



Crest Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter

Hunters' Halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

October 2004

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Dear Clansfolk,

This year we had a superb International Clan Gathering with both Clan Hunter and Clan Muirhead coming from far and wide. The weather was very kind to us all, with sunshine all weekend and warm.



For the first time Clan Hunter was able to welcome members of the Muirhead Clan to join with Clan Hunter, as part of our "Link of Friendship" in jointly celebrating our Scottish Heritage at Hunterston.

We started the Gathering with our Clan Piper Scott McNab piping for the official commencement of the Gathering. This was followed by a speech of welcome to both Hunters and Muirheads. There was then the presentation of "The Order of the Royal Huntsman" to Robert Hunter, the most recent Clan Officer of the UK Clan Association, which was given for his work with the UK Hunter Clan Association. Raymond Morehead, Chief Elect of Clan Muirhead then presented to Clan Hunter a Clan Hunter shield made by him, which is now on display in Hunterston Castle.

Gaddgedlar, the re-enactment group had open camp and were giving demonstrations of their equipment and information about living conditions at the time Hunterston Castle was built. There were activities to have a go at and many Clan members tried their hand at archery. In the afternoon Gaddgedlar gave a demonstration of fighting with audience participation !

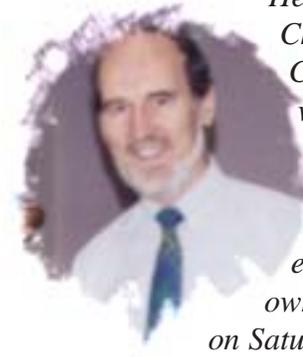
Our Clan dinner was held in the Masonic Hall in West Kilbride, which has a long-standing association with the Hunters of Hunterston. The 27th Laird Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston was a Freemason and a member of the West Kilbride Lodge. The entertainment, "Something Scottish" gave a varied programme with some singing, stories and piping followed by Scottish dancing.

Sunday came bright and windy with a great programme of piping by the Isle of Cumbrae Pipe Band and the West Kilbride School of Dancing. The dancers had recently been competing and we had a super display from their best prize-winners. One of the Clan members who also is a dancer joined in.

I would like to thank all those of you who came to Hunterston for our International Clan Gathering of the Hunter and Muirhead Clans 2004. You made it a wonderful event.

If any one has photos of the Gathering please send them on a CD-Rom to Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston or send them via e-mail. We will then put them on the web for all to see.

For those who wish to have a Clan Gathering photo signed by Madam Pauline, Clan Chief please send £5, this includes postage and envelope, to: Christine Scouler, Hunterston Castle, West Kilbride, Ayrshire KA23 9QG



Hello everyone, I hope you all had a wonderful summer. Of course the highlight for Christine and I was being able to return to Scotland to be with family and of course the Clan Hunter International Gathering. There are a couple of reports on the gathering within these pages so I will not dwell on it too much. Suffice it to say that we had a wonderful time. As you will remember from my previous words on the gathering, the program had to be scaled back a bit due to a lack of enrolment, but in spite of this Madam Pauline and her team managed to come up with some new items to amuse and entertain us. I shot my first crossbow this year which was great fun. Everyone has their own element of the weekend that they particularly enjoyed and for me it was the banquet on Saturday night. The food was excellent, (I had two helpings of Haggis), the entertainment was wonderful and the dancing great fun.

*The good news for us here in Canada is that Madam Pauline has agreed to be with us for the 60th Anniversary of the Fergus Highland Games 12-14 Aug 2005. As you no doubt recall her proposed visit in 2003 had to be called off due to the SARS scare. So now is your chance to plan to be there to meet **Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston and of that ilk**. As accommodation at Fergus is very keenly sought after, those wishing to attend the weekend's activities should be booking a place now. Remember it is easier to cancel accomodation that is not needed than it is to find it if you leave it too close to the event. Accomodation for the chief and some of the Clan members has already been booked at the Ramada Conference Center, Guelph. Rates are more favourable now than later.*

This issue of the newsletter contains the minutes of the AGM and lots of photos of the Gathering in Scotland.

Tom



A Hunter Hullabaloo

Wow! 50 years of wedded bliss!

Aldene and Robert Hunter celebrated with over 70 friends and relatives their Golden Wedding Anniversary on August 7th – 50 years to the day of their wedding in Horning’s Mills, Ontario. Following a reception enhanced with flute and classical guitar music, Aldene and Robert renewed their vows of matrimony. Robert then introduced his

“second” wife who very closely resembled his first wife. Then food. Who can conceive of a Hunter party without food? A glorious summer buffet was devoured and this stimulated a number of folks to extol the virtue of 50 years of togetherness – and the accomplishments (or?) of Aldene

and Robert.

Robert thanked everyone for attending and then announced that they were moving residence (again). It seems that to keep up with the world it’s not unusual to be moving to ones 12th residence since marriage. This time it will be at the Villages of Long Point Bay at Port Rowan on Lake Erie.

There was a little wedding cake left, but sorry folks, it’s all gone now. However, 2014 is not that far off. Plan to attend another hullabaloo.

Rollo the Viking...

Who was he? and what is his connection with "The Hunters". Watch out for his story in the January 2005 newsletter

**Minutes of the Hunter Clan Association of Canada Annual General Meeting
Held in Chalmers Presbyterian Church, London on August 28th 2004.**



13 members attended the meeting, Catherine & Dave Elder, Chatham, Don and Marion Hunter, Toronto, Mida-Betty and Don Lecocq, Waterloo, Ian Lecocq, Waterloo, Marion Hunter, Lynn Ball, Lizz Thibodeau, Paul Hunter and Tom and Christine Hunter, all of London.

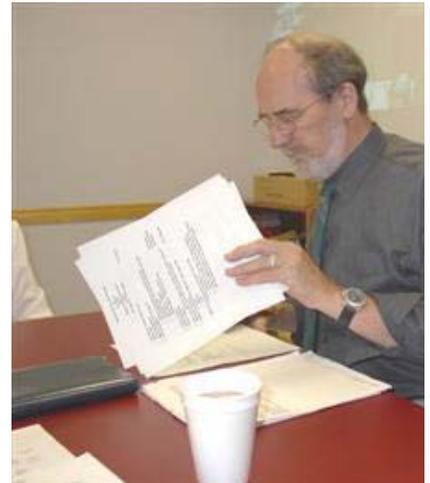
Our Minutes Secretary was not able to be present at this meeting, so Paul Hunter offered to take the minutes. This offer was gladly accepted.

Tom opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and speaking briefly about the Chatham Games – the only ones he was able to attend this year. He then gave a

quick overview of how the meeting would proceed, and invited everyone to help themselves to some refreshments before we got started. He gave everyone some time to reacquaint themselves with the contents of the minutes of the 2003 AGM. There were no errors or omissions and so the minutes were adopted as presented.

Business arising from the minutes:

1. Tom had not checked about a link with Clans Canada, as per a request from Don Hunter, but promised to have a look at it now and see if this is possible.
2. We did not think we were going to have a quorum at Hunterston, so the idea of having our AGM there was dismissed, and this date of August 28th in London, Ontario was set up instead.
3. T-shirts. Christine reported that the \$200.00 allotted for the set up of a new crest for embroidery on the garments had not been done. It was agreed that this would be looked after within the next year – in time for the 2005 season of highland games – and Pauline’s visit. Don to release the funds when needed.



Election of officers.

A notice was sent out with the April 2004 newsletter, informing the members that we needed to elect or re-elect officers for the position of Treasurer, Minutes secretary and Membership secretary. The present team were willing to be re-nominated. No new nominations were received and the present team were re-elected in block. Moved by Lizz Thibodeau, seconded by Marion Hunter. Unanimous.

- Treasurer – Don Hunter
- Minutes Secretary – Nadine Hunter
- Membership Secretary – Christine Hunter

Reports:

Treasurer’s Report

Don Hunter presented the financial report (as attached) and moved its adoption. Mida Lococq seconded this. The report was passed unanimously.

Membership Report

Christine Hunter presented her membership report with a little information on all our new members. She noted that of 8 new members since the 2003 Fergus Games, 4 are resident in the USA. Many reasons were

given for them joining the Canadian Association – but mostly a kinship with other Canadian Hunters, or closeness to the border, so attendance at our AGM is more easily achieved. She also noted that two of our new members were at the Hunterston Gathering this year. Christine noted that we have a membership of about 90 families. We receive yearly dues from about 60% of our members. It was pointed out that if no dues are paid for two consecutive years (as per our



constitution), we no longer send out the newsletter to that family. It was also noted that this does not cancel their membership, it only stops the newsletter.

Newsletter Report

Tom talked about the newsletter, which is still being enjoyed by our members. There is still a lack of participation in supplying articles, but Tom said that something interesting always seems to appear anyway. He gets articles from many varied places. There is still about 30% of our membership who enjoy the newsletter by e-mail. He noted that the US are much more aggressive than us, in that – if you have e-mail, you receive their newsletter by e-mail – it is not an option. We don't feel that that is the way for us to go – much better that it be by choice. But then our membership is much smaller too. Tom also pointed out that it had just come to his attention that the newsletter, in its present form, had now been in existence for exactly 10 years this month. First issue was August 1994.



Fergus 2004 Report

Tom and Christine were unable to be at Fergus this year since they were still holidaying in Scotland, so the tent was looked after by Mark and Julie Nykamp, with the very much appreciated help of Mida-Betty and Don Lecocq and Nadine



and Dr Nadine Hunter. Mida-Betty read a letter from Julie and Mark with a report on the Games. Mida also added a few comments on the Games. Everyone seems to have had a lovely time, with lots of interest in the tent and the medieval tournament display. There was some concern that the tattoo on Friday night was not up to the usual standard. Nadine was going to write a letter to the Games Committee expressing her disappointment. An e-mail letter of thanks was sent to Julie and mark for their help. The Hunters were quite well represented in the parade.

Hunterston

Lizz Thibodeau spoke about the Hunterston Gathering. The weather was lovely and the gazebo type tents that Pauline has purchased were well used. Sunday lunch was however, served in the Castle as there was quite a strong wind blowing. The weekend included a tourna-

ment by Gaddgedler again. But although we have seen them quite a few times now, Lizz said she really enjoyed what they did this time around – and her husband Andrew enjoyed joining in – and getting a 'battle scar' for his efforts! There were 10 Canadian Association members present with one member bringer her daughter and son-in-law along. So there was a final representation of 12 from Canada. This was better than we expected. The next Gathering is scheduled for 2007.

New Business:

Pauline's proposed Visit

Tom was able to speak to Pauline at the Gathering and she confirmed her previous decision to visit Canada, and in particular the Fergus Highland Games, in 2005. We have as yet no dates, but Tom felt that we need to get started right away to prepare for her visit. Tom brought out the





information that we had from her last proposed visit – the one that was cancelled in 2003 – and we looked at hotel accommodation, banquet facilities and the cost of the whole weekend in general.

It was proposed by Christine Hunter, seconded by Lizz Thibodeau that the Canadian Clan Association pay for Pauline’s hotel and banquet costs for that weekend. Discussion followed, but the proposal was passed unanimously.

A committee was set up to look into the where, when and how much of the weekend, the committee consisting of:

Liz Thibodeau, Marion Hunter, Tom Hunter, Christine Hunter

Don and Marion offered to host Pauline in Toronto for a day or two during her visit. Mida suggested having some entertainment for the banquet – no specific

details were forthcoming, but a demonstration country-dance team (with audience participation) was one of the possibilities. Mida also suggested that we look into getting clan buttons made, with tartan and a nametag in them. Lizz Thibodeau to look into this.

Scottish Studies Information:

Don Hunter passed on information about a couple of events organized by the Scottish Studies Foundation.

1. There is a cruise round Toronto harbour next weekend on a sailing ship. Cost is \$20.00 per person, Scottish food is available and there is entertainment.
2. There is a Colloquium on Saturday the 2nd October with guest speaker Dr Graeme Morton of Edinburgh.

David Elder thanked Tom and Christine for coming to the Chatham Games and representing Clan Hunter there. This was a very special year for David and the Tartan Sertoma Supreme Highland Games (Chatham). David was the Honorary Chieftain of the Games and was presented with a plaque to commemorate this honour. David brought the plaque to the meeting and shared his achievement with us.

The meeting adjourned at 4.50p.m. The group then headed for the Great West Steak House for dinner. Paul Hunter’s wife, Jane-Ann and his two children Adair and Shona joined us there with Andrew Thibodeau, Lizz’s husband. This increased our number to 17, and we had a very enjoyable dinner together.



Hail to The Chief.. *chief of the Chatham Highland Games that is*



Congratulations to our own Dave Elder, appointed as Honorary Chieftain of the Chatham Supreme Highland Games 2004





Pauline presents Robert Hunter of the UK with The Order of the Royal Huntsman



Clan Muirhead presenting Pauline with a Clan Hunter Shield for the castle



Gaddgedlar demonstrate their skills to the gathering.

Lunch-time on the lawn. Time for a chit-chat



OK... OK... we submit. There's no need to push it.



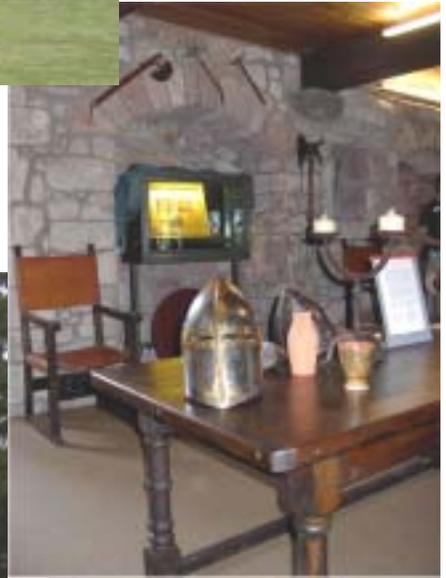
They're serving some pretty good stuff over at the castle





Get those spears level... What kind of army is this?

Madam Pauline shows off her prowess as an archer with some cheering from the side by Richard, US President



Saturday Night Banquet at the Masonic Hall, West Kilbride. A great time was had by all.





Send your submissions
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The Canadians with Madam Pauline



The Isle of Cumbrae RBLs Pipe Band and West Kilbride Dancers entertain on the lawn on Sunday morning.

