some day, he would have to write a book called Robert Burns: A Tribute, now in London bookstores.

Furthermore, Hunter's father was a poetry-besotted journalist/author/lay preacher who was forever reciting great swaths of Burns and John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress.

James Hogg Hunter once credibly claimed that if all of Robert Burns' poems were to be lost, he could restore them from memory.

Rev. Hunter further fancied that, because Burns' parents first met on the main street of the Ayrshire town where he grew up, "the Hunters and Burns were somehow related." In the case of a more amorously restrained poet, such speculation could be confidently refuted as romantic non-sense. But with Burns, you can't be so hasty in dismissing even the most unlikely claims of kinship.

Ian Hunter's latest book, at 140 pages, gathers 10 erudite and engaging essays and talks (some of them delivered at Burns Suppers) that sketch out the life or high-light different facets of the poetry and legend of Scotland's national poet. Two chapters - Highland Mary and Robbie's Girls - catalogue the many contestants for Burns' love. I was impressed to learn of the perseverance of his eventual bride, Jean Armour, who bore two sets of twins out of wedlock before she could cajole him to take a stroll down the

aisle.

While not as large or sustained a work as Hunter's full-length biographies of writers Malcolm Muggeridge and Hesketh Pearson, a comparative Burns novice such as myself comes away with a workable grasp of the



big picture and a sense of why the man matters so much to his followers.

His poetry, unpretentious in the extreme, can convey a power as natural and beautiful as a rushing mountain stream. Even when the poems are rendered with lashings of Scottish dialect - "By this time, he was cross' the ford/ Whare in the snaw the chapman smoor'd/ And past the birks' and meikle stane/ Where drunken Charlie brak's neck-bane" - you can often suss out the probable meanings of the words by their sounds.

Present a few weeks back when Hunter read out Burns' Tam O' Shanter to London's Baconian Club, I wondered if perhaps Lewis Carroll wrote his great nonsense poem, Jabberwocky (full of invented words like "snicker-snack" and "galumphing"), after an evening of imbibing

Burns' sonorously suggestive poetry.

In The Epistolary Burns, Hunter plunders the Bard's less well known letters for epigrammatic jewels as fetching as anything in his poetry: "I have too much pride for servility, and too little prudence for selfishness." "I despise the superstition of a Fannatic, but I love the Religion of a Man." "I am as proud as ever; & when I am laid in my grave, I wish to be stretched at my full length, that I may occupy every inch of ground which I have a right to."

Two essays focus on the progress of Burns' reputation over the last two centuries. In The Expanding Canon, Hunter cites the work of Burns scholars who have increased the known and certain cache of Burnsiana from 125 poems and songs at the time of his death in 1796, to the 632 poems and songs published in the definitive Oxford edition of his work.

Another essay examines the impact of Catherine Carswell's controversial Life of Robert Burns from 1930. Despite a few mistakes and flaws, that was the first book to take an unflinching look at Burns' amorous life; establishing the great abiding paradox of Burns in the popular mind. As Lord Byron put it in his journal; "What an antithetical mind! - tenderness, roughness - delicacy, coarseness - sentiment, sensuality - soaring and grovelling, dirt and deity - all mixed up in that one compound of inspired clay."

Yes, and we all know how Burns would explain such a mystery. "A man's a man for a' that"

*Herman Gooden*  
(herman.goodden@sympatico.ca)  
is a London freelance writer. His column appears Mondays and Fridays in the London Free Press  
**This article used with full permission.**

## January 25th 1544

### The heretics of Perth

Though it was to be another sixteen years before Scotland officially embraced the doctrines of Protestantism, there were already many people receptive to the new religious ideas. The fact that heresy, which tended to mean merely opposition to the Catholic faith, was in almost all cases punishable by death, served not to stamp out the heretical opinions but only to provide more martyrs for the Protestant cause. The town of Perth was particularly receptive to the new doctrines, perhaps because the multiplicity of religious houses in the town demonstrated too often the corruption into which the Catholic orders had fallen.

In January 1544, while on a visit to Perth, Cardinal Beaton and the Earl of Arran, acting as Regent for the country, received a complaint from Friar Spence that Robert Lamb and his wife Helen Stark had interrupted his sermon in which he had taught that there was no salvation without intercession and prayers to the saints. They confessed the charge adding that it was the duty of everyone who knew the truth to bear testimony to it and not suffer people to be abused with false doctrine as that was.

Also accused were three men indicted for nailing two ram's horns to the head of a statue of St Francis, putting a cow's rump to his tail and

eating goose on All Hallow's eve. Another, **James Hunter**, "simple and unlearned" was charged with haunting the company of the heretics. Helen Stark was further charged with refusing to pray to the Virgin Mary when in child birth. She had said that she would only pray to God in the name of Jesus Christ. All were condemned to die.

The townspeople were in a tumult but because of an apparent promise made by Arran they were persuaded to go back to their homes. But "the Cardinal who had the Regent in his power had taken his measures." Next day they were brought out for execution while Cardinal Beaton "feasted his eyes from the window of the Spey tower with their execution." After the men were executed Helen Stark was taken "to a pool of water hard by, where having recommended her children to the charity of her neighbours, her sucking child being taken from her breast and given to a nurse, she was drowned and died with great courage and comfort."

Perth continued to be a centre of opposition to the Catholic faith. Two years later Cardinal Beaton himself was murdered in his own castle of St Andrews and his lifeless body left suspended from the walls.

### Highland Games

Tom and I love to go to the highland games. We enjoy meeting other

'Hunters' and catching up with old friends (Hunters or not). Of course the reason we set up a 'Hunter' tent at the local games is to try and encourage other Hunters to 'join the clan'! But that is not the only reason. We also want to meet as many of the present clan members as we can. We love to have you stop by the tent and tell us your story – how long you have been a member, what is happening in your life, whatever you feel like talking about. This is your tent; your association and we would like to have you spend some time with us. This year, unfortunately, we will not be at Fergus Games, but there will still be a clan tent there with lots of Hunters in attendance. We are off to Scotland at the end of July to attend the Clan Gathering at Hunterston. This is also a time when we love to have a good representation from Canada – and it gives us some of our 'ain kind' to chat with while we are there.

In the meantime, go to your local games, and then let us know that you were there. Let us know what games are 'local' to you – and what they are like. Are they large or small games? Is there an Avenue of the Clans? Tom and I are hoping to spread our net a bit further over the next few years and who knows – we may be visiting your local games one of these years. But we won't know about them, or your participation, unless you tell us! We want to go to the games that will help us meet our clan members, and then maybe we can have dinner together and have a yarn!

*Christine Hunter*

*Membership Secretary*

# Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Notice of Dues for July 1st 2004 to June 30th 2005

This is a gentle reminder that a new season is upon us and now is the time to renew your membership in the association. If you have already renewed your membership, we thank you sincerely and please kindly ignore this reminder. If not perhaps you would like to fill in this note, add a cheque for \$30 and pop it in the envelope provided.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cheques should be made payable to Clan Hunter and mailed to the Clan Hunter Association treasurer at:  
Donald R Hunter  
138 Sweeney Drive  
Toronto, ON M4A 1T9

---

Inquiries have recently been made as to whether annual fees could be paid by electronic means via credit card and the internet. If there were enough interest in this mode of payment the association would be prepared to investigate this option further. To help us in this matter would you please indicate your preferred method of payment.

I prefer to pay by cheque

I would like to be able to pay by credit card

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

## Nominations For Office Bearers: (See page 3)

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Recording Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_