



Crest Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter

hunters' halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

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Dear Clansfolk,

I am delighted to be able to tell you all that the "Order of the Royal Huntsman" has been given to one of our most respected Clan members, Catherine Hunter Elder, from Canada, in recognition of her outstanding services to Hunter Genealogy. She has helped so many Hunters make connections with their forebears, not only between those in Canada, but also for other Hunters around the world. Amongst genealogists she is known for her tremendous knowledge and generosity in disseminating genealogy information.



In order to have a permanent record of those who have been awarded the Hunter Clan's highest award, The Order of the Royal Huntsman, a wooden plaque has been erected in the Clan members room. Each persons name has been painted in gold along with the year of their receiving the Award. The plaque was the idea of our UK Clan Officer, Robert Hunter and William Hunter, a Council member of the UK Clan Association, undertook to get it made and erected. I shall endeavour to put a photo of it onto the web.

I would like to thank all of you who have once again manned tents at Highland Games and represented Clan Hunter. This year Raymond Morehead, Chief Elect of the Muirhead Clan, has handed over to the Lymans the Clan Hunter information. We are very grateful to Raymond for his assistance in raising awareness of Clan Hunter at the South West Pacific Games, and look forward to Clan Morehead joining us at the Gathering next year.

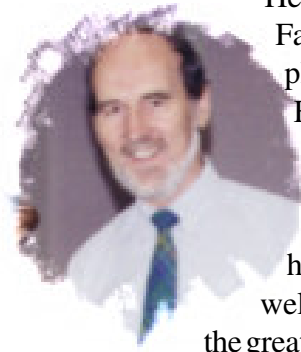
It has been a wonderful summer at Hunterston. The bluebells and daffodils were superb this year after the grass had been cut all round the memorial trees last autumn. The lawns are looking very good after being cut regularly. I have managed to get several trees, for wood, from those being cut from the estate, and they are now seasoning for use on the Castle for repairs in the years to come. One of my brothers, Nigel, has agreed to undertake to make a medieval style table for the Clan members room as the first project with the new wood. This table will be in place for the next Gathering.

At the annual Open Day on Sunday 7th September we had wonderful weather all day. We were very fortunate in having the Isle of Cumbrae Pipe Band to play for us. They did two excellent performances during the day and were led by their mascot, the grandson of one of the pipers. This year we had over 300 visitors who all enjoyed the piping and their visit to Hunterston Castle and the walled garden. The white climbing roses that I planted with Mary Ross, Castle Keeper, either side of the statue of William Hunter holding the Charter of 1374, have done very well indeed despite the hot summer.

Sonia Hunter of Hunterston, my mother, has very kindly donated two wood and leather Chairs which have been placed in the Great Hall. They are a very fitting addition to the furniture in Hunterston Castle.

The Gathering programme is now on the web, the menus for the meals will go up after Christmas.

Yours aye, *Pauline*



Hello everyone, Well here in Canada the Games are well and truly over and we are into Fall. Unfortunately we were not able to have our Chief, Madam Pauline as our guest this year as planned. However she has accepted our invitation to be with us for the 60th anniversary of the Fergus Highland Games in 2005, and she is determined that nothing will stand in her way. Have you been to visit the castle at Hunterston yet? If not, then August 2004 is your chance. Why not make plans now to attend the Clan Hunter International Gathering and swell the Canadian ranks. Details on how the plans are progressing can be found on the UK web site at <http://www.clan-hunter-uk.co.uk/> The Clan Gathering and annual meeting at Fergus was very well attended this year with 35 sitting down to dinner at the Countryside Family Restaurant. I had the great pleasure of standing in for Madam Pauline our Chief, and presenting Catherine Elder with the

"Order of the Royal Huntsman" for her dedication and hard work in the position of genealogist for Clan Hunter-Canada This was a most deserved award and a great surprise to Catherine. Congratulations once again Catherine for a job well done. The recipient of the "Order" receives a silver pin in the shape of a Hunting Horn along with a plaque suitable for mounting. In addition his or her name is added to a special board mounted in the Great Hall of Hunterston Castle. Well done also to Laurie Hunter from Ottawa who took the initiative and set up a Clan Hunter table at a Genealogy Convention in Lunenburg NS. This is the sort of thing we love to hear and you can see a photo of Laurie on a later page. We would love to have others representing Clan Hunter at their local Games to help get the word out and increase our membership. If this sounds like you, then please get in touch and we'll help you with the materials required. And In Memoriam, sadly we have to report the death of Evelyn Delina Inglis in June 2003. Evelyn joined the Clan in March 2002 with plans to visit Hunterston Castle with her nephew Ian Shouldice. Ian, who was kind enough to contact us, tells us he and his aunt had a wonderful time at Hunterston.

Tom

James Hunter's Dagger Pistols

One of the most celebrated of Scottish pistol makers in the days of hand-crafted fire-arms was James Hunter of Edinburgh. A.M. Carey, who spent years in research about the early gun makers of England, Ireland and Scotland, states that James Hunter worked as a quality pistol maker from 1780 to 1820.



The pair illustrated above are circa 1815 and are marked 'Hunter and Company', Edinburgh. These perfectly matched weapons are equipped with bayonets that fold back and lie flat atop

the barrels when not in use. A simple catch releases them and a powerful spring snaps the bayonet back into position to enable the owner to defend himself. This type of pistol was carried by those who had to travel through the countryside so they might protect themselves against the infamous highwaymen who were the scourge of the country in that period. The highwaymen themselves usually had dagger pistols.

Hand-crafted pistols of that period are very scarce today. This matching pair by James Hunter are in almost as perfect condition as when new. It is estimated he turned out only about a dozen pairs during his entire career, since only the wealthy could afford matching pairs of this quality.

Mr. Hunter indeed was a great artisan, as proved by his work. The stocks are carved from top quality walnut and the barrels are of bright yellow brass. Add to this the beauty of the sterling silver mounts and you have,

in perfect working order, an exceptional pair of pistols by the 19th century artist James Hunter.

This pair of pistols undoubtedly were prized by their owner during their working years. At some time, probably early in the 20th century, they were brought to America. They were prominently displayed, for many years, in one of the better known fire-arm collections in the United States.

During the 1970's this collection was broken up and individual pieces sold. The pair of 'Hunter pistols' were bought by a Canadian and now are in Ontario.

An even earlier pistol maker by the name of William Hunter operated a shop in Sterling, Scotland about 1750. Little is now known of this man. Whether James Hunter was his direct descendant, carrying on a family trade, cannot be ascertained.

**Clan Hunter
Annual Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2003**

Present: Tom & Christine Hunter, Don & Marian Hunter, Don & Mida Lecocq, Ian & Careen Lecocq, Jennifer Hunter, Beryl Hunter, Julie & Mark Nykamp, Lizz & Andrew Thibodeau, Lynn Ball, Dr. Nadene & Nadene B. Hunter, Mel & Cindy Hunter

The minutes from our last annual meeting, having been “lost” in “cyberspace,” were accepted as summarized by Tom at the opening of our meeting. We did have a hard copy of the financial report for 2002, which was accepted as presented at today’s meeting. Under “Old business,” Tom reported that Pauline was to



have been here this year but, given the SARS scare and Pauline’s respiratory health problems during the past year, it was agreed (Pauline and Tom having conferred by phone) that it would not be advisable for her to come at this time. It will have to wait for another time. Tom subsequently canceled arrangements at the Ramada Inn for the dinner and meeting, leaving in place the reserved block of rooms for any Hunters



who wanted to take advantage of their availability. He made arrangements for our meeting to be held here at the Fergus Community Centre and the dinner to be at the same restaurant as last year, keeping all events on the

Saturday as agreed at last year’s meeting. Don Hunter presented the treasurer’s report and moved its adoption; carried on a second by Mida Lecocq. Christine reported on the T-shirts, golf shirts and sweatshirts. They have been quite popular and she is going to get things in motion for embroidered Clan crest shirts as well. This will



require about \$200.00 in set-up fees and was agreed to after her report. She will use money that she has taken in on the current shirts, so this will not require use of treasury money at this point. Genealogy: Mel has been working on continuing Catherine Elder’s work on collection of family information. He hopes to be able to have a slide show, including genealogy information we have so far, pages that people might be able to fill in information and pictures from Hunterston for our next gathering at Fergus, at the Clan Tent!! A Substantial undertaking!!

Christine reported that we have gained three (3) new member since last year, not counting those who signed up today (another 3) for a total of Six (6).

Tom talked about the newsletter. He said that 20% of our members opted to receive the newsletter via email last year. We now have 30% online receivers, with



only one or two who have asked to return to traditional mailed letters. He reminded us that we always have the option to go back to getting the newsletter via “snailmail”. Our webpage is still up and running although changes have been few, and it is still the #1 website for Clan Hunter (IOHO——In Our Humble Opinion). Don asked if we could link with Clans Canada (the new organization replacing CASSOC) and Tom informed us that, we can contact him through the website if any of us don’t have/can’t remember his email address. It can be used for two-way communication. Our next AGM was the next topic. The Gathering at Hunterston is scheduled for the same week/weekend as the Festival here at Fergus. This makes a meeting at Fergus more than a little impractical. We talked about the possibilities: 1) Hold the AGM at Hunterston as the US group did last time

we gathered there
 2) Change the date and have our meeting here in Canada
 Neither option is perfect for All. The first would include only those who can go to Scotland and a quorum of ten would be required to hold the meeting. There was a straw poll taken and it seems that there would be at least ten planning to go to Hunterston. The second option would require that we have the necessary number who would be able to fit a second meeting and time to travel to a central place after the gathering. This is a lot to ask of any of us, as we are all busy people with other commitments. Andrew Thibodeau moved and Christine seconded that we hold the 2004 AGM in Scotland. This was carried and will be posted in the newsletter. Tom told us that the US group is arranging a tour for the 2004 Hunterston Gathering and asked if we might want to join them, or maybe do something like that ourselves. There are pros and cons to tours and arrangements can get complicated, transportation while in Scotland/at Hunterston may be restrictive, etc. We were asked though to consider Hunterston for 2004! Tom presented some information for our consideration. It seems that the UK has a Clan Council for



decision making between meetings. He is going to try to find out how it works. It may be better than our committee system, or may be not...he'll have more information for our next meeting for discussion. He also asked us to think of ways to address our membership outside of Ontario, actually any members who are not within

reasonable driving distance of Fergus. These members can't have the easy and personal contact that we do because distance makes it difficult and expensive. He suggested that it might be good to try to arrange for meetings in other regions, even if it means that only a few of our Ontario members could travel to some of those meetings. The last item on our agenda had to do with trying to reschedule a visit for Pauline. Mel suggested that the 60th anniversary of the Fergus Games will be in 2005 and it would be Nice to have Pauline with us for the occasion. An additional suggestion was that maybe Pauline would consider

a "cross country" trip, starting with the games in N.B., then continuing in Montreal and ending here in Fergus. Tom will ask Pauline if either of these plans might be possible. There was a suggestion that the Association consider some sort of "Honorarium" for Tom in appreciation for all that he does for the group. He reminded us that our constitution states that officers serve on a voluntary basis and do not receive remuneration. In parting Tom told us that he had one more item of business, a Surprise, that he would address at dinner. Dr. Nadene moved and Christine seconded that we adjourn to dinner. Passed. The meeting then closed.

PS: The surprise piece of business was the announcement that Catherine Elder was the recipient of the Order of the Huntsman, bestowed by Pauline through Tom, as proxy, for her exemplary service over many years as Clan Genealogist. He presented her with a silver Hunting Horn and a plaque after reading Pauline's letter of presentation aloud to all present! Respectfully submitted,



Nadene B. Hunter, Secretary

Newsletter by e-mail

Are you enjoying this edition of the Hunters' Halloo with all the photographs? Can you imagine how much more you might enjoy it in full colour? If you would like to sample what it might look like send me an e-mail and type "**sample newsletter please**" in the content line. I will then send you a sample newsletter via e-mail for you to enjoy without committing you to anything. Should you decide you really like the format you can then send me another e-mail and type "**sign me up**" in the content line. Don't forget to give me your regular address or membership number so that I can positively identify you. Remember that most of us are Hunters and so first names aren't always enough. Always remember that you can switch back to the regular newsletter at any time.

Children of the Clan



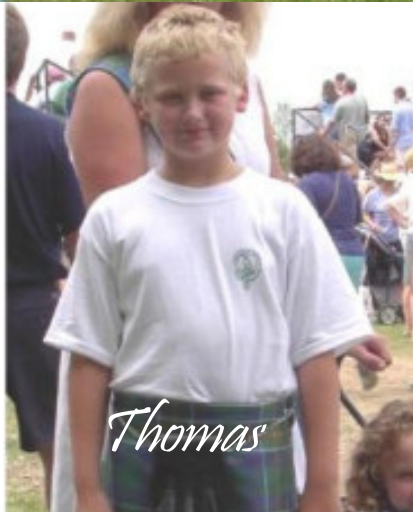
Colin



Shona



Adair



Thomas



Joshua



The Fergus Children's Balloon Band



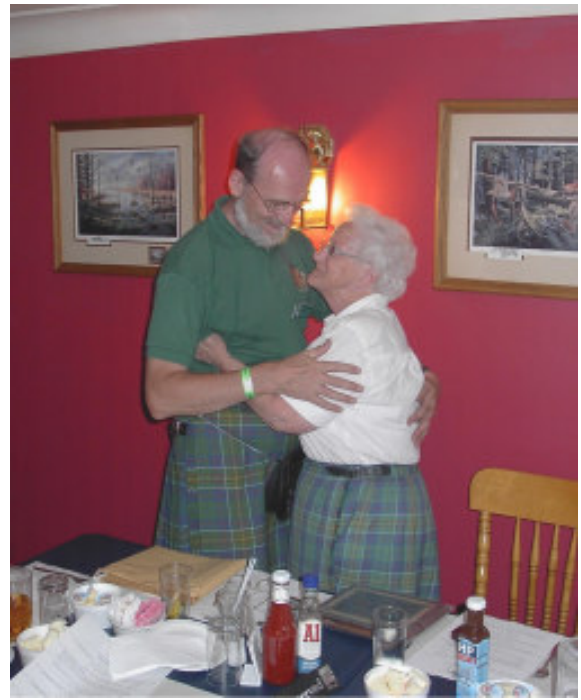
Eryka



Christina



*Above:
Tom presenting Catherine Elder with "The Order of the Royal Huntsman"*



*Above:
Tom, about to receive a hug from Catherine.*



*Above:
Some merry makers at the Clan Dinner, Fergus.*



*Above:
And some more fellow revellers*



*Above:
Some reactions to Catherine's surprise presentation.*

Changing your address?

Don't leave us out in the cold. Remember to tell us of any change of address, change of e-mail address or change of status (married) so that our records can be kept up to date.





Left: Laurie Hunter staffing a Hunter table at a Genealogy Convention in Lunenburg NS



Right: The Hunter Clan on Parade at Fergus

Right: New Members Elaeonor and George Lowe of Toronto



Above: Dr Sandy Hunter and wife Lillian of Hawkesbury



Left: Mel Hunter Clan Piper chats with Al Ball prior to the Clan Parade at Fergus.



Above: Christine Hunter and daughter Lizz Thibodeau at Maxville Highland Games



Above: Andrew Ross Thibodeau and wife Lizz Hunter Thibodeau take on double duty at the Ross tent, Fergus



Above: A complete look at the Hunter tent, Fergus.



Catherine Elder, showing off her "Order of the Royal Huntsman" award to Tom Hunter, Clan Officer.



Above: The Hunter Clan on Parade, Don Lecocq and young Thomas Ball carrying the Clan banner

Right: Historical Re-enactors, Jim and Lisa Gilbert dressed in the period costume of John McGregor and his wife Martha. John McGregor had a grist mill about a half mile from the present site of the Chatham



Highland Games site on McGregor's Creek. He became a very active and colorful political figure as well as operating his mill in the early 1800s.

Send your submissions for the Newsletter to
 Tom Hunter
 61 Downing Crescent
 London, Ontario
 N6C 3C7
 Tel (519) 681-4101
 e-mail thunter01@rogers.com
 WEB www.clanhuntercanada.com