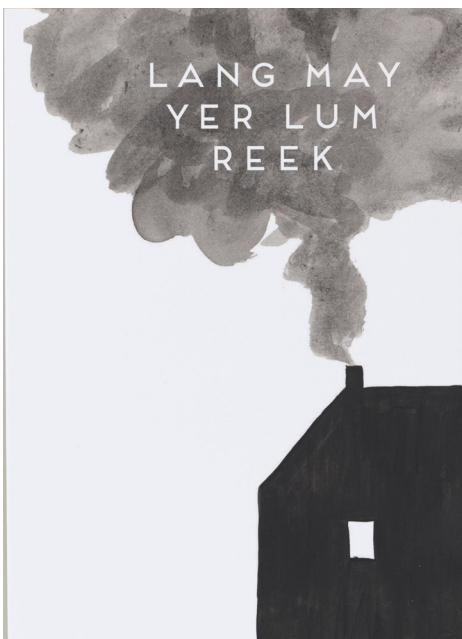


Hunters' Halloo

From the Editors

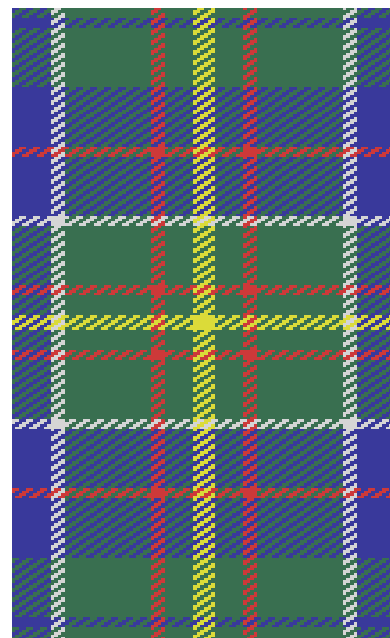
A year ago in this newsletter, I was reflecting on the Olympic Games and how well our Canadian athletes were doing. In my reflection, I mentioned that I'm not really a "sports person" but that I do enjoy the Olympics. Well, over the past few weeks I have found some new sports to watch. First came the World Cup and Canada was there. OK, not for long, but it was still exciting. I had friends from around the world who were cheering on Canada (even though they knew better than I did that Canada was the underdog). Then this past week was the World Junior Championship in Hockey. This was Canada's chance to shine and shine we did fighting hard to take the gold medal. Although I'm still not a "sports person", I have discovered a little bit of what people enjoy. It has been fun to have friends rally behind Canada and to text scores back and forth. In a world where there is still a lot of sickness and separation, it helped make me feel a little more connected.

Things are starting to get "back to normal" or at least we are beginning to get used to whatever normal has become for us. And for each of us that looks very different. For some, life is completely back to the way it was pre-2019. For others, it will never be that way again but new hobbies, traditions, and routines have been developed. No matter what that looks like for you, I hope that one of your New Year's Resolutions for 2023 will be to take the lessons we have learned throughout the pandemic and make connecting with family and friends a priority. We've all had to find new ways of connecting, so let's continue to search those out and reach out to the ones we care about whenever we can. Let's not allow "busy" to take back control.



A traditional Scottish New Year's greeting: "Long may your chimney smoke", wishing a long life and prosperity.

Lynn & Lizz



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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, Dale Hill

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I am writing this message surrounded by the warm glow of Christmas lights after some intense blizzard-like weather passed through Southern Ontario in the days leading up to Christmas. I hope that everyone had a blessed holiday season and found time to do the things that bring you joy. I enjoyed not waking up to an alarm and not having to worry about what day of the week it was.

As we enter 2023, we are excited to invite you to join us online for Clan Hunter Canada's 2022 Annual Meeting on Sunday January 15 at 3 pm EST. Madam Pauline, our Clan Chief, will bring greetings from Scotland and share clan news from the past year. We will receive reports from our treasurer and membership secretary, and hear stories from those who helped host Madam Pauline during her visit to Ontario and some of our members who were able to attend the International Gathering in September. Please use the Zoom link to join the meeting. We look forward to seeing you there. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87313728075?pwd=NkFmQ096TkczUWlwZ0tkQ2FJY2swQT09>

This spring we are planning to host an in person get together for those who are able to join us. It will be held in April around the Guelph, Ontario area. More details will be shared in the spring newsletter and on Facebook. If you have any great ideas for an online or in person event that you think would be of interest to our members, please reach out to me. I would love to hear from you!

As we look towards the summer, we are starting to plan out what Scottish Festivals and Highland Games Clan Hunter will be able to have a presence at this year. We encourage you to consider hosting a tent at your local festival. If you'd like more information and access to clan materials for display, please contact me by email (clanhunter.ca@gmail.com). We have some banners that can be lent out and brochures that can be copied to distribute. I am here to help anyone who is interested and promise you that it is a fun and rewarding experience and a great way to meet new people and hopefully connect with other Clan Hunter members or future members.

Wishing you all the best for a healthy and prosperous 2023. I look forward to seeing many of you online and meeting even more of you in person over the coming year.

Sincerely,
Dale Hill
Clan Officer



CLAN HUNTER

From the Membership Secretary—Christine Hunter

Membership Report—Winter 2023

Since our last Newsletter we have welcomed 2 new members.

Vanessa Hunter joined us in October, and resides in Regina, Saskatchewan

Jeremy Hunter also joined us in October and lives in Berwick, Nova Scotia.

I would like to welcome these two new members and hope they find what they are looking for in being part of Clan Hunter Canada.

I would like to encourage all members to seek out local Summer time Highland Games and consider taking a day or two to see what they offer in Clan activities. It can be very rewarding to chat with folks who have the same interests as you.

We still have a few members who have not paid their dues for this current year – and I will be sending a gentle reminder with this newsletter to those who are in arrears. Remember that your dues can help us have a presence at more Highland Games across this vast Country. We send a helpful package of information to those who can help in this area. Contact our Clan Officer, Dale Hill, if this is something you would like to hear more about.

Christine Hunter, Membership Secretary

Obituary for Marion Hunter

HUNTER, Marion Elaine (nee MANN) Passed away peacefully, on December 13, 2022, at the age of 86, after a 22 year battle with Multiple Myeloma. Marion is survived by her husband of over 64 years, Donald; son, Gord (Beth); daughter, Barb Cridland (Jeff); and 3 grandchildren, Alex Cridland (Eline Vring), Heather Cridland (Grég Desroches), and Shanna Hunter; sister, Carolyn Dunlop (John deceased); and brother, Doug Mann; sister-in-law, Beryl Hunter; brother-in-law, Rev. Neil Hunter (Bonnie); sister-in-law, Lynn Morrison (Gerald); along with many wonderful nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews. Marion's family wishes to thank Dr. Rena Buckstein and her team at the Sunnybrook Odette Cancer Centre for their many years of caring for Marion as well as the team at the Sunnybrook Palliative Care Unit for their compassionate care during her last few weeks of life.



What Makes a Historian by Laura Collins (nee Hunter)

For as long as I can remember history has enthralled me. As a little girl the previous Indigenous inhabitants of our home inspired my play, stories I was told of previous generations finding artifacts guided my curiosity and historical fiction books brought my imagination to a level of possibility. Then, dreams of archeology filled my future - it is truly philosophically ironic that a young child with many years ahead of them chooses to consume themselves with the past. My interests as a child quickly extended from Indigenous inhabitation, to Greek and Roman Mythology, to Egyptology and Piracy.

Although those dreams were never achieved, throughout my adult life I have continued to fuel my passion of history. Educating myself through literature and worldly travel I have been able to call myself a historian in my own right. Each experience has opened doors to new topical interest. Many historical circumstances intertwine with multigenerational involvement - take for example Mary Queen of Scots and King James, Ragnar Lodbrok and Ivar the Boneless, Akhenaten and Tutankhamun, not to mention God and his son Jesus - the list goes on and on.



These families shaped history, but what of the families that haven't been recorded? Everyday people have molded our history just as well, those who existed in a life of common humility and actually just ... lived. This made me stop and think - what of MY history? This led me to a new branch in my studies, genealogy.

We all have been told from where once we came, every grandad has spoken of times of old - mine was no exception. My grandfather, Robert (Bob) Hunter of Troy, has since passed. His brother Edward G. Hunter, also of Troy, has helped me grasp a better knowledge of our family's immigration to Canada and what became of them afterward.

This prompted me to learn my personal story in a whole new way using 23andMe. Based on the results of my ancestry composition, the largest percentage of my DNA came from Scotland, specifically Ayrshire, the seat of Clan Hunter. I knew at this moment that Scotland would be my next travel destination - and very soon. In October 2021, a spontaneous book of airfare took Cheri (my mother-in-law) and I on an adventure. Upon our arrival in Edinburgh we rented a vehicle, commencing our cross country tour of Scotland. For two weeks we traveled the Lowlands, Highlands and Isle of Skye witnessing breathtaking sights and incredible monuments that I had only dreamed of beholding.

Our tour was drawing to a close in the Southwest, my most anticipated portion of our journey lay just ahead - the seat of Clan Hunter, Hunterston Castle. As we drove toward the castle, the long lane displayed the beautiful landscape. Fall colours framed the sheep grazing in the alongside pastures. Parking at the castle, seeing it in full with the garden walls opposite felt surreal. It felt quite emotional truth be told to witness the home of my ancestors - in what order of relation did they position into the clan? If only to be witness to their manner of living. Throughout my visit of Hunterston, you could almost see and feel them in their comings and goings.

Janet met us then, she was a wonderful tour guide - she was so knowledgeable, thorough and personal. She really made us feel so involved and welcomed with our private tour of the castle and grounds. She allowed us to take our time and awe, answering the many questions we had regarding the castle's existence.

Progressing from the ground up we viewed the basement, the old hall featuring the gorgeous one-of-a-kind stags horn furniture, the bedroom, the garret, parapet and my personal favourite - the great hall. The great hall is host to irreplaceable treasures such as The Charter, Hunterston Brooch (both replicas), family safe and exquisite fireplace carving of the Clan Hunter motto "Cursum Perficio".

Other personal favourite internal features include the ancient oak beams, doors and especially the staircase. The latter was interesting conversation - Janet was explaining medieval staircases in terms of warfare and how they were designed to favour right or left-handed individuals. This brought us to the topic of my husband and his family clan, Kerr, who were known to be left-handed. The expressions "Kerr-handed" and "Corry-handed" both refer to the well-established tradition of left handedness within the family, making them useful in battle and helpful to the Hunters whom were primarily right.

Post castle we toured the extensive gardens behind the wall - witnessing them in the peak of summer months would have been absolutely beautiful. We were fortunate enough to meet one of the tenants residing in the more recently (in perspective to the castle) apartments adjacent to the castle. Here he explained they plant and tend to a fruit and vegetable garden in which they all take part and enjoy. A personal favourite aspect inside the walled garden was the dog cemetery. As I mentioned previous, Cheri my mother-in-law joined me on my journey, her father-in-law (my husband's grandfather) also founded a pet cemetery in Ancaster, Ontario. My son enjoys reading the children's book about the said pets inside the garden walls.

Last but not least, we visited the shop and proudly purchased a most prized possession, a sash of Clan Hunter tartan. After correspondence with Madam Pauline, I was disappointed in departing without making her acquaintance with the fear of never again having the opportunity. Little did I know this would not be the case. As a parting gift for both Janet and Madam Pauline, I brought a piece of my own Hunter heritage - maple syrup from our family farm, Hunters Maple Bush, on Hunter Road in Troy, Ontario from which I am the fourth generation.

The immersive historical experience at Hunterston Castle will remain a notable memory for many years to come. Our arrival back in Ontario was bitter sweet - missing the mountains, sea and culture, I vowed to visit Scotland again.

As the following summer quickly came upon us, I received an email from Dale Hill - the now newly appointed Clan Officer of Clan Hunter Canada. He proceeded to tell us that Madam Pauline was planning her upcoming stay in Ontario, Canada for the Fergus Highland Games in August (2022) and that she would like to visit our farm on her tour around the area. This was very exciting news! I was delighted to learn she had received our maple syrup, furthermore she wished to view our farm and the process in which it is made.

My father Edward C. Hunter, my sons Cruz and Sterling and I anticipated her arrival leading up to that day. My father was unfortunately and regretfully unable to join me in Scotland, he is also a member of Clan Hunter Canada. We felt so honoured at this once in a lifetime opportunity to host Madam Pauline on our farm.



Madam Pauline arrived with Dale, Daphne, and Dale's mother - it was unbelievable to fathom that they were finally here! We began the tour of our farm and the maple sugaring production process from start to finish, tree to table. We escorted them through our bush, pump house and sugarhouse explaining as accurately as possible as we were not currently in production with it being the summer months. Throughout the tour we were able to add in some personal conversation with Madam Pauline and continued to do so afterwards. She is truly a pleasure, very down to earth and was as equally as interested in getting to know us in return. Again, we felt very honoured to host Madam Pauline, her exceptional and uncommon presence made it so special for us as a family, and again this will be a notable memory for us all.



Never before having the opportunity to attend the Fergus Highland Games, we made it our priority to accept the invitation given to us from Madam Pauline and Dale to join them in the Clan Hunter tent at the festival coming up that weekend. Madam Pauline was one of few Clan Chiefs to attend the festival from Scotland and being a featured Clan because of her attendance, the tent was foremost amongst others making Clan Hunter a spectacle for festival goers. We were very privileged to meet many other members of Clan Hunter Canada at the tent that morning, making new acquaintances and catching up with others. Time came for the parade of Clans – this was a highlight for our family. Carrying the Hunter flag in the procession, my father Ed, husband Derek, our sons Cruz and Sterling and I proudly walked amongst the Hunter Clan, displaying our unity for all.

The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland games provided many interactive experiences for families to enjoy and ours was no exception. The music was fantastic, games and dancing wonderfully entertaining and the exhibits on multiple aspects of Scottish culture, both historical and current, were very educational. Overall, the festival was an absolutely fantastic experience!

We are looking forward to attending every year henceforth. A very warm thank you to Madam Pauline, Dale and all of Clan Hunter - you all have made us feel so welcome in our first year of clan involvement and are looking forward to meeting those we have not yet had the pleasure. My family is eager to attend more clan gatherings, events and festivals in years ahead and hopefully, connect some genealogy.

I feel as though all members of Clan Hunter around the globe are historians like myself. We are all searching for the same common goal - connecting to our ancestors of the past, uniting with those in the present, and of course, creating chapters for the new members of the future. I am so honoured to be a member of Clan Hunter. The welcoming inclusion has made me feel proud of the allegiance to the Clan Chief and 30th Laird, Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston as well as to my fellow members and kinfolk.

Laura Collins (nee Hunter)




From Scotland—The Hebridean Emigration to Canada

One hundred years ago, three ships left the Hebrides bound for Canada. This year in celebration, the islands will be hosting exhibitions, musical, art and literary events, and a tattoo.



LEAVING HOME

AR CÙL RIS AN DACHAIGH






2023 Centenary Year

of the Historic Hebridean Emigration of 1923/24
To Canada on The Marloch,
The Metagama, The Canada



**The Summer of 2023 will mark this
Historic Moment in Hebridean History with:**
Exhibitions, Musical, Art and Literary Events
culminating with Tattoo Metagama on
11th and 12th August 2023
fronted appropriately by
78th Fraser Highlanders from Toronto



Hosted by Western Isles Community Society (local lottery)
In partnership with the Stornoway Historical Society

LEAVING HOME

AR CÙL RIS AN DACHAIGH



Centenary of Historic Hebridean Emigration 1923/24

PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

March 2023: display boards prepared by Primary Schools on display through out the Islands

Uist & Barra focussed on the Marloch departure from Lochboisdale on 15th April 1923

Lewis & Harris focussed on the Metagama departure from Stornoway on 21st April 1923

April 21st 2023: The Story of Hebridean Emigration opens in Town hall on the 21st April 2023
(6 weeks)

June to July 2023: The Story of Hebridean Emigration tours Islands

August 8th –Aug 12th 2023: The Story of Hebridean Emigration returns to the Townhall

August 11th 2023 : Tattoo Metagama on the Lewis Castle Green 8pm to 11pm, Fireworks 11.15pm

August 12th 2023: Carnival day, 10 pipebands led by 78th parade through the town 1pm to 4 pm

August 12th 2023: Grand Concert featuring 78th, concert bands, Literary reading, Dance , Gaelic singing, Drama, 8pm to 11.30pm

