

Hunters' Halloo

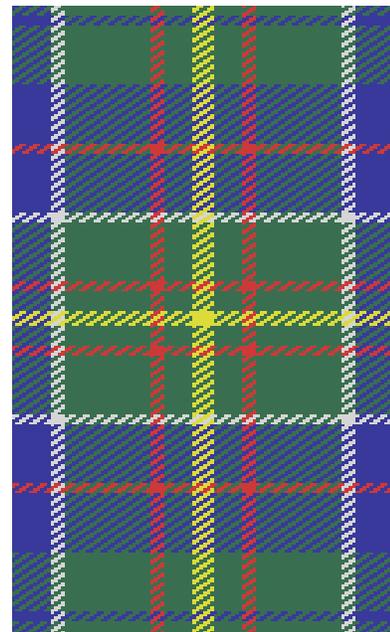
From the Editors

Here's an interesting challenge: write a newsletter when the only news is that there's no news... anywhere, because the whole world has come to a halt due to a global pandemic. For many of us, this has meant self-isolation, social distancing, working from home or not working at all, and hours of time to fill. For students, it has meant having to learn a new way of learning. And for front-line workers, it has meant probably the busiest, most stressful time of their life. Everyone is going through the same global event, but our circumstances are vastly different.

There is not a lot to write about at this time, so we decided to have a little fun with the idea of isolation—this is not intended to downplay the seriousness of what we're experiencing, but just to add a little levity to a difficult time. We asked a few members to send us a photo of what they're doing to fill their time right now. We hope you enjoy having a little peak into their lives.

And we want to send a huge thank you and heartfelt recognition to all of the medical personnel, first responders, and essential workers who are keeping us all safe. You are doing amazing work!

Lynn & Lizz



Inside this issue

- From the Clan Officer 2
- Membership Report 2
- Memoires of a Mountie. 3
- Clan Hunter in Isolation . 4
- Clan Gathering 8

Contact Us

Clan Officer

- ◆ Tom Hunter
tomhunter670@gmail.com

Newsletter Editors

- ◆ Lynn Hunter Ball
linsey.who@gmail.com
- ◆ Lizz Hunter Thibodeau
lizzt@rogers.com

Clan Hunter Association, Canada

This newsletter is for members and friends of Clan Hunter Association, Canada. If you have an important event in your family's life that you'd like to share, please send us a photo or two and a brief explanation of what you are celebrating. Graduations, new babies, birthdays, retirements, if you're celebrating, we'd like to know!

From the Clan Officer, Tom Hunter

Greetings Clanfolk, Well, I would love to list off all the exciting things that Clan Hunter is doing this Spring and Summer but to no one's surprise it seems everything is cancelled. Madam Pauline's visit is cancelled, The Fergus Highland Games and virtually all the Games throughout the country are cancelled and over in the UK the International Gathering at Hunterston is cancelled. It is also so very unfortunate that the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown is causing so many folks to be unemployed and so many of our small businesses may not be able to re-open when restrictions are finally lifted. But some wonderful landlords are waiving rent until folks get back to a regular wage and that is so good to hear.

Special Note: It is with this thought in mind that we have decided that we will not be asking for a membership fee from any of our members for the season 2020-2021. If you have already paid your 2020-2021 dues we will automatically forward it to 2021-2022.

I hope everyone is managing to keep clear of the virus and stay safe. Christine and I are keeping well and are obeying all the rules of distancing and hand washing. We miss being able to hug our grandkids but that is the sacrifice we must make. We do manage to have "long distance" chats on either end of the driveway with our family as they furnish us with groceries etc. We were chatting this week about material for the newsletter and as you can imagine with everyone in lockdown there is little to report on, which made us think... OK so what are folks doing with their time and so to start things off we have a few examples of what some folk are doing and we invite you to send us a photo of your activity for the next newsletter. You can be serious or funny, it's up to you, but we would love to hear from you. I had an email this week from a member who just wanted to know how we were doing. I was really touched and it helped me remember that we are all family. Please stay well everyone and if you can, check in with someone who may be lonely.

Tom

Membership Report—Spring 2020

We have had one new member since our last newsletter.

Please welcome:

John J. L. Hunter who lives in Vancouver, BC

We hope John will enjoy being part of the Clan Association and will find his way to one of the Highland Games in his area (not this year however) and maybe meet up with other Hunters at these Games.

I would encourage all who are able to try and visit their local highland Games. There we meet people who think like us, are interesting in the same heritage as we are, and who maybe even belong to 'your' clan!

This is the time when we traditionally send out dues reminders for payment of annual dues, and they would normally be with this Newsletter, but as Tom highlighted, with blessing from Scotland, we will not be asking for dues for the 2020-2021 year.

Blessings to you and yours as we weather this storm and remember – This too will pass, and we will be stronger for it!

Stay safe, and stay well.

Christine Hunter, Membership Secretary.

Memoires of a Mountie by Cst. Richard Wright, Surrey RCMP

A warm 'Hunters Halloo' to you all from Surrey, British Columbia.

As some of you may be aware from my previous ramblings in the newsletter, I am a police officer with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and am posted to Surrey, BC. I am working in frontline policing during the pandemic and thought I would share my perspective with you all, with the hope that we are all able to do our part to keep our loved ones safe.

My personal situation has its stressors right now - my mother is in her 60's and my wife is 8-months pregnant with our second child. They are currently self-isolating at home with Patrick, our son. I leave them there to serve the community, not knowing whether I will come into contact with someone who is infected with COVID-19. This is a particular stressor for me as, should I need to be quarantined due to exposure, a scenario exists that would mean I miss the birth - out of necessity, and out of service to my family. I will still go to work. I will still serve the public and be there for my colleagues – we are all in the same boat and we support one another.

Now, what can we all do to alleviate the risk of public exposure to COVID-19?

Across Canada, advice from our Federal and Provincial Health Officers is consistent:

Stay home

Only be in the company of those that live with you (No friends or family should visit)

Wash your hands regularly with soap and water

If you must go out into public, stay 2 meters away from any other person

If we follow this advice, we can prevent this virus from spreading.

If we follow this advice, we can keep our loved ones safe.

If we follow this advice, we can minimize the risk to everyone.

As a first responder, I will help anyone who needs help during this difficult time and I, much like other frontline professionals (doctors, nurses, paramedics, fire fighters) will endeavour to be at my best for the duration.

Self-isolation can be wearisome and affect our physical and mental wellbeing, so I would ask that, at some point during all this, each of you pick up the phone and talk to someone that may be struggling – when it comes to kindness, a little goes a long way. My colleagues and I support one another, we as a community can support one another as well.

Thank you & stay safe,

Richard



IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THIS
CARTOON IS PRESENTED SIX FEET AWAY:



NEWMARK 2020
© THE COUNCILMAN

Clan Hunter in Isolation Continued



Tom (Clan Officer) and Christine Hunter have been filling their days “reading” books. Or at least holding onto them while having a wee doze after a cuppa.



Isla has set up a SNAIL house for Sampson, Butter, Florence and Samantha. Does the tank look familiar? If you look closely, you might be able to spot it in her nana & papa’s sunroom. But don’t worry, it was removed safely, using every precaution—and she did not pinch it while they were dozing!



Hearts for Hope—Christine Hunter

The church I attend has a very active knitting group, whose mandate is to knit to help where help is needed. We undertake projects like Alzheimer muffs, hats and mitts for children, socks for soldiers and afghans for people who are in wheelchairs. Our latest project has been to knit hearts for COBID19 sufferers who are having a hard time. As the illness progresses and family cannot be near, one heart is given to the patient, and the other matching heart is given to a family member. This simple act helps make the family feel a little closer, and gives the patient a feeling of comfort..

The best news that we heard lately when we donated 34 pairs of these hearts is that the care staff are not needing nearly as many now because they are seeing less cases severe enough to need this feeling of comfort. Our feeling is – the less they need the happier we really are!

Clan Hunter in Isolation... Still

“The best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley”
These words of Burns’ from his poem, “To a Mouse” is an apt description of what happened after Covid-19 was declared a pandemic. Plans were indeed changed in mid-March as our lives took on a very different course. What were we supposed to do when what was familiar is no longer, and virtually every activity of daily living was either shut down or cancelled? Life during a world-wide pandemic is definitely a life-changing event.

What is one supposed to do when told that they can no longer visit friends, shake hands, take part in social events hug, etc? but instead have to quarantine for 14 days and then observe physical distancing by keeping at least 2 metres away from each other? We adapt!

What does one who likes Scottish Country Dancing do when all classes, Balls, dances, Highland games, and Cultural festivals are cancelled? Why we enjoy virtual get-togethers via meetings on “Zoom” not to dance of course, but to socialize!

Other things I’ve been doing during this time are:

Attending Church services on “Facebook” and church events, (“guess whose coming to dinner?” and other events via “Zoom Meetings. Our family has started having Sunday afternoon get-togethers on “Zoom”.

Keeping in touch with friends both near and far either by telephone or on social media.

When weather permits, I go walking along the “Iron Horse Trail” (which runs behind my apartment building) and elsewhere around my neighbourhood.

Of course there are the usual daily activities that must be done in the apartment.

The one thing that I do miss though, is my volunteer work at a local LTC home.

I wonder what life will be like when it returns to ‘normal’, if it does!

Mida Hunter Lecocq



Mida Hunter Lecocq and her daughter Kathryn share what they’ve been doing while staying safe.



Thank goodness for music! Torry is taking guitar “at school” this term. Although school has moved online, she has been working really hard on her guitar lessons and is all set to “wow” her teacher with how many extra chords she has learned. Isla plays bass with a youth orchestra and her conductor has arranged for her to have private lessons over zoom until rehearsals can restart. Torry also plays drums and violin, and Isla has restarted playing piano! (And you can see my violin case open in the background too).

And the outfits were not planned—both just happened to be wearing their sweatshirts from one of our happy places—Camp Kintail on Lake Huron.

Still in Isolation

On March 13th I left work at the Child Care Centre expecting to be back to work 3 weeks later. That did not happen. I am lucky I work for an Employer that takes care of their employees.

As you know we love Scottish Country Dancing and unfortunately every event and class has been cancelled due to Covid-19. We hope to resume dancing in the fall. That being said the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society holds 30-minute dance classes via Zoom every Wednesday with a different teacher from around the globe leading the class. We have had over 1000 people join on the class.

I have been doing a lot of walking, cleaning my apartment, and getting together with friends over Zoom, and our Family's weekly Zoom Chat every Sunday Afternoon

This year I was planning on holding my 50th Birthday Party, however I have postponed my party till a time where we are able to be together. As one of my friends told me I get to be 49 a little longer. I am planning on having a Zoom Birthday Party.

My employer put out a call for Child Care Teachers who wanted to come back to work as we were opening one of our Centre's to be used as a Child Care Centre for Essential Workers. I volunteered because I feel it is important to give back to my community. I am not sure what it will look like as we are opening on May 11th. It is sure going to have a different feel than a normal day as we will only have a certain number of children and must maintain Social Distancing.

I am sorry we will not see each other at the Scottish Festivals, But hopefully by cancelling the events this summer they will all return next year. Miss you all and please stay safe

Kathryn Lecocq (pictured with her mum on the previous page)

#FlattenTheCurve



I must admit, this is where I spend much of my time. Torry, Isla and I all use the family room as our base of operations so we are together even when we are all working on separate things.

I am a teacher but was doing a semester of supply so do not have classes to teach from home. Instead, I am taking some university courses in computer science to get further qualifications. I also do all of the behind-the-scenes work to produce and broadcast our church's Sunday service each week, sometimes as a live stream, sometimes pre-recorded.

You may also notice that I have a guitar here too—I decided to teach myself guitar using an online tutorial.



Andrew Thibodeau, professional motivational speaker, saw his business completely shut down on March 13th as he returned from a week of speaking in New Brunswick. Within days, he was hired by Costco to keep the family going financially, but he has also been moving his speaking business online, speaking to Student leaders from around the world, and also front-line medical professionals from a make-shift studio in his basement.

Next Clan Gathering—2020

Dear Clansfolk,

My thoughts are with you all in these unprecedented and difficult times, please keep yourselves safe and well especially those of you who have existing health conditions and take extra care.

Like you all, I am following our health officials and government guidelines, to stay well.

In view of the fact that we do not know when this pandemic is likely to end and because of the current uncertainty in each country and how the virus is spreading I am rescheduling the International Clan Gathering till next year for the 3rd to 5th September so that everyone may come no matter which country you live in. If you wish to be refunded please email me at the address below otherwise your payment will be rolled over till next year.

I am available to you all in these trying times so please keep in touch and can be reached through email at contact@clanhunterscotland.com and Messenger.

There will be updates posted to you all through our social media and by email and through your National Clan Hunter Associations newsletters. Even though our person to person contact is restricted we can all still keep in touch with our social media, email and newsletters.

Yours aye,

Madam Pauline

Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston
Praefectus Venatorus Regis,
Chief of Clan Hunter

