

Hunters' Halloo

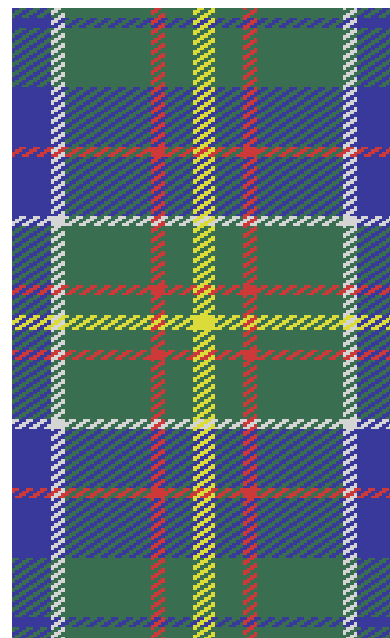
From the Editors

Has anyone else been watching the Olympics? What a show! It has been so amazing to have something to take our minds off of everything going on here at home. Our athletes have done such an awesome job of giving us something to cheer for. I'm not normally a sports person at all. I don't watch sports at any other time than during the Olympics, and the Winter Olympics are my favourite. It's so nice to see Canada shine. It's no wonder the rest of the world thinks Canada is perpetually in winter—we show up to the Winter Olympics as if we ski to school everyday, as if the trip from London to Toronto is done by bobsled, not train, and as if we do our grocery shopping on ice skates. It all seems so natural to our athletes. They have made us so proud once again.

But in reality, it won't be long now until the snow starts to melt and the first flowers of spring start to poke through. My daughters and I often laugh because as much as I love summer, I always say that spring is my favourite season. I don't prefer spring because I like the weather better or because I enjoy the spring activities better than the summer ones; I enjoy spring better because it brings with it the promise and hope of summer. Once summer is here, it's that much closer to being over and back on the slippery slope into winter. Spring to me is the time of perpetual hope!



Lynn & Lizz



Inside this issue

From the Clan Officer	2
From the Deputy Clan Officer	3
Membership Report	4
Holiday Traditions.....	5
From Hunterston	6

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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 fellow Clansfolk,

Are we reaching some sort of plateau with Covid 19? Are things beginning to level out? Are we at the point where we will “have to live with it?” These are all questions that I hear pondered around me just now and I, probably like you, have no answer to them. However, I live, quietly in hope that this season we will begin to see some awakening with regards to the Highland Games activities and that we will be able to see and visit with each other in person as before. This year we are expecting a visit from Madam Pauline, our Clan Chief, who hopes to join us at the Fergus Highland Games in August. (All being well of course). So, we will keep everyone well informed as to the progress of these plans and encourage everyone within a reasonable distance to come and meet your Chief.

There is something I wanted to clarify with everyone, and it stemmed from a recent question that I was asked. When you join the Clan Hunter Association Canada or our cousins in the USA association, you are automatically recognized as a full worldwide member of Clan Hunter. There is no need to “rejoin” the UK group to be involved in any of their activities or services. I can assure you that they will welcome you with open arms. One word of warning though, being a member of a Clan Hunter Facebook Group is not the same as being a paid-up member of Clan Hunter.

Speaking of Facebook pages, there are many interesting articles appearing on the Clan Hunter Facebook pages here in Canada and in the UK. The UK group also has a Genealogy support Group which is growing daily and which you can join by visiting their Facebook Page.

One of the wonderful things that are available to us in these lockdown times is the ability to chat visually on our computers, be it Skype, Zoom, Webex, or Facetime and a whole load of others that I am not familiar with. These computer programs make it possible to have meetings or chats with groups of people from all over the world and Madam Pauline has been recently holding such meetings for all clansfolk on various subjects. Most recently she hosted one this month with a focus on Genealogy. These are normally posted on Facebook, but I will forward any upcoming links to everyone via email.

I know that there is hardly a family which has not been touched by Covid in some way, but I hope that everyone has been able to weather this storm and I wish you all good health for the future.

Tom



CLAN HUNTER

From the Deputy Clan Officer, Dale Hill

In reflecting on 2021 and looking ahead to the upcoming year, I'm certain I am not the only one hoping for more visits with family and friends (without masks) and being able to travel again. I would like to thank Tom, our Clan Officer, for nominating me to take on the role of Deputy Clan Officer and Madam Pauline for appointing me to the position. I hope that I will be able to fulfill this role effectively to support our members across Canada. My thanks to those of you who have reached out and introduced yourselves through e-mail over the past few months and I look forward to meeting many of you in person in the future.

One of my main responsibilities is to assist Clan members who are interested in promoting Clan Hunter at festivals and events throughout the country. I would be pleased to connect through e-mail, a virtual meeting and/or mail to ensure you have information and materials that might help you to share our unique Clan history with others. As I reside in Ontario, I am exploring the possibility of attending the Georgetown Highland Games on Saturday June 11 and the Cambridge Scottish Festival the weekend of July 15 – 17. We hope that as many members as possible will be able to join us at the Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games August 12 – 14 where you will be able to meet and visit with Madam Pauline as part of her visit to Canada! We will share more information and further details as they become available.

If you do host a Clan Hunter tent at a festival, we encourage you to contribute a short story and pictures to a future newsletter. We always look forward to reading and sharing your stories with the rest of the Clan.

If you would like more information about Scottish events happening across Canada throughout the year, check out the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada website at <http://www.cassoc.ca/>

Sincerely,

Dale Hill, Deputy Clan Officer, Clan Hunter Canada

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From the Membership Secretary—Christine Hunter

Membership Report—Winter 2020

Since our summer Newsletter we have welcomed 5 new members. Let me tell you a little bit about each of them. There is still a bias towards Ontario residents, but I am pleased to see that 2 of our new members hail from Alberta.

Carrie Lemon joined us on September 1st. Carrie resides in Calgary, Alberta.

On 27th September Carries father, **Lee Ross Hunter** joined us also from Alberta – the town of Brooks.

Now to Ontario to welcome new member **Edward Calvin Hunter** On September 27th. Edward resides in Troy, Ontario.

Yet another new member joined us on the same date – September 27th, also from Ontario. **Laura R. Collins** is the daughter of Edward, and also resides in the town of Troy.

Last but certainly not least is **Donald Hunter**. Donald joined us in late November, but did not get his membership package until late December. This was delayed by illnesses and surgeries in my family and I apologized to David for this. David hails from Wallaceburg, Ontario.

I would like to officially welcome these new members and I hope they enjoy being a part of this wonderful Association.

Now to payment of membership dues.

Not always a comfortable subject, but it is a necessary part of our Association. It helps us have a presence at Highland Games, it helps us remain a member of Cassoc, it pays for us to be a member of the Society for Scottish Studies at Guelph University, it helps us help young people who are interested in their Scottish heritage and it also helps us to help keep Hunterston Castle as a “home” for all Hunters, and allows us to meet there regularly for Clan Gatherings.

Having said this – we cancelled the payment of dues for July 2020 – June 2021, as we were concerned that folks were having a hard time with shut-downs and job restrictions at that time, and now we really need to get back to normal.

Sooo- I have sent out reminders to all members who have not yet paid their dues for this current year July 2021 – June 2022. Please consider making this payment before another years dues are payable at the end of June 2022.

Christine Hunter, Membership Secretary.



Celebrating the Holidays with a Scottish Twist by Daphne Clarke

It is so exciting learning about Scottish heritage! As Christmas began to approach, I wanted to add a Scottish twist to my celebrations. Starting small this year with little steps, I searched for some gifting and entertainment ideas. I discovered there are a lot of Scottish traditions!

In searching for a Scottish gift idea for our Deputy Clan Officer, Dale Hill and his mom, Susan Hill. I really wanted to find something that tied into all we have been learning about Scotland. Off to the internet I went. What better way to bring Scotland to Canada than through a Scottish subscription box. The 'Wee Box' is packed and shipped from the Scottish homeland. Each box contains approximately 5 items that are locally sourced and only sold in Scotland. The box I purchased was called the "Scottish Christmas Spirit Wee Box." You may not know this yet, but Dale absolutely loves celebrating all holidays year round. He decks his house out to the hilt in decorations and trees for the Christmas Holidays. I knew this was the perfect box for him. Each 'Wee Box' supports local Scottish businesses and they give back to local charities including, The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, The Prince's Trust, GlasgowLife and Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. They are very conscious of their environmental footprint as there is very little packaging and the postage bags are 100% compostable. The company is also working towards being completely carbon neutral.



Let's take a look inside the purple 'Wee Box' that arrived on my doorstep from Edinburgh. The items were wrapped in a recent newspaper. Inside the box contained a tartan tweed stocking from Earth Squared, a really beautiful and soft Cashmere tartan scarf from Couthie gifts, Christmas cranberry round shortbread cookies made by Your Piece, a tartan tree ornament craft project including a kilt pin and a Christmas print to frame. It was so fun waiting for this special gift to arrive and then to see what surprises were inside. Overall, it was a great experience, the box was approximately \$60.00 CAD plus shipping. The products were all good quality and packed well for the long journey. The 'Wee Box' company sent emails to let me know when it was sent along with tracking information. It arrived quite quickly from Scotland. I was amazed! They have monthly subscription boxes all with different themes including Robbie Burns and February's theme is "From Edinburgh with Love," or they have one time gift boxes that can be purchased from their website such as "Iconic Scotland", "Outlander-Inspired", etc... The 'Wee Box' website is, (www.weebox.co.uk) Just as they say, they hope the box will "gie' you a wee grin!"

For the first time we officially celebrated Scottish Haud Hogmanay, Scottish New Year. To kick off the evening, we watched Madam Pauline's inspiring message to Clan Hunter and then watched the Canadian Scottish celebration "Hogman-Eh! '21 Reconnect & Rejoice hosted by the Scottish Society of Ottawa." This was live streamed with a variety of performances including, bag piping, poetry and musical selections. Two highlights were the Red Hot Chili Pipers and the host performing an original version of "Auld Lang Syne". It was so melodic and moving and had a true taste of a Scottish folk song. Did you know that "Auld Lang Syne" was a poem originally written by Robbie Burns in 1788? In English the title means, "Old long since" or "For the sake of old times." Of course the night ended with celebrating and toasting 'Ne'rday Scottish New Year's Day and a blessing for 2022! "Gun cuireadh do chapa thairis le slainte agus sonas," May your cup overflow with health and happiness! (Vikram, Trytutorial.com).

Learning and celebrating Scottish traditions was a real highlight of a very quiet Christmas again this year. Looking forward to what 2022 will bring... and hopefully some Scottish festivals where we can meet fellow Clan Hunter members!

Submitted by Daphne Clarke

News From Clan Hunter UK

As we welcome in a new year, it's a good time to consider travel options for the year to come. Our Clan Hunter International Gathering is very much on the cards. Travel with Lois Wallace and Carol Hunter Sullivan for a Scottish Tour including Hunterston Castle and our Clan Gathering 2022. Contact Lois for further information: lois@wemaketraveleasy.com <https://wemaketraveleasy.com>

Scotland Tour 2022

INCLUDING CLAN HUNTER INTERNATIONAL GATHERING 2022

