



Crest Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter

# Hunters' Halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

April 2006 Vol 4,10

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*Hello everyone. It's April already and time to be thinking of our summer plans. Christine and I are continuing with our plan to return to the Fredericton Highland Games this year and hopefully meet some more of our "East Coasters" Bob and Aldene Hunter have agreed to join us as well as my daughter Lizz and grand-daughter Torry. In addition we will be attending Games in Chatham, Maxville,*

*Montreal and of course Fergus.*

*A few weeks ago I received an e-mail from Angus Whitson who writes for the Dundee Courier. Angus is actively creating a web site featuring stories of his walks with his two dogs and wished to spread the word so to speak to Scots and ex-pats etc. After reading a few (I haven't read them all yet) I decided that many of our readers would enjoy sharing in his travels around Scotland and so in this issue we have included a section on "Web sites you should visit". As well as Angus' web site I have included an excellent site featuring one of our own Clan members, Raoul Hunter. Raoul is a well renowned sculptor and his site, created by his son Denis as a gift for his 80th birthday, shows many beautiful photographs of his work. I realise that not everyone has access to, or cares about, the Internet. However if you do, these will most certainly be of interest to you.*

*It is not too soon to be thinking about the International Clan gathering in Scotland planned for 20th, 21st, and 22nd July 2007. I have been approached with regards to the possibility of group flights to Scotland but have decided that because of the "far flung" nature of our membership and their many different travel plans, it would be considerably easier for folks to make their own way there. I would however recommend that if you are planning on attending you should check out "Canadian Affair" flights owned by Thomas Cook. We have flown with them on a number of occasions and found them to be excellent with reasonable prices. There has also been some small interest shown in organising a bus tour while in Scotland. Check page 8 for more info on this.*

*Just one last word from me before I run out of space. I want to thank my daughter Lizz and my wife Christine who never fail when I tell them I need something written for the newsletter. My thanks also to Andrew Hunter for the piece on the Heraldic Cadency and Household of a Highland Chief.*

**Tom**

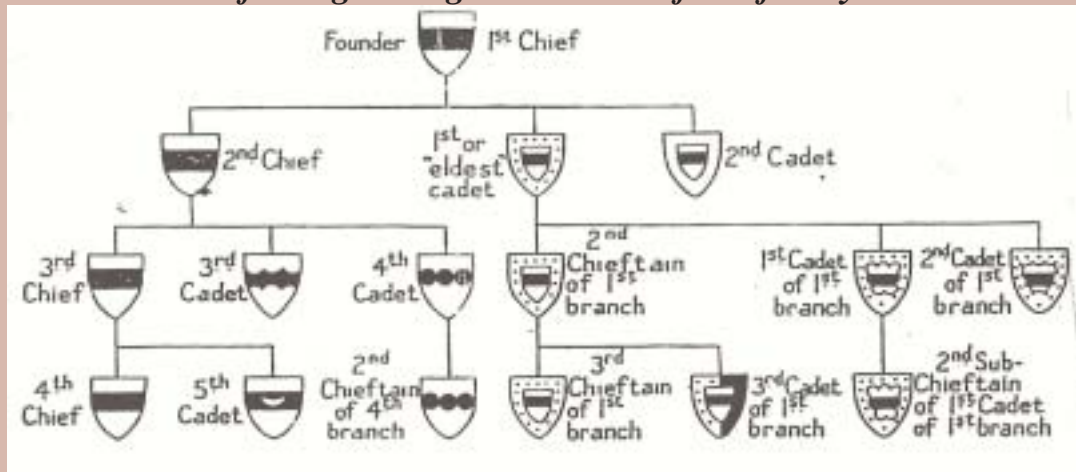


## *Chatham Santa Claus Parade.*

Our own Catherine and Dave Elder were proud Parade Marshalls in the Chatham 2005 Santa Claus Parade. David and Catherine shown right led the parade in a restored 1929 Duesenberg Limousine. Catherine is shown wearing her Hunter Tartan while David sports his own Macintosh tartan. I'm sure you will agree that finer Parade Marshalls could not be found anywhere



### *The Scottish System of Heraldic Cadency for organising the leaders of the family*



This scheme shows you how the *undifferenced shield* passes down from chief to chief, and always indicates the reigning chief. Also, how the various "differences" indicate the cadet houses in their order; how the shield differenced for each cadet descends to, and indicates, the successive chieftains of that branch; and how the cadets within each branch are also sub-differenced.

#### **HOUSEHOLD AND PERSONAL FOLLOWERS OF A HIGHLAND CHIEF**

~**Ard Ghillean an Tighe (Gentlemen of the Household).**-The number of these varied according to the importance of the chief. .

~**An Seanachaidh (the Sennachie or Genealogist of the Chief's House)** -At table he sat among the chiefs of families; With precedence to the doctors of medicine. It was his duty to keep the clan register, its records, genealogies, and family history; to pronounce the addresses of ceremony at clan assemblies, and deliver the chief's inauguration, birthday, and funeral genealogical orations ; also as Inaugurator, to invest him on succession.

~**Am Bard (the Bard).**-Often synonymous with the Household Sennachie and generally a hereditary position, but otherwise used of an officer inferior to him.

~**An Clarsair (the Harper).**-This was generally a hereditary office.

~**Am Marischal Tighe (the Seneschal).**-In every great household there were two, the principal of

whom was well versed in the genealogies and precedences of all the clans. At table he assigned to each guest his place by touching the appointed seat with his white wand of office.

~ **Am Bladier, the Spokesman**, i.e. pursuivant, who carried the chief's messages -which it will be recollected were in primitive days all conveyed orally, not in writing. He made the chief's proclamations.

~ **Am Fear Sporain (the Treasurer)**. -This was a hereditary position, and its occupant had a town-land for his service.

~**Am Fear Brataich (the Standard-bearer or Bannerman)**. -A hereditary office, as was, too, that of ~ **Am Piobaire (the Piper)**.

~**An Gille Mor (the Sword or Armour-bearer)**. -Also called the Gall-oglach; whose duty it was to carry the clogaid, or helmet, and the claidheamh-da- laimh, or two-handed sword of the chief. As armour was not continuously worn he had to carry it when on the march.

~**An Gille-coise (the Henchman)**. -This retainer was in continual attendance upon the chief; he stood fully armed behind the chair of his master at meal time, and if the peace of the occasion were doubtful the henchman had his pistols loaded.

~**An Luchd-Tighe (the Body-guard)**. -These were all young gentlemen, chosen from the finest youths of the clan, and each had one or more attendants of own. The members of the bodyguard were all well trained in the use of sword, the target, and the bow, and were adept in wrestling, swimming, leaping and dancing; and those of the seacoast and the isles were versed in the sounding and navigation duties of seamanship, and the management of the biorlinns and -galleys. The Luchd-tighe always attended the chief when he went abroad and when his residence was on an island, in a lake, they had barracks and a guard-house on the mainland for keeping open the access to the chief's castle.

~**Am Fear Fardaiche (the Quartermaster)**. —His duties were to provide lodging for all attendants, both at home and abroad. He held no lands in consideration of his services, but had a duty off the hides of all the cattle killed at the principal festivals, or in a "creach" (or foray).

~**An Cupair, or Gille-copain (the Cup-bearer)**. -There were several cup-bearers according to the importance of the chief. The duty of the principal one was to taste the contents of the cup before it was carried round the board. The office of principal cup-bearer was hereditary, and its occupant held land granted in charter from the chief.

~ **An Gocaman, the Cockman or Warder**, who kept watch on the top of the castle.

~ **Am Forsair (the Forester)**. -He held by his service a croft and grazing in the forest, and was entitled to claim the hunting-dress and weapons of the chief, when he returned home from hunting. This right, like many ancient perquisites of a similar kind, was only a scale of value, and was compounded by a fee in meal or money.

~**An Gille-Cas-Fhliuch**. -A servant whose duty it was to carry the chief over the fords when the chief was travelling on foot.

~**An Gille-Couston**. -The leader of the chief's horse.

~**A. Gille-Comhsreang**. -This was a guide who at dangerous precipices led the chief's horse by a long rein.

~**A. Gille-Trusairneis**. -The Baggage-man who had charge of the sumpter horses. -

~**An Leinc-chneas**. -A Confidant or Privy Counsellor.

~**A. Gille-sguain (the Train-bearer)**. -When the Lords of the Isles were in power we are told that among their train was a person designated Fear sguabadh dealt, whose duty it was to brush the dew away before his Royal master .

~**An Gille Chlarsair**. -**The Harper's Attendant**, who carried his harp.

~**Gilk Phiobaire**. -**The Piper's Servant**, who carried the pipes, presented them to the piper when he was about to play, and received them again when the piper had concluded his performance. This attendant was only, however, attached to -pipers of the first rank.

(Submitted by Andrew Hunter)

## Roslyn Chapel – Part II

Lizz Thibodeau

In a previous newsletter, I wrote an article about Roslyn Chapel and the mystery of the Corn Carving. A new mystery has recently been brought to my attention and, having read a lot of Nancy Drew as a child, I feel compelled to share it with you. The timing also seems appropriate since the Da Vinci Code movie opens this month.

All over the interior arches of Roslyn Chapel there are strange protruding cubes with flowers, patterns, shapes and such on them. When we were visiting Roslyn Chapel two years ago, I remember reading a plaque drawing our attention to these, questioning what their purpose was. There was a hypothesis that, since this chapel was connected to the Knights Templar, perhaps they were some secret code and if the pattern could be revealed we might discover the solution to a great mystery. Well, a composer from Edinburgh, Stuart Mitchell thinks that he has figured it out.

In reality, it was actually his father, Thomas Mitchell, who spent over 20 years trying to decode these cubes. Thomas & Stuart believe that the secret lies in music. Don't ask me how anyone came up with this but... it turns out that when you sustain a note of music, it vibrates sheet metal. If you put powder on the metal, it will form a shape, specific to the note being played. For example, a note vibrating at 440 KHz (the A below middle C) will create a rhombus shape in the powder on the metal. Lo and behold, the shapes formed match the shapes carved on these protruding cubes in the arches of Roslyn Chapel.

Perhaps that solves the mystery of what all these seemingly random shapes mean; however, it leads to a second mystery. This bazaar method of creating shapes out of powder on metal was discovered by Ernst Chladni in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Sir William St. Clair built Roslyn Chapel in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Was he somehow three hundred years ahead of his time, scientifically?

If Sir William did indeed build the chapel with references to specific notes carved into the architecture, the next obvious question is why. Stuart Mitchell believes and hopes that if the music is played on period instruments in the chapel, perhaps there will be a reaction. It sounds like something out of a movie, but perhaps the vibrations will open something in the stonework. What centuries old secret could be revealed through this medieval music?



### *Fredericton*

Special mention to the folks close enough to attend the Fredericton Highland Games. As they had such a good time there last year Christine and Tom Hunter accepted the invitation to renew the experience this year. Flying out to join them will be their daughter Lizz Thibodeau and 1 year old grand-

daughter Torry. Just to sweeten the pot as they say, Bob and Aldene Hunter have also agreed to do it again and will be meeting up with them at the Games to help host the Clan Hunter tent. Last year the tent was also graced by the presence of Erma Gibson and Frances Knowles (sisters) from New Brunswick.

Hopefully they will be able to join us again. Now if we can convince the other Hunter folks of the area to turn out we could have a good old rip-roaring event. Part of the fun was being able to all go out for dinner together. So come on out folks, there's plenty of room at the table.

## Websites You Should Visit

Hello Clan Hunter

I write a Saturday countryside diary 'Man with two dogs' for the Dundee Courier, based on my walks with my two dogs. It's not just about my own home locality of the east of Scotland; wherever we are in Scotland I'm likely to write about it. It's non-political and non-controversial and just the sort of thing that I believe will be enjoyed by ex-pats, Scots-by-kin and other devotee Scots.

I've got a website now and have only recently gone live, and am still uploading weekly articles back to 4 January 2003. The site will always have something new because there will always be another week's article to add after its Saturday publication in the Courier. In due course I want to add more pages such as 'guid Scots words and phrases', recipes, dog tales – if it's successful who knows where it will go.

Please take a look at [www.manwithtwodogs.com](http://www.manwithtwodogs.com) it's remarkable just how much of Scotland I've visited and written about.

Best wishes from Scotland

Angus Whitson

Man with two dogs



(Photo copyright Angus Whitson, used with permission)



### **Raoul Hunter, Clan Hunter member**

Raoul Hunter, a caricaturist and sculptor, finished first in his class at the École de beaux-arts de Québec in 1953. He then went to Paris, studying sculpture and design at the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts and art history at the École du Louvre.

He made a name for himself as an editorial cartoonist for *Le Soleil* from 1956 to 1989, and taught at the École de beaux-arts de Québec and the École des arts visuels of Laval University. His first love, though, is sculpture, where he focuses mainly on statuary.

He was awarded the Order of Canada in 1989.

This beautiful website was created by his son Denis as a gift for his coming 80th birthday. Visit it at [www.raoulhunter.com](http://www.raoulhunter.com)

(Photo copyright Raoul Hunter, used with permission)



**Valerie Cairney**

### **The Black Watch - Ready for Change**

When the Black Watch Pipes and Drums came to Florida last month, they promised an evening filled with both nostalgia and excitement. Not only was this to be the final night of a 12 week (56 performance) tour of North America, I understood it was also, the last performance of this famous and courageous regiment to perform as The Black Watch. The day after the show they were due to return to Scotland where, in just

a few short weeks, they were to become part of the new, and highly controversial 'Royal Regiment of Scotland Like most people I hated the thought of this

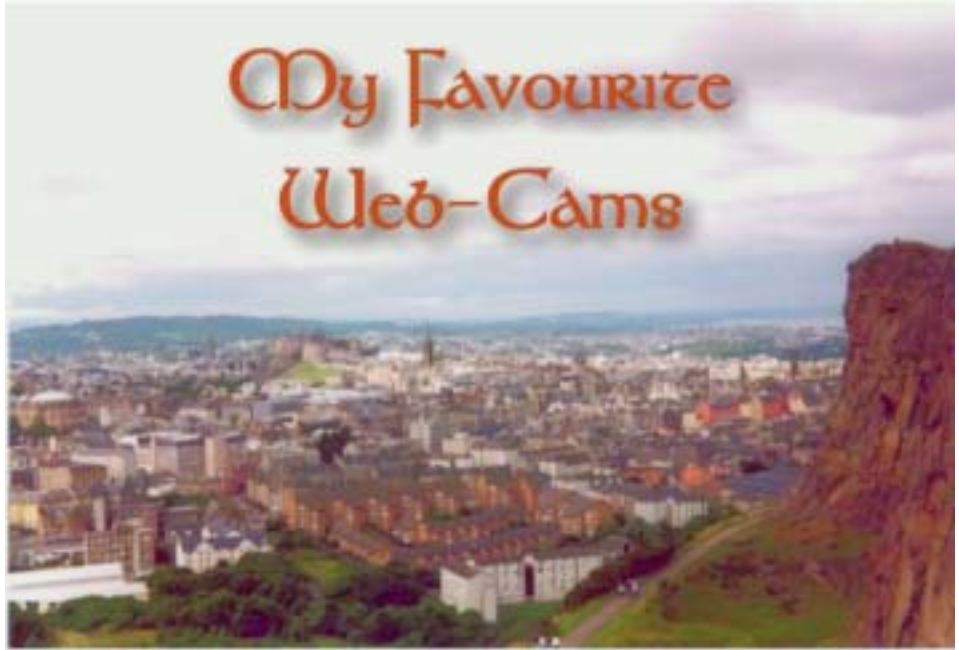
wonderful part of Scottish History fading into - just that - history, and I had asked if I might be able to speak privately with some of the band members in order to get their views on these changes. When an invitation came to have dinner with them in the Great Room of the theatre just prior to the show, it seemed a perfect opportunity.

(read the rest of the story here [www.scottishbanner.com](http://www.scottishbanner.com))

## Web Cams in Scotland

Christine Hunter

Tom and I got involved in Scottish web cams when a good friend of ours, who shall remain nameless, sent us a message that there was a “find the haggis” competition, run by the Scotsman Newspaper, running at the moment – and we had to look at it. We looked up the website Nadene (oops sorry) gave us and found ten web cams , eight of them in Scotland and you were supposed to watch for a haggis (a little furry, dark coloured creature) appear on one of the screens. Occasionally the haggis would be gold – and that was a bonus indeed. Each time you spotted a haggis you had to click on the button “I saw a haggis”. Well... We were hooked. Not only was it fun, but we could sit and watch what was happening in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Oban, Gleneagles and Aviemore. Often on a cold wintry afternoon you would hear the cry “there’s a haggis” resound from one of our home computers and there would be a flurry of activity as the other person dashed to their workstation and tried to press that darned button before the little creature disappeared. Many, many hours were wasted (sorry – spent) sitting in front of the computer watching life unfold in Scotland. I even suggested to my brother, who lives just outside Edinburgh, that he should go into town wearing something



very distinguishable (like a large, funny hat) and should jump up and down in front of the camera! I must say that my suggestion fell on deaf ears!

There was something sadly amiss in our lives when the game ended, but Tom went into his computer and found that we could have these web cams, and many more, on our computer to use whenever we felt the need. Now we visit Scotland whenever we want, and some of the web cams refresh so

often it’s almost like watching a movie. Tom has created a web page for your entertainment on the Clan Hunter website: [www.clanhuntercanada.com](http://www.clanhuntercanada.com) Try them out and let us know how you enjoy the sights.

P.S. You will notice I didn’t mention the prizes to be won on this game – because they really didn’t matter. They paled in comparison to the chase, and the scenery!

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## Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Notice of Dues for July 1st 2006 to June 30th 2007

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

# Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games

August 11,12,13 2006

Preliminary plans include...

- Fergus Tattoo & Lighting 6.45 pm Frid 11 Aug 2006 Fergus
  - Fergus Highland Games 7.00 am Sat 12 Aug 2006 Fergus
  - Clan Hunter A.G.M 5.30 pm " " Holiday Inn 601 Scottsdale Dr., Guelph
  - Buffet dinner 6.30pm " " " " " "
  - Kirkin' o' the Tartan 10.00am Sun 13 Aug 2006 St Andrew's Presb.Fergus
- Tea and scones after the service

## Why not plan to attend this special gathering

Stay over in the Fergus area

Enjoy the Games - Hang out at the Clan Tent

Join in with the other Hunters in the Clan Parade -11.30am on 12th

Enjoy the fabulous Celtic Music

Meet some new Clan friends

Attend the Kirkin' of the Tartan

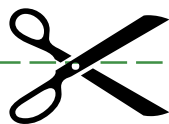
in St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Fergus

10 am Sunday morning

Share your genealogy with other clan members

Check out the Fergus Highland Games web site  
for up to date information

<http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com>



## Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Annual Clan Gathering 12-14th August 2006

Yes I/we will be attending the Tattoo & Lighting on Friday 12th Aug

Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

Yes I/we will be taking part in the parade on Saturday 13th. Aug

Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

Yes I/we will be attending the dinner on Saturday 13th Aug \$20.00/adult

Adults in Party \_\_\_\_\_

\$18.00/senior

Seniors in party \_\_\_\_\_

\$10.00/child (under12) Children in Party \_\_\_\_\_

Yes I/we will be attending the Kirkin' o' the Tartan on Sunday 14th Aug

Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Cheques for the dinner 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

## Where have they Gone?



1. If you are moving – please let us know.
2. If you change your e-mail address (even if you don't get your newsletter by e-mail) – please let us know

## Clan Gathering July 2007 possible bus tour

It has been suggested that we might organise a 1 week bus tour of Scotland following the Clan Gathering at Hunterston in 2007. If enough people were interested we would be willing to investigate the possibility. There are ready made tours readily available which seem to be based on a 6 day-4 nights cycle. If you are interested in this possibility please contact Tom immediately at the address below. You may use e-mail or regular mail. Please note that this is not a commitment in any way just a statement of interest. If we get enough people we will make further investigations regarding prices and then allow everyone to decide then if they are still interested.



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)  
WEB [www.clanhuntercanada.com](http://www.clanhuntercanada.com)

### Clan Hunter Tent

There will be a Clan Hunter presence at the following Highland Games.

#### Chatham, Ontario

Sat July 8th, 2006

#### Fredericton, New Brunswick

Frid July 28th, 2006

Sat July 29th, 2006

Sun July 30th, 2006

#### Maxville, Ontario

Sat Aug 5th, 2006

#### Montreal, Quebec

Sun Aug 6th, 2006

#### Fergus, Ontario Frid 11th, 2006

Sat 12th, 2006

Sun 13th, 2006

## Best Wishes

*Congratulations to Crystal and Josh, daughter and son-in-law of Mel and Cindy Hunter, on the birth of their new baby daughter, Fiona (spelling may be different). Fiona was born on 23 February 2006, weighing in at 9lbs 4oz. and 19" long*

*and.....*

*Congratulations also to Julie and Mark, Nykamp daughter and son-in-law of Sharron Jackson, on the birth of their new baby boy, Ian Albert. Ian was born on 6 April 2006, and was 8lbs 7oz. and 21" long*