

# The Hunterston Gathering 2014



A quiet moment in the Walled Garden



Isla and Blake Just Coolin'



The Canadians with Madam Pauline



New friends Hanging out



Crest Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter

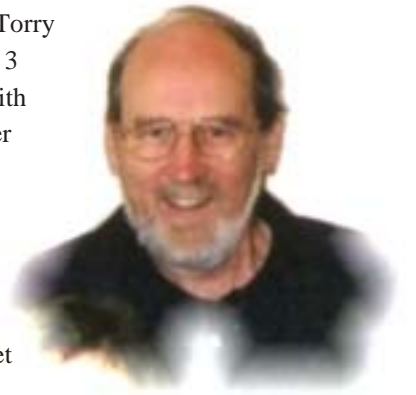
# Hunters' Halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

July 2014

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Greetings fellow Hunters. Christine and I along with Lizz (our daughter) and Andrew (son-in-law) and children (Torry and Isla) have just recently arrived home from our 3 week trip to Scotland. We had a wonderful time with lots of family time. (We have extensive family over there and we all intermingle with great fun). Originally the trip was planned for late March but plans were changed and the new schedule allowed us to participate in the Clan Hunter Gathering at Hunterston which was wonderful really as we haven't missed one since 1992. It was great to meet up with our old friends from the UK association along with Madam Pauline, and of course all the new folks we got to chat with and share stories. I have included lots of photos in this issue of the archery competition, the storytelling, the lecture on the Hunterston Brooch and the Banquet. We didn't join in the trip to Bannockburn to see the re-enactment but Andrew has written a report garnered from different sources.



Our membership secretary (Christine) would like me to remind you that you may now pay your yearly membership via PayPal on our website at <http://www.clanhuntercanada.com>. No fuss, no muss just fill in the short form not forgetting your membership number and then select the paypal option. We really encourage the use of your membership number as it uniquely identifies you from all the others who share your name.

The Scottish Studies Society invites you and your family and friends to join us on our 23rd Annual Tall Ship Cruise on Sunday, August 31 aboard Canada's largest sailing ship, the Empire Sandy. Join in the fun and help keep the Scottish pioneering spirit alive while celebrating the anniversary of the arrival of Scottish pioneer immigrant ship "Hector" which landed in Nova Scotia in 1773.

Singers, dancers and the sound of the pipes will accompany and entertain you with songs and music from Scotland and Canada as you cruise under full sail out on Lake Ontario. All in all a day to remember. This is a unique opportunity for you to share the experience of a voyage on a tall ship under full sail and recapture the spirit of Canada's pioneers!

There will be two cruises: the morning cruise with special activities for children and families boards at 11:00 a.m., the afternoon cruise boards at 2:00 p.m. Tickets purchased in advance are \$25 for adults and \$5 for children (15 and under). Tickets purchased on day of sail: \$30 adults, \$8.00 children. Food and drinks are available for purchase on board the ship.

For reservations or more information, please telephone Maggie McEwan at 905-301-5475 or mail at [magmcewan@gmail.com](mailto:magmcewan@gmail.com). Tickets will be mailed to you up to one week prior to the event or held for you at the dock thereafter.

Tom



## Ceremonial mace

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The ceremonial mace is a highly ornamented staff of metal or wood, carried before a sovereign or other high official in civic ceremonies by a mace-bearer, intended to represent the official's authority. The mace, as used today, derives from the original mace used as a weapon. Processions often feature maces, as on parliamentary or formal academic occasions.

The Clan Gathering this year was witness to a very unique ceremony in the creation of the Clans first "Macer". The presentaion was made by Ian Hunter Clan Officer - UK. His words are shared below.

Madame Pauline, Clansmen, Ladies and Guests

We have a rather pleasant duty to perform today. In fact it is extraordinary in that it has never been performed before during the nine hundred years of the history of the Clan Hunter. I could be wrong but, there is no one around to disprove it. As you are aware Madame Pauline



in her wisdom crested the "Order of the Royal Huntsman", and in the past she has bestowed this order on no less than 14 members of the clan for extraordinary work for the well being of our members. The position has arisen that another member of our clan has so dedicated himself to the clan that he warrants further recognition for his complete support, in particular to our clan Chieftain Madame Pauline, I am sure that by this stage he has been identified. It is obvious that any person in authority requires an "Aide De Camp" to lean on in times of stress when difficulties become apparent in any walk of life. Discussions were carried out during our meetings for an appropriate rank to be considered for this



important appointment, one of the senior members, Robert, suggested the position of "Macer" be considered. He has much experience in such matters such as in high courts in Scotland. A Macer may appear an obscure title but it has much historical significance in that in far distant past a mace was used as a club to protect a person in authority. I am sure that we are all aware of the existence of extremely ornamental maces in public places of importance even in Parliament. A Macer is in effect a person of high esteem, impeccable character and well respected by his kin. I am sure by now the secret is out and invite Graham (Wright) to step forward. I pass into your hands a mace look well to your duties as a "close protector", a "body guard" to our clan Chieftain Madame Pauline.



## The Banquet



**Great Food!**

**Great Band!**

**Great Company!**

**Great Dancing!**





# Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games  
**Aug 8 - 10 2014**

Preliminary plans include

- Fergus Tattoo & Lighting 6.45pm Friday 8Aug 2014 Fergus
- Fergus Highland games 7.00am Saturday 9Aug 2014 Fergus
- *Clan Hunter AGM* 5.00pm Saturday 9Aug 2014 Holiday Inn 601 Scottsdale Dr., Guelph
- *Supper* 6.00pm Saturday 9Aug 2014 Holiday Inn 601 Scottsdale Dr., Guelph

*[\$26.00 Adult - \$24.00 Seniors - \$13.00 children (5-12) 4 and under free]*

- Kirkin' o' the Tartan 10.00am Sunday 10Aug 2014 St Andrew's Presb. Fergus
- Fergus Highland games 12 noon Sunday 10Aug 2014 Fergus

## 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 other Hunters in the Clan Parade - 11.30 am on 9th
- Enjoy the fabulous Celtic Music
- Meet some old and 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 website for up to date information

<http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com>



## Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Annual Clan Gathering 8-10th August 2014

- Yes I/we will be attending the Tattoo & Lighting on Friday 8th August Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_
- Yes I/we will be taking part in the parade on Saturday 9th August Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_
- Yes I/we will be attending the dinner on Saturday 9th August Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_
- Yes I/we will be attending the Kirkin' o' the Tartan on Sunday 10th August Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## Connections Corner



**Lizz Thibodeau**

[lizzt@rogers.com](mailto:lizzt@rogers.com)

Andrew & I, our daughters and my parents were once again blessed to be able to return to Scotland this spring to spend some time with our family. There are always lots of hugs and giggles, fun times and adventures, but my favourite part about visiting Scotland is hearing the old stories. Some of them have been told over and over, like the one about the time when my dad went home when his mum was really ill (and subsequently passed away), but it seemed like everyone stayed at my Auntie Janette's house. There were only

**We are Family, I've got all my cousins with me!**



three bedrooms, but there must have been a dozen people staying there and because my Aunt and Uncle both worked shift work, everyone just took turns sleeping. When someone got up, someone else went to bed! What giggles! A sad time to be sure, but they truly celebrated my grandmother's life by having so much fun together as a family. Someone always retells that story

when we all get together, but it's still a cause for laughter each and every time. But other stories come out that I've never heard before. My other Aunt's husband, Jimmy, was in the navy during WWII. He served on the destroyer ships that travelled back and forth between Britain and Canada to protect the merchant ships from submarines. On one particular trip, he witnessed two other ships being sunk, with many of his friends on them. Arriving in Canada, he was given leave to recover from this trauma, resulting in a longer-than-planned stay in Canada. The ship that he had been scheduled to return to Britain on was also sunk. Had he been on that ship, none of my cousins on that line would be alive. What a wild story! These are the stories that make genealogy come alive. I never met my Uncle Jimmy, but I'm very close with his three daughters and their mum, and to hear stories like that about their dad makes me feel even closer to them.

## Interesting finds while exploring Coldingham Priory



Christine locates her great grandparents in Coldingham Priory



**Plague Stone**  
 In 1645, plague occurred in Northfield. The quarantined villagers came to the edge of Coldingham for food. The hollow in the stone contained vinegar. Coins for payment were dropped into it to avoid contagion. The stone was recovered from the burn and set up in 2008.  
 The Coldingham Society



Evidence of hard times in Coldingham, Scotland





**Castlelaw Hill Fort – A 2000 Year Old Iron-Age stronghold** (Andrew Thibodeau)



Every hill, every street, every river just seems to have a story to it here in stunning Scotland. After my 9th visit here that ended in early July, I continued my tradition of finding a few new historical sites to explore and share with our members. Located just 2 miles south of the Edinburgh By-Pass highway, the Castlelaw Hill Fort is an impressive earthwork 80 metres in length. It is formed by three concentric rings of ramparts and ditches that girdle a low foothill of the gorgeous Pentland Hills. As we climbed the hill to the north of it we could clearly view its impressive size. There are no signs of internal structures, but the middle ditch has a stone earth house built into a section of it. According to the Undiscovered Scotland website, “Development of the site here began some time around 500BC. At that time this was less a fort than a group of farmers' dwellings, surrounded by a wooden stockade. Some time later this

became a proper hillfort, with the stockade being replaced by an earth rampart and ditch. A strong timber gateway controlled access into the fort. Later still, just before the arrival of the Romans in Scotland in AD80, the fort was strengthened further, with the construction of two further lines of ramparts and ditches outside the existing fort. There is no evidence of Castlelaw Fort ever having served a defensive purpose, and within a few decades of the Roman's initial arrival in Scotland its use had changed significantly. The main physical sign of this is the earth house or souterrain found dug into the ditch between the outer ramparts during excavations. The Earth House or souterrain can be entered and explored. It has been given a concrete roof with a thick glass sun roof to let in plenty of natural light. This underground passageway, 20 metres long, has a large round side chamber that you can duck into and explore. Archaeologists theorize that its function seems to have been to provide a cool and dry storage area for agricultural produce. The website continues: “The theory that these structures, which were quite common across the more cultivated parts of Scotland, were actually intended to store grain being traded to the Roman army is supported by the finding of a Roman Brooch and pottery during the excavation here. These souterrains are found all along the eastern seaboard of Scotland from Midlothian to the Northern Isles; and have also been found in Brittany. Other theories for these earth houses is that may have been a hiding-place, a ritual structure or an industrial workshop. The location is stunning, on the lower slopes of the Pentlands, giving great views of southern Edinburgh and east towards Rosslin and southwest towards the Langemuir Hills. For an added thrill ... the army has a large shooting range just to the west of the hillfort. It can be clearly seen from its top. When large Red Flags are flying, “caution” is recommended and one should avoid “straying” into the range. I would agree with that! Parking and entrance is free. You enter the parking lot from a farmers road located just two miles north of Penicuk off of the A738 highway. The slope of the hill for a walk is moderate and only gets a little more difficult if you decide to climb past the fort up the path to the higher hills for views of Edinburgh. For myself, when ever I get to enjoy fresh air, stunning views and explore something built before the Romans arrived, it is a good day out!



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**Rumbledethumps.** (Christine Hunter)

Okay, hands up those who have any idea what this word means! Keep your hand up if you remember me writing about this in a previous newsletter! Is it coming back to you? A while back I wrote a little story for you about Tom and I visiting my brother Bert in Scotland and being taken to a restaurant called Rumbledethumps for dinner. On asking about the unusual name we discovered that Rumbledethumps is a Scottish dish consisting of cabbage, potatoes and cheese. I gave a recipe at that time of how this dish is made up and would be really interested to know if anyone tried it?

This past June we were again in Scotland, again staying with my brother Bert, and again headed to our now favourite restaurant ..... Rumbledethumps! This time Tom and I opted to share this dish as an appetizer and we were so glad we did – it was delicious. So in the interest of encouraging all things Scottish, here is the recipe once more! Please try it – you won't be sorry!



**About This Recipe**  
 “Similar to Colcannon, this is a Scottish dish. It can be made well in advance and refrigerated. Bring to room temperature before baking. It's very easy and inexpensive to make. Even my husband, who hates cabbage, loves it in this dish.”

**Ingredients**

- o 1/2 head green cabbage, thinly sliced-about 8 cups
- o 2 1/2 lbs russet potatoes, peeled, coarsely chopped
- o 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- o 1/4 cup chopped chives
- o 1 cup grated extra-sharp cheddar cheese ( 4 oz.)

**Directions**

1. Butter an 8 cup baking dish.
2. Preheat oven to 350°F.
3. Cook cabbage in a large pot of boiling salted water until tender, about 2 minutes.
4. Using a slotted spoon, transfer cabbage to a bowl.

5. Return water to a boil and add potatoes.
6. Cook until tender.
7. Drain and return potatoes to the pot.
8. Add butter and mash potatoes.
9. Mix in chives and then cabbage.
10. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
11. Spoon mixture into prepared dish.
12. Sprinkle with cheese.
13. Bake about 35 minutes until cheese bubbles.

**Hunterston**

by Torry Thibodeau (age 9)  
 In June me and my family traveled to Scotland and went to Hunterston. We arrived at Hunterston on Friday afternoon. Me, Isla (my sister), and our new friend Blake explored the castle together. We had dinner at the castle. After dinner there was a long talk about the Hunterston Brooch. We went back to our hotel. The next morning we went back to Hunterston. We saw an Archery

Tournament behind the manor house. We really couldn't see anything until we got close, and we didn't know what they were doing but it was still neat to watch all the arrows being shot. We walked back over to the castle and had lunch while listening to a storyteller. After lunch me, Blake, Isla and a few other friends played hide-and-seek in the gardens. (My dad was it) When we were done with hide-and-seek me and Isla found mum and we did the “spiny thing.”

(Mummy grabs us and spins us around and then lets go and we spin all over the place and fall over.) Then we went back to our hotel and got ready for the dance. Then we went to a dinner and there was dancing. I really wanted the band to do Strip the Willow because last time we nicknamed it “Toss the Torry” because I was being thrown everywhere. We didn't do Strip the Willow, but I still had a lot of fun dancing with my dad, my mum and my papa.



## Membership Report July 2014

### New Members:

Well we have been trying out a new method of membership, alongside the older way of filling in a form and mailing it to us with a cheque. You can now join our Association totally on line, with payment made through paypal ..... and we have had some success with this new innovation. Let me introduce three brave new members who worked their way through a maze of instructions and completed the course. (Cursum Perficio, huh?)

**Ryan Hunter** comes to us from Mallorytown here in Ontario.

**Diana Hunter** hails from Ferintosh, Alberta

**Larry Hunter** calls Serkirk Manitoba home!

We would like to welcome these 3 new members to our ever growing ranks and hope that they enjoy being part of the Clan Hunter Association.

Of course the downside of the new method of membership is that we are very limited in the size of the membership form and so we have very limited information about families and hobbies of our new members. Maybe we need to work on that next?

### Membership Dues:

It's that time of the year again when we ask you to dig deep and send us a cheque for your annual dues (\$30.00). As with our new memberships, we are trying and having some success with a new method of payment. You can now make this annual payment through paypal! No need to write a cheque, find an envelope or buy a stamp! Nothing could be easier..... go to the [clanhuntercanada.com](http://clanhuntercanada.com) website, fill out the form, DON'T FORGET to finish the transaction by making your payment through paypal. There, that was easy wasn't it? I'm sure you will find this a much more convenient way to stay up-to-date with your annual payment.

Memberships that have been paid will receive their membership card with this newsletter, so please e-mail or call me if you have paid and do not get your card. **Please also try to use your membership number whenever you are contacting us (e.g. CHAC001)** – it just makes it so much easier to make sure we have the correct information at our fingertips (or on our database)!

This is my annual "rant" time – and if everyone just makes that payment NOW – they will not have to listen to me for another year! How about it?

Christine Hunter, Membership Secretary.



## **My visit to Hunterston**

by Isla Thibodeau (age 6)

In June, I travelled with my mummy, daddy, nana and papa and sister to Scotland. At the end of our trip we went to Hunterston Castle for the weekend. My sister and I played lots of games in the big field. There was a big archery tournament, but it was a little bit boring because nobody said what



Isla found one particular tune very moving!

they were doing. The bows were really cool to look at though.

On Saturday night, we went to the big banquet! It was super fun and the dancing tired everyone out. Last time, I was too little to stay for the dancing but this time, I got to stay and it was so much fun! My favourite dance was... well, actually I don't know – all of them were!

## **BANNOCKBURN 2014 – Celebrating 700 years** (Andrew Thibodeau)

Clan members will recall my earlier article on the opening of the brand new Bannockburn Visitor Centre, which happened earlier in June. Then, on June 28, 29 Bannockburn LIVE was going to feature the battle being recreated using hundreds of performers for viewing by thousands of visitors.

I was in Scotland during the event and it drew severely mixed reviews. The video of the battle online was impressive, with the costumes and attention to detail absolutely stunning. Also, by all accounts the new visitor centre is amazing. I particularly loved this quote, From the Scotland TV website:

Singer Dougie MacLean has said he was thrilled to watch an audience singing his ode to Scotland under the gaze of Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn. The Dunblane-born songwriter closed his set at Bannockburn Live, the 700th anniversary celebration of the decisive Scottish battle, with his song "Caledonia". (Writers note: My in law's folk



group, the Gaels, also performs this fantastic song that we first heard in 2009) He said: "Bannockburn was such an important part of creating our Scottish identity." "If we had lost the battle there probably would have been no Scotland so it's very special." "I finished my set with Caledonia, and to hear the audience singing the chorus and look out to the rotunda with the Bruce monument behind was very special. "Caledonia is a homesick song I wrote when I was young but it's become part of common culture now, and I think people have taken it to their hearts.

"It's the idea of that sense of belonging that everybody has, not just Scots and it's not just about this referendum. People sing it at weddings and funerals, people from both sides of the Yes and No

campaign. People love it and that's a big thrill for me." End quote. According to the organizers, Bannockburn Live, was heading for a complete sell out on the Sunday. The two days featured 3 daily performances of the battle. As

the STV website noted, With the Referendum on Scottish Separation looming this September, it was good to read that Bannockburn remained largely a politics free zone. Only a handful of revellers wearing Yes T-shirts and badges. It seems that the nationalism was reserved for the battle re-enactments where a smattering of cheers for Edward II were drowned out by applause for Robert the Bruce! Organizers stated that of the visitors, "About a tenth of the audience is from overseas, a tenth are from south of the border and the rest are from Scotland." Without dwelling too much on the negative, I must admit my family and I stayed away from the event as we sensed challenges in the planning. Some of this came to fruition when we heard and read about 3 hour lines to enter, people buying tickets but unable to see the live performance, and the high costs of food and drink. Doug Ross of Glasgow, who I met at the Gathering 2009, attended on Saturday. He had a frustrating experience. He had tickets to a 2pm showing, was turned away as it was full, and didn't get into the later show either. There are rumours that there could be some ticket refunds. He did give a glowing account of the new Bannockburn Visitor Centre. It included unique interactive activities. He writes: "The new 3D thing at the new visitors centre was worth it though – wearing 3D specs with arrows going over our heads! We then had the battle



on an electronic battle field. Attendees were lined up with one of 20 English Regiments and 8 of Scottish Regiments – to reflect the actual numbers from 1314. I was one of the 'English'. When we were asked our tactics, we all said "attack the Scots". This occurred through the spiked traps, which was suicidal, to ensure a Scots victory, which we got!

They also had period fair maidens singing with instruments of the day, and working tradesmen showing how things were made back then. "

My family did not get to the new Visitors Centre but we look forward to experiencing it on a future trip.







Ken Hunter (with cap) of Saskatchewan watching the Archery



A view of the archery through the trees



Madam Pauline shows her prowess with the bow



Tallying up the score



Torry with the Great Bow



William with his hand crafted Great Bow

### Coldingham Priory

The remains of Coldingham Priory stand in an attractive setting in this rural Berwickshire village. The peaceful ruins are deceptive, for Coldingham Priory was once one of the largest and most important monastic centres in Scotland. The priory began in 1098, when King Edgar gave permission for monks from Durham to erect a priory church here.

The medieval priory very quickly grew in size and importance, and became the hub of a far-reaching network of estates and trading ventures that extended into Europe. Coldingham grew to become the second wealthiest monastery in Scotland, second only to Holyrood Abbey in Edinburgh. Unfortunately for the monks of Coldingham, much of that wealth went to their mother church at Durham. At the height of its prosperity Coldingham had some 30 monks supported by a further 70 lay workers.



One infamous episode in Coldingham's history came in 1420, when a group of Border reivers barricaded themselves in the church. The prior, William Drax, smoked them out (some reports say he burned them alive). His actions were condemned by the King and Parliament, whereupon Drax fled to Durham, taking with him the priory charters. Drax eventually returned to Coldingham, but the charters were left in Durham, where they remain to this day.

Another violent episode occurred in 1519, when Prior Robert Blackadder was murdered by David Home of Wedderburn, who promptly married the Prior's widow. His younger brothers then married the Prior's two daughters.

The final blow for Coldingham Priory came in 1648, when a group of Royalist sympathizers took shelter in the church with their store of gunpowder. Oliver Cromwell besieged the site, bombarding it with guns mounted atop Coldingham Law, and the medieval buildings were largely destroyed. In 1662 the local laird rebuilt the choir and added a bell tower, but this collapsed a century later.

For two centuries the ruins decayed, until the church was rebuilt during the Victorian period to serve as the parish church for Coldingham. The new Victorian building incorporated bits of the medieval priory church, particularly at the east end and the north wall of the choir.

Extensive remains of medieval buildings still stand to the south of the church. Here you will find foundation walls of the cloisters, refectory, and chapter house. The most obvious remain, however, is a large freestanding archway, which originally stood between the south aisle and the south transept. This is probably a Victorian reconstruction of the original arch, but it does stand on the original foundations.



Beside the archway is a wonderful lapidarium - a collection of carved masonry and gravestones. Gathered in this corner of the churchyard is a wonderfully diverse array of carved stones, ranging from grotesque heads to Templar grave slabs. Some are medieval, like a grinning Green Man, and some post-date the priory, like an 18th century shepherd's grave stone. There are piscinas and quern stones, and a wonderful grave stone for a mason, showing the tools of his trade. At the entrance to the site is a Victorian mortuary and hearse-house.

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