



Crest Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter

# Hunters' Halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

April 2007 Vol 5,2

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*Hello everyone, I t's May already and I can't tell you how much I am enjoying the better weather. My blood must be getting thin or something... must be old age. This is the time we start planning for the various Highland games that we like to attend but this year Christine and I will only be able to attend The Fergus Highland Games. We will of course be attending the Clan Gathering in Scotland and in fact that is part of the problem really as we will be in Scotland for 4 weeks leaving us with not enough time to do everything we would like to. I do hope that those of you who are within reach of Fergus will make plans to join us and hopefully have dinner with us at the Holiday Inn in Guelph on the Saturday evening. For me this is a special part of the weekend as it is just like a big family dinner. You will find the details within this newsletter on page 6. We have a very diverse newsletter this time around with regards to subject matter. We have some history/genealogy articles and we have a few "what's happening to clan members" articles. My thanks to Don Hunter for "Clan Hunter Family News", Lizz Thibodeau for "Lizz on the Loose", Rita and Winston Hunter for "The First Hunter" and Christine Hunter for "A Month of Firsts" We also have our yearly gentle reminder of dues. We used to feel a little awkward reminding people that their annual fees were due but we have had such positive input that we now realise that many people appreciate the reminder. We have as usual included a tear out slip for your convenience but if you don't want to tear your newsletter you can photocopy it or simply rewrite it and if you receive your newsletter by e-mail (in glorious colour) you can simply print off page 8 and there you are. I 'm sure when you read this issue you will say "I could have written something for the newsletter" Well then stop dillying around and get to it. Have a great summer and I hope to see you at the Games.*

**Tom**

## Clans, Families and Septs

By Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw Bt.,

13th August 2001

The difference between clans, families and septs is the source of many questions as is the question phrased in one way or another, which asks, "to which clan do I belong". There are many definitions of clans and families as there are people, but this article will try to indicate how these matters are viewed in the Lyon Court.

It should first be recognised that a clan or family is a legally recognised group in Scotland, which has a corporate identity in the same way that a company, club or partnership has a corporate identity in law. A clan or family is a "noble incorporation" because it has an officially recognised chief or head who being a nobleman of Scotland confers his noble status on the clan or family, thus making it a legally and statutorily recognised noble corporation often called "the Honourable Clan..." A name group, which does not have a chief, has no official position in the law of Scotland. The chief's Seal of Arms, incorporated by the Lord Lyon's letters Patent, is the seal of the corporation, like a company seal, but only the chief is empowered by law to seal important documents on behalf of his clan. A clan as a noble incorporation is recognised as the chief's heritable property - he owns it in law and is responsible for its administration and development.

So far the words clan and family have been used interchangeably in this article and this is the position. There is now a belief that clans are Highland and families are Lowland but this is really a development of the Victorian era. In an Act of Parliament of 1597 we have the description of the "Chiftanis and chieffis of all clannis...duelland in the hielands or bordouris" thus using the word clan to describe both Highland and Lowland families. Further, Sir George

MacKenzie of Rosehaugh, the Lord Advocate (Attorney General) writing in 1680 said "By the term 'chief' we call the representative of the family from the word chef or head and in the Irish (Gaelic) with us the chief of the family is called the head of the clan". So it can be seen that all along the words chief or head and clan or family are interchangeable. It is therefore quite correct to talk of the MacDonald family or the Stirling clan, although modern conventions would probably dictate that it was the MacDonald clan and Stirling family. The Lyon Court usually describes the chief of a clan or family as either the "Chief of the Name and Arms" or as "Chief of the Honourable Clan --"

Who belongs to what clan is of course, a matter of much difficulty, particularly today when the concept of clan is worldwide. Historically, in Scotland a chief was chief of "the cuntrie". He was chief of his clan territory and the persons who lived therein, although certain of his immediate family, would owe him allegiance wherever they were living. The majority of his followers and in particular his battle relatively to a neighbouring chief, they would switch their allegiance to the other chief. Thus we find that when Lord Lovat took over a neighbouring glen to his clan territory for the donation of a boll of meal to each family, the family was persuaded to change their name to Fraser and owe him allegiance - to this day they are called the "boll meal Frasers". Another example is a migration of a family of the Macleans from the West Coast to near Inverness and on moving to Inverness they changed their allegiance from the Maclean chief to the chiefs of the Clan Chattan. Thus the Macleans of Dochgarroch and their descendants and dependants are properly members of the Clan Chattan and not members of the Clan Maclean

even though they bear a common surname.

A chief was also entitled to add to his clan by the adoption of families or groups of families to membership of his clan, a good example being the "boll meal Frasers". Equally, a chief has and had the power to expel or exclude particular persons from membership of his clan and this included blood members of his family. It was his legal right to outlaw certain persons from his clan. This is accepted in the modern sense to mean that a chief is empowered to accept anyone he wishes to be a member of his clan or decree that his clan membership shall be limited to particular groups or names of people. All persons who bear the chief's surname are deemed to be members of his clan. Equally, it is generally accepted that someone who determines to offer their allegiance to the chief shall be recognised as a member of that clan unless the chief has decreed that he will not accept such a person's allegiance. Thus, if a person offers his allegiance to a particular chief by joining his clan society or by wearing his tartan, he can be deemed to have elected to join that particular clan and should be viewed as a member of that clan unless the chief particularly states that he or his name group are not to be allowed to join the clan.

It should also be said that the various Sept lists, which are published in the various Clans and Tartan books, have no official authority. They merely represent some person's, (usually in the Victorian eras) views of which name groups were in a particular clan's territory. Thus we find members of a clan described, as being persons owing allegiance to their chief "be pretence of blud or place of thare duelling". In addition to blood members of the clan, certain families have a tradition (even if

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the tradition can with the aid of modern records be shown to be wrong) descent from a particular clan chief. They are, of course, still recognised as being members of the clan.

Historically, the concept of "clan territory" also gives rise to difficulty, particularly as certain names or Septs claim allegiance to a particular chief, because they come from his territory. The extent of the territory of any particular chief varied from time to time depending on the waxing and waning of his power. Thus a particular name living on the boundaries of a clan's territory would find that while the chiefs power was on the up they would owe him allegiance but - if his power declined retrospectively at some arbitrary' date which the compiler of the list has selected. Often the names are Scotland-wide and so it is difficult to say that particular name belongs to a particular clan. Often surnames are shown as potentially being members of a number of clans, and this is because a number of that name has been found in each different clan's territory. Generally speaking, if a person has a particular sept name which can be attributed to a number of clans, either they should determine from what part of Scotland their family originally came and owe allegiance to the clan of that area or, alternatively, if they do not know where they came from, they should perhaps owe allegiance to the clan to which their family had traditionally owed allegiance. Alternatively, they may offer their allegiance to any of the particular named clans in the hope that the chief will accept them as a member of his clan. Equally, as has already been said, with the variations from time to time of particular chiefly territories, it can be said that at one particular era some names were members of or owed

allegiance to a particular chief while a century later their allegiance may well have been owed elsewhere.

In summary, therefore, the right to belong to a clan or family, which are the same thing, is a matter for the determination of the chief who is entitled to accept or reject persons who offer him their allegiance

**Clan Hunter Family News**

by Don Hunter

The two children of one of our clan families were honoured at the Brier Curling games in Hamilton recently. As part of their sponsorship of the games, the Hamilton area curling clubs organized an essay contest for junior curlers, the prize was to become the Honorary Fifth Player for one of the Provincial teams. Alex and Heather Cridland, both members of the Burlington Curling Club and children of Clan Members Barb and Jeff Cridland, both submitted entries.

They were privileged to be selected as prize winners. Alex was chosen to be Honorary Fifth Player for the Quebec team at the Monday, March 5th evening draw. He marched in with the team, was introduced with them and then sat with the coach for the first half of the game. Then he, along with his sister, parents and grandparents, was given a



Alex Cridland (following the flag) leading in the Quebec team

tour of the broadcast facilities, including meeting the broadcast team up in the broadcast booth. Heather was chosen to be the Honorary Fifth Player for the New Brunswick team at the Wednesday March 7th afternoon draw. She also marched in with the team, was introduced and sat with their coach. The family then had a second tour of the broadcast facilities, after which Heather was invited by the coach to return to sit with him at the end of the ice. It was an exciting time for both of them as they are both avid curlers and have been competing in bonspiels and zone play-downs at their respective age levels.



Heather Cridland (behind the flag) leads in the New Brunswick team



## *Lizz on the Loose – in Mississippi*

*Lizz Thibodeau*

My father is always looking for items for the newsletters (hint hint) so I offered to write a little something about a recent trip I took to Mississippi. “Can you make it relevant to Hunters?” he asked. “Sure”, I replied, “I’m a Hunter, and I went there. How’s that?”

So, here’s my article about our trip to Mississippi. Enjoy!

On March 25th of this year, Torry, Andrew and I travelled to Gulfport, Mississippi as part of our church’s mission team to rebuild houses in one of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina. New Orleans received a lot of press because of the damage done there but further along the Gulf Coast near Biloxi – Gulfport, Mississippi is the area recognized as Ground Zero. This was the second time that our church has sent a team to this area to help. Last year our team helped tear down water-damaged drywall and remove mold from houses, preparing them to be rebuilt. This year, the projects were much more uplifting since the houses we were working on were actually being rebuilt, rather than torn down.

This trip was both the best of times and the worst of times, to quote Dickens. Andrew & I have travelled far and wide, yet never have I seen complete destruction like when standing on the I-90 along the coast in Biloxi, Gulfport, Long Beach, and Pass Christian. I visited the remains of the twin towers in New York City in December, 2001, but that was very localized damage. Here, the devastation just kept going. Mile after mile, there was nothing.

No buildings, no stores, no homes; just flat concrete slabs where beautiful mansions used to be, gnarled trees where beautiful Southern Oaks once stood, and twisted metal poles where business signs used to stand.

On the other hand, the people of Mississippi were amazing. Every person we met told us their story and then told us how blessed they are. It really got to the point where I said to Andrew that I thought they were being paid to tell us that because EVERY person told us the same thing. I haven’t lived through anything like this disaster but I don’t think that my first response would be to feel blessed. And yet, they do. They feel blessed to be alive, blessed to have their families and friends, blessed because of the outpouring of care from volunteers from across North America. Living in such a materialistic, commercialized society, it was so refreshing to meet people whose priorities were family, friends and faith.

One woman in particular was the highlight of the trip for many of us. Her name was Anita and she lived on the street where the team had been working last year. When we came back to visit, she hugged every member of our team. We pointed out that many of us had not been her last year but she responded, “Girl, I may not know ya, but I love ya!” She was just so thankful to every volunteer who had helped in anyway, whether on her home or someone else’s, that she wanted to hug each of us.



We heard so many amazing stories of survival, frustrating stories of insurance companies refusing to pay, and miraculous stories of buildings or people being left untouched when everything around them was destroyed that I could fill this whole newsletter with stories. My favourite stories are the ones about the incredible generosity that has surfaced through this disaster. The Middle Eastern country of Qatar wanted to help after the hurricane so they sent money to a chain of medical clinics that help

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## ***The First Hunter***

*submitted by Rita and Winston Hunter*

The first Hunter to arrive in the Boiestown area of New Brunswick was Tom Hunter. He petitioned for and received a Grant of Land (200 acres) that fronted on the Main South West Miramichi River at Bloomfield Ridge, N.B.

He arrived by ship at the port in Chatham, N. B. in 1811 and after starting to working the land he went back to Londonderry, Northern Ireland for his 'sweetheart' Abigail Curran. They came back to the Miramichi where six sons and one daughter were born. (Thomas, Dennis, John, Miles, James, Daniel & Abigail). Tom loved to box and when men friends came to visit, he would always get out a bench. The two men would straddle it and he would teach them the 'art of boxing'.

Little Abigail died when she was two years old. Shortly thereafter the mother died and was buried beside her on Cameron Hill at Bloomfield Ridge. Their son Daniel was killed on the log drive at age 16, and shortly after his death in 1855 Tom Hunter died.

All of the Hunters that originated from this area are descended from Abigail and Tom Hunter.

***Taken from "The Hunters of S. W. Miramichi" by***

***Phyllis Hunter Dobson***

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## **Mississippi**

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underprivileged people. The money was to be used to help anyone touched by the Katrina tragedy. The receptionist at one of the clinics said that she just loves being the one to hand over a bill that says "no charge" when people are expecting to be faced with a large bill. She didn't tell us how much money Qatar sent, but 18 months later, the money is still going.

My final story is a tribute to the spirit of the people in Biloxi. About 18 months after Hurricane Katrina, a tornado swept through Enterprise, Alabama. The people of Biloxi, not yet recovered from their own disaster, felt that they wanted to help the people of Enterprise.

They said that since they had been through a natural disaster, they knew what it felt like and could respond with the supplies that they had most wanted and needed at the time. So they started collecting supplies to send to Enterprise in a transport truck. When all was collected, they needed four more transport trucks because of the amount of stuff that had been donated. What amazing people who, even while recovering from their own disaster, could empathize with others going through a similar disaster.

This trip was incredibly eye-opening for me. I was amazed by the people I met but was terribly saddened by the fact that almost two years later, this area still looks like a war zone.

## ***Membership Report April***

***2007 - Christine Hunter***

We have had two new members since my last report – which appears in the minutes of the Annual Meeting – which also happens to be in this newsletter.

Susan J. Cure joined us in February of this year and Susan hails from the town of Veazie in Maine. Susan's mother is a Hunter, and her husband-to-be, Clifford Wells, plays the bagpipes in a pipe band in Bangor, also in Maine. Susan and Clifford are getting married in July of this year and are honeymooning in Scotland and Ireland – with a trip planned to Hunterston in early July. Welcome Susan – and enjoy your trip to Hunterston.

Neil Charles Hunter and his wife, Bonnie Jean, joined us more recently in April of this year. Neil lives in Ottawa and is a Baptist minister. He is also a brother to

Don Hunter, our treasurer. I'm not sure if we have all members of that family in our Association, but we certainly have Don, Beryl, Lynn and now Neil. I believe

Neil is also making the trip to Scotland this year – and will be there for the Gathering in August. **Welcome to the Clan Association.**



## ***Newsletter by e-mail***

Do you have an e-mail address? Would you like to receive your newsletter by e-mail and be able to see it in full colour? Just drop Tom a line at [thunter01@rogers.com](mailto:thunter01@rogers.com) and he will switch you over. What happens if you change your mind? Just tell Tom and he will switch you back... NO PROBLEM!

# Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games

August 10,11,12 2007

Preliminary plans include...

- Fergus Tattoo & Lighting	6.45 pm	Frid 10 Aug 2007	Fergus
- Fergus Highland Games	7.00 am	Sat 11 Aug 2007	Fergus
- Clan Hunter A.G.M	5.00 pm	" "	Holiday Inn 601 Scottsdale Dr., Guelph
- Buffet dinner	6.00pm	" " "	" " "
- Kirkin' o' the Tartan	10.00am	Sun 12 Aug 2007	St Andrew's Presb.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 the other Hunters in the Clan Parade -11.30am on 11th

Enjoy the fabulous Celtic Music

Meet some new Clan friends

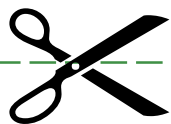
Attend the Kirkin' of the Tartan  
in St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Fergus

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 10-12th August 2007

Yes I/we will be attending the Tattoo & Lighting on Friday 10th Aug		Number in Party	_____
Yes I/we will be taking part in the parade on Saturday 11th. Aug		Number in Party	_____
Yes I/we will be attending the dinner on Saturday 11th Aug	\$20.00/adult	Adults in Party	_____
	\$9.00/child (5-12)	Children in Party	_____
Yes I/we will be attending the Kirkin' o' the Tartan on Sunday 12th Aug		Number in Party	_____

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

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

**cheques for the reception should be made payable to Clan Hunter**



Meeting opened at 6 PM at the Holiday Inn in Guelph

Tom welcomed all and filled us in on various travels to games in the east.

Next summer marks 900 years of Hunters holding/occupying Hunterston and surrounding property.

He thanked all the various people who help with communication, newsletter & membership efforts.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from our last meeting were approved on a motion by Mida Lecocq, seconded by Dr. Nadene  
.....Passed.

Treasurer's report given by Don Hunter, Moved by Don & seconded by Christine Hunter to accept as presented.  
Carried.

Membership Report July 22, 2006

We had a particularly good year last year when we look at how many new members joined us in the Hunter Clan Association. Our visit from Pauline certainly helped in this respect – she is a very charming, outgoing person and just draws people to her. At the Fergus games we had 7 people join our association right on the spot.

Peter David Hunter from Toronto

David McConnell Hunter of Toronto

Sharon Joyce Saberton of Weston, Ontario

Lynn Marie Morrison (sister of Donald Hunter our treasurer)

Alexander William Ivan Hunter – brother of Eleanor Lowe

Peter Thom, brother-in-law of Eleanor Lowe

James T Hunter, uncle of Eleanor Lowe

We had two new members from a get-together arranged by Bob and Aldene Hunter at their home in Port Rowan, while Pauline was visiting with them.

Donna M. Hunter Stewart

Kathleen Fay Hunter

September brought an application for membership from Vancouver.

Wayne Brett Hunter of North Vancouver.

In the early months of 2006, we saw membership forms from

Catherine Mary Wall of Barrie

Graham Elliott Voysey, grandson of Dr Nadene

Paul James Hunter of Kitchener

Then in July we had three applications:

Albert Martin Jeror of Ottawa

Tracy Lynn Jeror – daughter of Albert

Douglas Cameron Hunter of Toronto – Douglas's father was a member, but we have no other details so are not sure who his father was. Douglas was planning a trip to Hunterston and decided that a membership was not only in order but actually long overdue.

We are always sad to change members to 'inactive' because of non-payment of their yearly dues, and we always give a little leeway, but we have four members this year who have not paid in three full years, so they have been marked as 'inactive' as of July this year. I always send a wee note reminding members that they have not paid the first year of non-payment, and then I send a note warning them after two years of unpaid dues that we will not be sending the newsletters any more, but we still usually give them another couple of chances to catch up before actually cutting them off. But if all these methods fail to inspire them to remain 'active' members, we have to stop the newsletters.

Genealogy: We are still working on this. We need a way for members to access the database; it needs to be accessible to all approaches. We need to have a single format for collection of data. Report submitted by Mel Hunter, seconded by Tom. Accepted as presented.

New Bus.

Most were here on time; Bob Hunter suggested that a penalty for late comers would be to provide the wine for the dinner. (tongue in cheek).

It was agreed by all present that this venue for the Fergus Festival, The Holiday Inn, is OK for our meeting and dinner.... Submitted by Nadine Hunter

## A Month of Firsts!

(Christine Hunter)

Our grandson, Thomas, turned 12 on May 15th (same day as his mother's birthday), and on June 29th he will be stepping on a plane at Hamilton Airport on his first trip to Scotland. Tom (Grandpa) and I try to be at every Clan Hunter Gathering and as we were planning our trip for this year, we decided that it would be fun for us, and a great adventure for Thomas, to take him with us. Lynn and Al (Thomas's parents) readily agreed and when they told Thomas of the plans – well I don't think his feet hit the ground for at least three days. Scotland is home to Tom and me, having spent the first 31 years of our lives there, so it will be exciting for us to show young Tom the land of our birth – and the land of his mother Lynn's birth. Tom is a very mature 12 year old and his first request was to see some standing

stones. Well actually his first request was to visit the castle where parts of the Harry Potter films were filmed, -but his second request was to see some standing stones. You have to understand that there are druid standing stones all over Scotland. Some are not even noticed as farmers plough their way around these stones standing in the middle of



Andrew, Lizz and Christine examining the 5000 year old standing stones at Kilmartin

their fields. Oh the stones are genuine – and have been there for probably thousands of years, but there are so many, you become a little blasé about them!! But some are well marked, with

carvings on them and a bit of history available. That's where we'll take him. Just south of Oban, Kilmartin is a wonderful area to visit these ancient sights – these stones have been in place for about 5,000 years. Then there are the druid cemeteries, yes he wants to see those too – and Cairnpapple Hill just happens to be close to where my brother lives, so it will not take long to get there. And he wants to see castles – particularly Alnwick where some of Harry Potter was filmed. But we're also living close to Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle, William Wallace Monument – the list is endless, and he is so excited – did I tell you that already?

Yes four weeks in Scotland and this will be his first trip outside Canada, his first aeroplane flight, his first visit to a real castle, his first visit to Hunterston and the Gathering and his first (big) boat trip – did I say we were going to the island of Iona? I'm not sure how many other firsts we will cover - and I'm also not sure who is more excited – Thomas or me!

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# Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Notice of Dues for July 1st 2007 to June 30th 2008

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  
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