



# Hunters' Halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

Jul2010 Vol 6,4

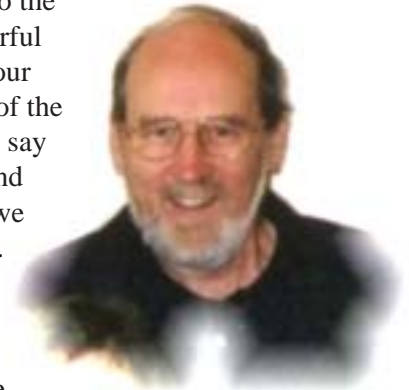
Crest Badge of a  
Member of Clan Hunter

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Hello friends,

Well we survived the trip to the Victoria Highland Games and had a wonderful time to boot. You will find that Christine (our membership secretary) has included much of the action in her report but what she omitted to say was that with the wonderful help of John and Lianne Hunter as co-hosts of the clan tent we won the award for the "Best Clan Display". None of us actually realized that there was such a competition, so it came as a wonderful surprise. We enjoyed meeting those of our Clan who were able to be there and were sorry that we couldn't have met more.



As part of our Association mandate we, The Clan Hunter Association, encourage participation in athletic and musical/dancing competitions at the various Highland Gatherings and assist the many other Clan Societies in the promotion of Scottish cultural activities. And so I must say that, I don't think I have been more excited by any of our other newsletters than I am of this July 2010 edition. In this edition you will find examples of what "The Clan Children" are up to... we have dancers, we have archers, we have special awards for sportsmanship and of course we have parents/grandparents proudly encouraging their heritage.

We also have a wonderful article on hiking through Scotland by Mike and Kathy Hunter (brother and sister) who were inspired during the 2007 Gathering to return to Scotland and tackle the West Highland Way. Their article "Hearts in the Highland" is so well done, but unfortunately too large for our little newsletter, but I have provided a "taster page" and a link to our website where you can read the whole thing, with great enjoyment, I'm sure.

I would like to encourage everyone to try and attend our Annual Meeting and banquet in Fergus. This year we will have some Highland Dancing by Christina Ball who is featured in this newsletter and The Gaels, our own Hunter family folk group, have agreed to sing. If you plan on attending all or part of the evening please fill in the cut-out form on page 11 or simply send me an e-mail with the information.

Many thanks to the folks who contributed to this edition of the newsletter, Lynn (Hunter) Ball, Jane-Ann Dale Hunter, Lizz (Hunter)Thibodeau, Christine Hunter, Don Hunter, Mike & Kathy Hunter, and Robert Hunter (UK). It is very encouraging to receive such support.

*Tom*

## Connections Corner



Lizz Thibodeau

lizzt@rogers.com

Well, I'm stumped. I've tried all my usual sources, spent hours poring over records, even hoped for a response from the Genealogy Fairy (see April's issue if you're confused by that statement), but I'm stuck. Then it hit me (as my dad reminded me for the umpteenth time that I owed him an article for the July newsletter) I have another resource: You!!! You see, I'm working on a Hunter genealogy. It belongs to a friend and clan member so there is a possibility that it might match up with the genealogy of someone else in the clan.

all  **We are Family, I've got my cousins with me!**

So here's what I know, and if any of this sounds even remotely similar to something you've read or heard about in your own history, please contact me.

I'm looking for the parents of Matthew Hunter who married Alice Dalkin at St. Hilda's Church in South Shields, Durham, England on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1803. Matthew and Alice had two children in South Shields: Robert, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1804 and Matthew Thomas, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1807. A few years after the birth of these two children, the family emigrated to Canada. The family is in Quebec by 1817, by which point Matthew Hunter the father has passed away (not sure where or when). Alice married John Butchard in November 1817 at St. Andrew's church in Quebec city.

Matthew Thomas Hunter had a relationship with Genevieve Touchette and they had two

children: Mathieu, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1830 and Edgar, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 1833.

In 1837, Matthew Thomas Hunter married Rachael Beaugie and they had a baby named Jane Alice baptised in the Anglican church in Quebec in 1839. They lived in Kingston, Ontario and had five other children: Rachael in 1841, John Coyle in 1843, Rachael Lilla in 1843, Mary Sophronia in 1845 and Matthew Thomas in 1847. The family returned to Quebec City in 1850. Matthew Thomas Hunter died on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1865. Rachael passed away September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1867 in Quebec.

If any of these names or events rings a bell with something in your past, please contact me and let me know. Or if you've done any research in Durham England and know how to figure out who Matthew's parents were (marriage certificates at the time didn't say, and there are two Matthew Hunters born in South Shields within 2 years of each other in the early 1780s) I could really use some suggestions!

## Membership Report July 2010

### Welcome to our Newest Member

We would like to welcome **Andrew John Hunter** as our newest member of the Clan Hunter Association of Canada. Andrew lives in Oxford, Michigan with his wife, **Lisa** and their three children. Andrew is the son of Douglas and Linda Hunter who joined our Association two years ago.

It was nice to meet some of our Vancouver members when Tom and I, our daughter Lizz, and her two daughters Torry and Isla ventured out to the far west earlier this year.

**John and Lianne Hunter** were instrumental in helping us set up our trip – and were also a great help

with the arrangements for us being at the Victoria Games, and having a clan dinner that Saturday night. Thank you both for all your help.

**Judy Tipple** came to the games from Saturna Island and we enjoyed spending time on both Saturday and Sunday renewing our friendship with Judy. Unfortunately Judy was not able to join us for dinner.

**Sheila Shone** – one of our very new renewed members, was not able to be at the games, but met us for dinner on Saturday night. It was a delight to meet Sheila and her husband Bob.

John and Lianne's daughter **Vanessa** – and Vanessa's daughter **Audrey** also joined us at the Games and at our dinner.

It was a lovely evening when eleven of us met in an appropriately named restaurant in Victoria called The

Blethering Place for dinner – and boy that restaurant lived up to its name that Saturday night! (Blethering is a Scottish word that basically means "chatting"). A good time was had by all!

We really do enjoy meeting you – yes you – and so check our list of Games we are attending this summer and see if there is one that you could attend – and of course make yourself known to us. Coming to Fergus Highland Games is always high on our list of suggestions – then you can meet a lot more of our clan members, walk in the clan parade, attend the Annual General Meeting, and stay for dinner at the Holiday Inn in Guelph. Think about it! We'd love to see you there!

**Christine Hunter**  
*Membership Secretary*



# Victoria Highland Games May 2010

John and Lianne  
Hunter of Victoria co-  
hosted the tent with  
Tom and Christine



Judy Tipple of Saturna Island  
drops by the tent



The kid's mad dash....  
great fun kilts and all.



Tom and John in the Clan  
Parade



Lizz relaxes in the Clan Tent



John's Hundred Pipers display  
proved to be a big attraction





*John Hunter (Victoria) and Christine Hunter (London)*



*"Do have something in a size 4 please"*



*Bob Shone and John Hunter, enjoying our Clan Dinner*



*John, Lizz and Christine in the clan tent*

*Below: Shiela and Bob Shone enjoying the conversation*



*Above: Lianne Hunter enjoys a chat with Shiela Shone at the Clan Dinner*



*Left: Vanessa and daughter Audrey (Victoria) with Torry and Isla (London)*

## ***In Memorium Gordon Hunter ORH***

The Land Rover and the caravan was to become a common sight neatly parked at Hunterston . Permission for this came from the Auld Chief Neil Hunter 29th laird; who in his time became very friendly with Gordon and his good lady Eleanor. Friendship's founded at Hunterston really do span lifetimes. In 1986 at a ceildh held in the "Big Hoose", The Chief in a welcoming speech, went to great lengths to express that all present were his extended family: and that's how it has been ever since. Gordon's arrival at the Clan Lands in 1984 predated my membership by two years. Again a fond acquaintance was struck up at our first ever meeting, and now twentyfour years on, I sadly attempt to write an epitaph for an old Clan Brother .

With the passing of the 29th Laird 1994 and because there was no Clan Officer the association became a slumbering body of folk who had no particular direction. That was all to change when in '98 the present association under the gaurdianship of Madam Pauline emerged. Men like Gordon swiftly came to the fore: he was to be elected as Clan Treasurer an office he held until he died. Gordon was Standard Bearer of [the Saltire], on the two occasions 2000 and 2001 , when as a clan The Hunters' foregathered on Pipers Hill Flodden to commemerate the fallen of 4/9/1513. Always keen to attend a function such as a Burns Supper , or an open day, and definately Clan Gatherings.

At the Clan Dinner venued in the Royal Scots Club Edinburgh thursday 23rd. July this year, the Clan Officer, Ian Hunter, in an after dinner address to the company could only remark on the two vacant chairs set amongst us. Seats which had been booked for Eleanor and Her



*Tree planted at Hunterston  
in Gordon's memory.*

Man. Already sadly missed Gordon Hunter ORH, .

Robert Hunter ORH  
UKeditor

## ***Adding Some Scottish To Your Family Gathering***

by Jane Ann Dale Hunter

Weather and school vacations make summer a popular time for traveling to see family, and games are a tradition at these gatherings. Centuries ago Scottish Kings held contests to find the strongest and most accurate of their soldiers to become men at arms. Kids (and adults) will love mimicking the heavy event competitions held at modern highland games. Here are a few ideas to add your Scottish heritage to a family picnic or reunion.

### **Caber Toss**

You don't need to cut down a telephone pole to prepare for this event. Visit a local carpet store to obtain several of the cardboard tubes left over from inside of the carpets (we've never had to pay for them).

They vary in length, the cardboard will survive several impacts. but we found that 6 foot lengths worked well with 8-10 year olds. They've gladly given us longer tubes that have broken, and we cut them to size. Wrap duct tape around the ends of the tube so that the cardboard will survive several impacts.

### **Instructions:**

Balance the tube upright on your hands. An adult can help with this. Take a few steps forward and thrust the tube up and away from you.

The tube should rotate 1 ½ times so that the end you were holding is



*Torry trying her hand at the  
caber toss at the Victoria  
games*

furthest from you. A good throw is judged by the position of clock hands. If the end you were holding is at 12 o'clock and the other end at 6 o'clock then it was a perfect throw! Note: If transporting cardboard tubes isn't possible, you can do an even further scaled-down version using your finger and an unsharpened pencil.

### **Wellie Throwing**

Part of the fun of this game is knowing from where it originated. The (child friendly) story is that after a hard day of cleaning her home, a woman's husband returned from hunting and trekked his muddy



boots across all of her clean floors. He realized his error when, after removing his boots, he found one flying across the room at him while his outraged wife told him what she thought.

**Instructions:**

Have a couple of pairs of Wellingtons (rubber boots). If you



*Waiting in line for the caber toss in Victoria Highland Games. Large kilt optional*

have very young children competing let them use a smaller sized boot. Use a rope or some other item to create a throwing line.

Mark either where the boots hit, or where they finally stop.

Rotate through the competitors 2 or 3 times so everyone has a chance to beat their last throw.

The winner is the person who threw the wellie furthest.

**Shot-Put**

With children involved a metal ball may not be the best choice for your family game. Instead use a ball small enough to be held in one hand, or a bean bag. For extra fun you can craft-up the bean bag into the elusive Haggis, adding felt horns, eyes and tail, and have a Haggis Toss.

**Instructions:**

Use a rope or some other item to create a throwing line.

Place a large hoop about 1 metre from the line.

Each contestant tries to land the object inside the hoop. To make the game fair for younger players, count throws which land in the hoop and roll out, as well as those that land outside the hoop but roll in and stop.

Give everyone 2 or 3 attempts per round.

After each round, move the hoop further away to increase difficulty.

The winner is the last person playing.

**Tug of War**

Perhaps it's just the female in me, but Tug of War is my favourite heavy events game, and I



*The 5yr old dash  
Large kilt required*

always root for the teams comprised of fire fighters. Tug of War is a lot of fun both to watch and to participate in.

**Instructions:**

You need a strong rope, but not one that will easily slip through small hands, or is too rough.

Tie a rag or handkerchief in the middle of the rope.

Mark a mid-point on the ground, and then mark the play area by placing 2 objects 1 metre from each side of the mid-point.

Divide the participants into two groups, line the handkerchief up at the mid-point ground marker, and then GO. The instructions called at official matches are "pick up the rope", "take the strain", "steady" and "pull".

If the tug is over too quickly, swap team members to more evenly match the teams.

**Bale Toss**

Can't fit a hay bale and pitchfork into your car? Not to worry, we have a perfect substitute; a brown lunch bag filled with newspaper, and a BBQ spatula.

**Instructions:**

Use the spatula to toss the lunch bag over a clothes line, or some other cross bar.

The winner is the person who successfully throws it over the line the most out of 10 tries.

***It's in the Blood***

*Jane-Ann Dale Hunter*

The Hunters began to serve the Scottish Crown as Royal Huntsmen beginning in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. The family's hunting skills led to this becoming a hereditary appointment, which they held for many centuries. The Hunters also used their aptitude with bow and arrow in many battles, fighting as soldiers alongside their sovereign. It would be reasonable to think that the Hunters were not the target of King James II's 1457 ban on golf and football. He felt those games were keeping his subjects from their archery practice, and he wished the populace to spend Sundays improving their aim instead of playing.

Upon being introduced to archery 5 years ago as a Beaver through Scouts Canada, Adair Hunter began to take lessons with his father, Paul, and younger sister



*Shona showing her winning style*

Shona. Their love of the sport led them to enter their first competition this year. The results show that skill in archery may also be hereditary among the Hunters. In February 2010 Adair Hunter, then 9, won a gold medal in the



*Shona with her medal and ultra modern bow.*

Male Compound PeeWee equipment division in the Ontario Association of Archers province-wide 5-Ring Indoor Championship. He scored 192. Not to be outdone, in March 2010 Shona Hunter, 8, not only won a gold medal in the Female Barebow PeeWee equipment division in the OAA province-wide 10-Ring Indoor Championship, she also set a record with her score of 221.

*Adair below shows off his style*



Shona would like to continue competing each year, but Adair has lost his interest in paper targets. He continues to practice; awaiting the day he can fulfill his Hunter lineage and also put his cooking skills to use on game he has brought home using his bow.

### ***Congratulations on 25th to Gord and Beth***

Clan member Gord Hunter of Newmarket and his wife Beth are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary in July this year. Gord is a High School vice-principal in

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Alliston and Beth teaches Special Education in Newmarket. Their daughter Shanna attends high school in Newmarket and has just completed grade nine in good standing.



### ***Congratulations Heather***

Heather Cridland, daughter of Clan Member Barbara Cridland, led her Bantam mixed curling team through Region and Zone playdowns to reach the Provincial championships. Although the team was not successful in winning the title, Heather was voted the sportsmanship award by the other competing curlers. Congratulations to Heather!



## Hearts in the Highlands

by Mike and Kathy Hunter

A visit to the Hunter clan reunion in Scotland in 2007 was the inspiration for further exploration of the



Mike and Kathy Hunter at the trailhead marker

walking culture of the highlands. That summer, in our travels along the highways, we could see walkers in the hills, some with big packs, some travelling light. The latter gave the impression that the trail could be attempted by almost any level of fitness. And tempted we were. When we asked

our innkeeper about the West Highland Way, we were told it is done frequently by many Scots. What better way to test our newly energized Scottish roots.

Mike has been to the area several times and so agreed to search and research the trail and accommodations. He had seen some of the establishments on previous trips and had an idea which special (quirky) spots he would like to experience. He was also uncharacteristically adventurous in punctuating our journey with various hostels, which can be unpredictable and inconsistent in convenience.

We met in Glasgow on May 18, 2009, and sorted ourselves out at Alamo House, an Inn near Kelvingrove Park. Large packs were relieved of day-pack items in preparation for the first days walk. Food items were purchased and maps checked. After breakfast at the Alamo we walked a few blocks to the train station for the short trip to Milngavie (pronounced mull-guy). Here we met the prearranged Travel-Lite representative and handed over our larger bags to be transported ahead to our next and subsequent stops along the Way. Then we

waited our turn to make a “before” photo at the trailhead marker. There were quite a few people milling about, including a large group of runners who seemed to have no packs. There were smaller groups also, some with enormous packs with camping gear. Need we mention that the weather was quite Scottishlike? But it seemed to be unnoticed by the crowd. We started out on the stretch between Milngavie and Drymen (drimmin). Looking back now, there seemed quite a bit of foot traffic at the beginning, but the runners were soon out of sight and others stopped for more pictures or took alternate trails to one side or another. We were soon one among 4 or 5 pairs of walkers, whom we identified only by the colour of packs and/or rain gear as they came and went from our view. We were not given any special favours by the weather and were thankful that it was neither too cold nor too muggy. In places it was mucky and skirting the swampy bits was a nice distraction. It would later become clear that wet days have the advantage of removing midgies from the equation. Around lunchtime we came to Dumgoyne where there happened to be a pub (fancy that!), The Beech Tree Inn. Most



Mike, Laurie (dad) and Kathy in Fort William

folks stripped off their wet packs, dropped them in the gazebo provided (interesting...), and went in for a bit of lunch. Now, sitting down and choosing a lunch from a menu was not quite what Kathy had expected of this journey and she wondered if it was going to be a regular occurrence. After all, she had intended this to be a trek that would test her stamina and burn a few calories.

To read all of Mike and Kathy's story and see all of their wonderful photos select the link below

[http://www.clanhuntercanada.com/  
PDF\\_Newsletters/WHWdiary-2-up-low.pdf](http://www.clanhuntercanada.com/PDF_Newsletters/WHWdiary-2-up-low.pdf)



## ***She Really Needs to do This***

*by Lynn Ball*

Christina grew up attending the Fergus Highland games every year, marching in the parade with the Hunter Clan, and watching the highland dancers from afar. She longed to be like those girls on the stage, but there was just never an opportunity for her to begin. She took some tap when she was little and did gymnastics, but still asked about Highland whenever she went to Fergus. In grade three she auditioned for the school of the arts and was accepted. They warned us that it was a heavy workload, so we decided on no extracurricular for the first year till we saw how she did. She was now taking dance classes at school and was really enjoying them. She did very well in her first year and could have taken some extra dancing after school in her second year, had we not been saving up to go to Scotland. Well, while in Scotland we saw her just thrilled watching the highland dancers and we decided. If this was what she really wanted then we had to let her try. Problem was, now she was 11, and most dancers start at about 4.

When Christina began her lessons, at age 11, she was the biggest girl in a class of four to six year olds. We wondered if she would stick it out at that point, but instead of being embarrassed or frustrated, it only fuelled the fire to move on as fast as possible. Sooner than can be imagined, Christina had learned the first couple of dances and was progressing so quickly that her teacher thought it would be beneficial for her to move up into a class with more advanced dancers (closer to her own age thank goodness) so that she could learn from them. Much happier in her older class, she pushed forward and passed an amazing four exams in one term.

Her first competition came next. Both of us being new to the whole dancing scene, I found it a very stressful experience; not knowing where to go or what to expect. I looked around at mothers and daughters practicing furtively; mothers yelling out

commands, daughters looking so worried and stressful. Is this really what we wanted? Christina on the other hand was cool as a cucumber. I kept stressing to her that this was her first competition and not to expect too much. I didn't want her to be disappointed or get discouraged. It was after all our trial run as I put it, but I needn't have worried. She was just happy to be there, excited to be involved in the dancing with her new friends/soul mates and didn't seem to



have a care in the world. She didn't even seem to realize it was a competition. We left that day with a silver medal, and two bronze medals. Yes, she placed in all three of the dances that she performed. We were also pleasantly surprised when her name was called yet again to collect the Bruce W Gilbert Memorial Trophy for Best London Beginner! What a day!

Still riding high on her early success we entered more competitions. Christina (and I) found out at her first competition that in order for her to move up to the next level in dance quickly (which is the level her friends are at and where she oh so wants to be!) she needs to get six stamps on the back of her dance card. You get one

stamp for each competition that you place in.

The next event was the Georgetown Highland games. Another first, this one was a highland games, was outside, and wouldn't you know it, was raining! Well, the rain held off for most of the morning which is when Christina danced. Again she was calm, laughing, having fun, and enjoying the whole scene. We dashed back and forth from our dance tent to the Hunter Clan tent to visit Nana and Papa and big brother Thomas and tell them when she was dancing. They had a pretty clear view of the stages from their tent this year. Again I tried to prepare her in case she didn't place, telling her that we will have to go through a lot of competitions before we get used to all of this and not to expect too much. And again she had a wonderful time, danced her little heart out and placed in all three dances that she performed. A third and two fourths I believe. She even did the mass Highland fling in the middle of a muddy field in the rain with a big smile on her face.

The yearend recital was next on Christina's agenda and wouldn't you know it, this little girl came away with another trophy and plaque. She received her exam certificates, all with honours and highly commended status, and was called up for the only highland award given out that night. She received the most improved dancer for 2009/2010.

Christina is registered for a lot more competitions this summer; we're going to be very busy with all the highland games. She is determined to get her stamps, but most of all is really enjoying the whole dancing scene. She is currently learning three new dances for competitions she has entered and is working very hard. Fergus will be the biggest, mostly because it is the one that she has longed to dance at since she was little, and this year her dream is coming true. She has also been asked to dance at the Hunter Clan annual meeting and is really looking forward to that. Let's hope she does well this summer, but most of all, let's hope she never loses the love she has for dancing!

# Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games  
Aug 13-15 2010

Preliminary plans include

- Fergus Tattoo & Lighting 6.45pm Friday 13 Aug 2010 Fergus
- Fergus Highland games 7.00am Saturday 14 Aug 2010 Fergus
- Clan Hunter AGM 5.00pm Saturday 14 Aug 2010 Holiday Inn 601 Scottsdale Dr.,  
Guelph
- Supper 6.00pm Saturday 14 Aug 2010 Holiday Inn 601 Scottsdale Dr.,  
Guelph

**After supper entertainment by our own Scottish folk group "The Gaels"  
with Highland Dancing by Christina Ball**

**[\$30.00 Adult \$10.00 children (5-12) 4 and under free]**

- Kirkin' o' the Tartan 10.00am Sunday 15 Aug 2010 St Andrew's Presb. Fergus
- Fergus Highland games 12 noon Sunday 15 Aug 2010 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 other Hunters in the Clan Parade - 11.30 am on 14th

Enjoy the fabulous Celtic Music

Meet some old and 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 website

for up to date information

<http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com>



## Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Annual Clan Gathering 13-15th August 2010

Yes I/we will be attending the Tattoo & Lighting on Friday 13th August Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

Yes I/we will be taking part in the parade on Saturday 14th August Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

Yes I/we will be attending the dinner on Saturday 14th August Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

Yes I/we will be attending the Kirkin' o' the Tartan on Sunday 15th August Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



# ***Minutes of the Clan Hunter Association Annual General Meeting 2009.***

This meeting was held at the holiday Inn in Guelph on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 at 5.pm, followed by a dinner at 6 pm.

## **Clan Officer's Report.**

Tom welcomed 20 clan members to the meeting and started by commenting on the change in weather between last years torrential rain and this year's much more pleasing weather – although it did start to rain lightly in the late afternoon. Since Nadene Hunter and Dr Nadene Hunter had been delayed, Christine Hunter volunteered to take the minutes. Mida Lecocq moved that we accept the minutes from last year as printed, seconded by Tom. During the discussion that followed, Tom Hunter pointed out that in the Clan officers report last year, his wife's name was mistakenly printed as Barbara instead of Joyce. Mida changed her motion to read that the minutes should be accepted as amended, Tom Hunter seconded and this motion was passed.

Also from last year's minutes – the waterproofing spray was purchased for the new tent and the tent has been waterproofed.

Tom noted that this year, because of the Gathering in Edinburgh in July, Christine and he were only able to visit Georgetown Games and these Fergus Games. More on "the Gathering later.

## **Treasurer's Report.**

Don Hunter reported that we started the year with a balance of \$4112.98. Our receipts were \$2918.76 and our disbursements were \$3792.84 leaving us with a balance of \$3238.90. Of that we have to send \$680.00 to Scotland and there is still a balance of around \$300.00 to pay on the new banners. Our receipts mainly come from membership fees and some sales of clothing and goods at the Highland games. Our disbursements include the part of the fees that goes to Scotland, fees for the Highland Games we attend and an advertisement in the Scottish Banner, as well as membership in CASSOC and a yearly donation to Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph. This year our added expense covered the cost of having two new banners made, one to take to Scotland for The gathering and that Banner will be left to hang in Hunterston Castle, the other will be taken to the Highland Games that Tom and Christine attend each summer.

Don moved the adoption of the report for 2009, Bill Jones seconded the motion and it was passed.

## **Membership Report.**

Christine Hunter reported that this had been a very slow year for membership. Only two new members have joined the Association since last August. Kenneth Hunter from Moose Jaw Sask. Joined our ranks in November, and Bonita Hunter, sister of Linda Wing joined our ranks after some minor "arm-twisting" from her sister. Even after some teasing and suggesting that our treasurer Don would "do a happy dance" if everyone decided to pay on time (or even early) this year, we are still at about 2/3rds of our membership having paid their dues as of this date. Christine said that reminders are sent out to members who haven't paid the current year, and after two years unpaid, they stop receiving the newsletter and any other correspondence.

## **Genealogy Report.**

Lizz Thibodeau reported on her newsletter articles and findings while helping clan members and others research their family tree. She did some work on Irish research, which was very successful, some Quebec research, which because of lack of information was not at all successful, and more lately helped a non-clan friend to trace his roots to Argyll in Scotland very successfully. Lizz finished by offering her help to any member who is finding difficulty tracing their ancestry.

## **Newsletter.**

Tom reported that the newsletter is going very well. The feedback is positive and encouraging and some clan members make it a point to get in touch after each mailing to talk about the articles. Tom talked about how hard it is to get articles for the newsletter, but that "something" always seems to turn up when needed. More input from clan members would be a great help, though, and may make the newsletter more meaningful to more members. Tom thanked Lizz for her genealogy reports and Christine for her membership reports.

## **Web Site.**

Tom reported that the web site hasn't had its first page updated recently, because of his computer crash when we came back from Scotland. New photos will be added as soon as possible, but if anyone has photos of the Gathering – or anything else Games, Clan or Gathering oriented, Tom would be glad to receive a copy of them.

## **The Gathering.**

The Gathering started, for the Hunter Clan, on Thursday evening July 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Royal Scot Club on Abercrombie Place in Edinburgh. 50 people were in attendance and enjoyed a lovely dinner. Of these 50 people 12 were from Canada – should have

been 14 but two of our members made an error in the date and arrived a day too late. But it was a lovely evening, with Pauline welcoming folks from far and wide. Bill Hunter of the UK Association was awarded the order of the Royal Huntsman for his work with the Clan Association. The Chief Elect of the Muirhead Clan, who have been taken under the wing of Clan Hunter and invited to all our gatherings, awarded a lifetime membership to their clan to Robert Hunter of the UK Association, and also awarded him their Order of the Saltire.

Friday saw our Clan Officer, Tom Hunter, accompanying Pauline to a gathering of Clan Chiefs at the Scottish Parliament Building. Andrew Thibodeau, a member of the Ross Clan, was also at this conference, accompanying the Ross Clan Chief..... And gave this report of the conference:

100 clans were represented with 80 Chiefs – reported to be the largest gathering “without swords” ever. Clan Chiefs involvement in the Associations range from nil to poor to OK to great – and we are lucky to have Pauline as our Clan Chief as she is charming, approachable and very easy to talk to. When she comes to Canada people flock to meet her – and our membership explodes that year. We have more involvement, more new members and a much higher profile than in any other year. Clan Chiefs need to know this.

The report continued with a slideshow of the dinner then the two days of “The Gathering”. The Gathering was opened by Prince Charles. His wife Camilla was also in attendance. The Hunter Clan tent was shared with the Muirheads, but on the Hunter side we had a new standard for Madame Pauline, the New Canadian Banner and three large banners produced by David Hunter of Montlaw of the Genealogy of the Hunter Chiefs down through the ages. A parade of some 6000 clan members walked from Holyrood Palace to the Castle – a distance of 1 mile 400 feet – uphill all the way – on cobblestones. Tom was pleased to report that we all made it in good form and took our seats on the Castle esplanade to enjoy the Pageant.

The pageant was a story of emigration – from Scotland to Australia in this particular case – but the scenario was the same for the emigration to most other countries too. Hardship and death followed close on the heels of the emigrants, but they were hardy folk who made a new life and an impact on the countries that they emigrated to.

Sunday was back to the Holyrood Park and more of the same – but with a bit more rain today. Monday saw us meeting at Hunterston Castle for an informal get-together with the other Hunters from abroad. Madame Pauline had put on a nice lunch for us and our Clan Officer Tom Hunter officially handed over the new banner to Pauline to hang in the Castle.

Dinner was now ready and another 18 clan members and children joined us for a lovely meal. The rest of the agenda was put on hold until after we had eaten our fill, but there were still a couple of items of new business to discuss.

During dinner, it was announced that Bob and Aldene Hunter were celebrating their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and were supplying wine for each person at dinner that night. A small cake was given to them to recognize this wonderful achievement.

### **New Business.**

#### **Project.**

When we attended Hunterston Castle this year it was evident that the washroom facilities were really quite inadequate. Of the two washrooms available, one light was not working – and the other door did not lock. A suggestion was made that Clan Hunter Canada could possibly undertake a new “project” and see what the cost would be, and if the repairs would be acceptable to the Hunter Clan UK, with a view to at least donating some money towards such a project. No information was as yet on the table. It was also suggested that a committee be formed to look into this. What would be the cost? How could the repairs be done? Is there a possibility that we could help in any way? Or does Pauline have any other concerns that we could undertake as a project?

Our Clan Officer has to be on any committee formed, Nadene offered to be on this committee – which will have to meet by e-mail – Sharon Jackson also agreed and Lizz Thibodeau was added to the list. Any input from clan members would be appreciated.

#### **Travel Plans.**

Lizz Thibodeau spoke about a plan afoot to travel out to the Vancouver area – more likely Victoria B.C. in May of next year and that although Tom and Christine had thought about driving out, that was appearing to be less and less. She also spoke about the number of Games that her parents attend and the cost involved suggesting that some type of monetary help maybe should be considered. She said that in flying out to BC the extra luggage involved could cost extra and that maybe some provision should be made to cover this. A suggestion was made that our new committee could look into this as well. Bob Hunter was concerned that we do not have another Annual Meeting before this trip is scheduled to take place, but Daryl Jones suggested that if we need to put this to a vote – it can be done by e-mail. This seemed like a sensible suggestion. Nadene asked about the possibility of a “group rate” if enough local members wanted to join in on this trip and fly out to Victoria with Tom and Christine. Nadene and her mother, Beryl Hunter, Lizz Thibodeau and Bob and Aldene Hunter all expressed interest in taking this trip. Daryl Jones offered to look into the possibility of getting a “group rate”.

#### **Clan Crest Rings.**

Nadene Hunter said that she and her mother had ordered Hunter Clan Crest Rings to be made by Claddach House – a vendor who is found at most Highland Games. A mold needs to be made – and once that is made other people could benefit from this by ordering Clan Crest rings as well. This was not part of anything that Clan Hunter is undertaking – just a member who thought that her purchase could possibly help others who would like to make a purchase also.