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Member of Clan Hunter

hunters' halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

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Dear Clansfolk,

I am sitting at Hunterston writing to you and looking out over at the Castle which is glowing in the evening sunshine. This summer has not been the best in terms of weather but we have all made the best of it and I thank everyone for doing their bit to promote Clan Hunter in Canada despite the weather.

The new Clan Brochure is now finished. The new booklet is filled with colour pictures showing Hunterston Castle and all the rooms. This time I have included a section on the Walled Garden with many extra pictures. For those of you with older versions the history has been updated and expanded. I am sure that it will interest any Clan member. The new booklet is available to purchase at £5.00 which includes post and packing. If any one wishes to obtain one please contact me at my e-mail address hunterclch@aol.com after the end of August.



The UK Clan Association attended two Games, one in the north of Scotland, in Inverness and then at the other end of Scotland in the south in Dumfriesshire.

As you are all aware there is to be an International Gathering in Edinburgh next year. The venue for the Clan Dinner is the Royal Scots Club and it will be held on the evening of the 23rd July. We have been very fortunate to get such an excellent venue and I hope that some of you will be attending. I have offered the Muirhead Clan to join us as through our Link of Friendship which Raymond Moorhead, Chief Elect, has kindly accepted on their behalf.

There will be a very large parade for the Clans and I am looking forward to you participating in this unique event. We are all very excited by the Gathering as nothing like it has ever been held in Scotland for many years. There will be many interesting events including the World Championships of the Heavy Athletics, Cabers tossing and putts being flung far and wide, and my favourite the Pipe Bands.

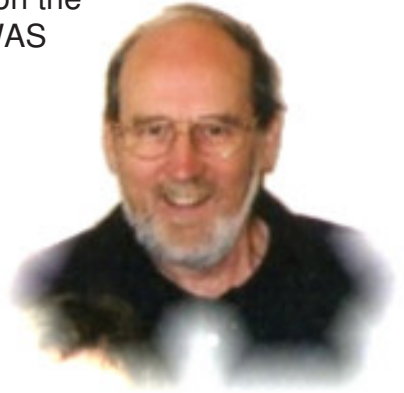
I have already heard from some of you in Canada and the US who are coming and expect that many of you in the UK will want to come and join the celebrations with me.

I hope that everyone has had a good summer, despite the weather, and my congratulations and thanks to everyone who had attended Highland Games and Scottish events celebrating our heritage and history.

Yours aye,
Madam Pauline
Praefectus Venatorus Regis



Hello Everyone, I hope you had an excellent summer. We had a lot of fun on the Highland Games trail but as you will read elsewhere in this newsletter IT WAS WET. But we met a lot of nice people and took a lot of photos. This is the edition of the newsletter where we try to include as many photos of our membership as we can.... hopefully you might find yourself in there somewhere. We are now gearing up towards **"The Gathering 2009"** next July. I would really appreciate if, those of you who know you are going to the gathering, would contact me so that we have some numbers to pass on to Madam Pauline so that she might better prepare for the Banquet on the Thursday evening before the Games. I'm sure that it will be a very special evening. For those of you who are still not sure what "The Gathering 2009" is all about, please check our last 3 newsletters or if you have internet access you can check out their web site at www.clangathering.org/ It promises to be an exciting and fun event. We continually try to bring you articles of interest with a Scottish flavour and our past couple of issues have included **"Stories from Scotland"** and Lizz Thibodeau has moved her **"Connections Corner"** into the realms of Ireland, promising us tips on how to deal with our Irish connections in future editions. But I want to ask you "What do you think of the newsletter?" Do you have any thoughts you would like to share with us. Lizz and I both enjoy receiving e-mails and such and would really appreciate hearing from you.



Tom

With Deepest Sympathy

Some of you may remember that, as reported in our last newsletter, Muriel Mann, mother of Toronto Clan member Marion Hunter, celebrated her 100th birthday on April 6, 2008. We are saddened to report that Muriel passed away earlier this month. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Marion and Don and all the family.



Fall in the walled garden at Hunterston
photo by Bill Hunter UK

Membership News on Membership Dues

You will be receiving your membership card with this newsletter. Although some of you paid your dues way back in June and July, traditionally we have always waited to send the cards out until the October newsletter - it saves on postage! I hope this is acceptable to you. If you do not receive your card with this newsletter, and have paid your dues, please, please, please contact me. The dues are paid to our treasurer Don Hunter, who then lets me know that they are paid. The system is not flawless (and I am even more flawed than the system) – so mistakes do happen.

Thank you to those who have paid their yearly dues – to those who have not, please let us have your payment as soon as possible. We do not want to stop sending the newsletter to anyone – but our constitution states that after two years of non-payment, correspondence will be stopped.

Just one other little note – when you contact us with news, payments, reports etc, please use your membership number if at all possible. Do you know how many people in our database have the same name???? It certainly cuts down on errors and frustrations at this end of the spectrum.

Thank you all for listening. Hope to see you at your local Highland Games whenever we are in your area – or when you can make the trip to our area.

Christine Hunter - Membership Secretary

🎵 Connections Corner



Lizz Thibodeau

lizzt@rogers.com

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

As I've mentioned before, the mere mention of Ireland can strike fear into the very bones of anyone doing genealogy research. With that in mind, I've decided to tackle Irish research and see what I can find out about the cause of this fear and how to get around it. I know that there are several Clan Hunter members who have some research to do in Ireland so maybe something I uncover can help.

First: the Cause of this Ominous Sense of Dread. It's very simple, really (sense the sarcasm!). On December 6th, 1921, the British Parliament, the House of Commons of Southern Ireland, and the Dáil Éireann (Assembly of Ireland) signed the Anglo-Irish Treaty which concluded the Irish War of Independence and established the Irish Free State. The Dáil Éireann was split on their decision to sign. On April 14th, 1922, Rory O'Connor led a group of about 200 IRA members who were against the signing (anti-treaty) to occupy the Four Courts building in Dublin. They hoped to reunite the anti-treaty IRA with the pro-treaty IRA in a common battle against the British. However, the Irish Free State Provisional Government did not want to have to ask the British Government to be involved and wanted to prove that they could govern their own dominion. They began their attack on the occupied Four Courts on June 28th, 1922. The Irish Public Records Office was located in the western block of the Four Courts and O'Connor's group had been storing their ammunitions there. At the end of a week of fighting, as the anti-treaty troops were surrendering, there was a huge explosion, obliterating the Irish Public Records Office. Whether the building had been booby-trapped to explode after the Anti-Treaty IRA members had surrendered or whether the fighting had set off the ammunition store is a matter of some debate. Either way, the result is the same: hundreds of years of records irretrievably lost. (See, I told you it was simple!)

What exactly was lost? What do we do when we run into missing information in our research? Those are topics for future articles that I'll tackle over the next few months.



Congratulations

A hearty congratulations to Don & Marion Hunter of Toronto, pictured here celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary earlier this summer. Don and Marion are long time members of the Clan Hunter association where Don has served as treasurer for over 20 years. What a wonderful achievement by a lovely couple.

(photo supplied by their son Gordon Hunter)

Fergus Highland Games

(Where is Noah when you need him?)



Fergus Highland Games

Annual General Meeting



Theresa, Daryl, Eryka & Eddie Jones (Brampton)



Kathlene Hunter (Port Rowan)

Mida LeCocq (Waterloo)

Beryl Hunter (Toronto)



Bill & Joan Jones (Brampton)



Don & Marion Hunter (Toronto)

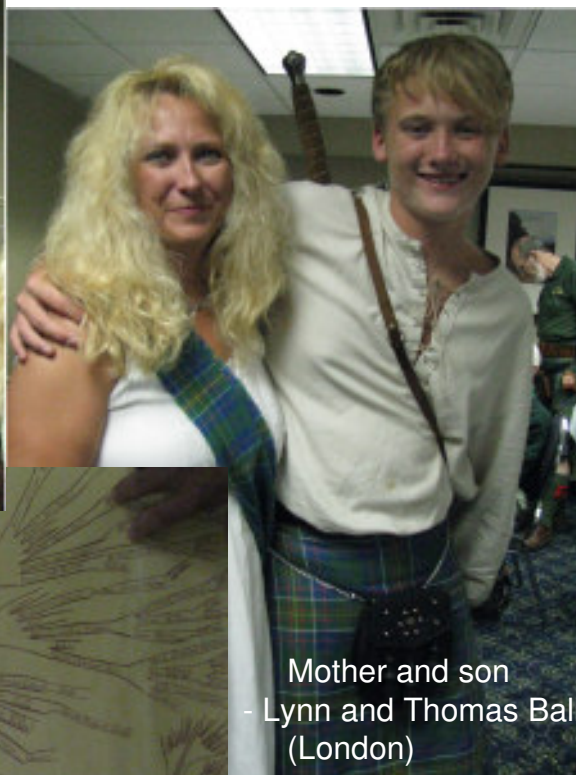


Doug & Linda Hunter (Michigan)



Tom & Joyce Hunter with Margaret Reid (Hagersville)

Tom Hunter shares his unusual family tree with the group



Mother and son
- Lynn and Thomas Ball
(London)



Mother and daughter -
Nadine jr. and Doctor
Nadine Hunter
(New York)



Highland Games – who woulda thunk it?

What a summer. Summer and Highland Games just didn't seem able to get together this year. Tom and I were at seven highland games this year – and we were



Maxville before the rain

soaked, or completely washed out on four of these games. Now we are not quitters – and so we didn't leave any of these games until they were over – or we couldn't take any more rain – whichever came first. July saw us at **Georgetown Highland Games** – lovely site, lovely weather, and a lovely hotel. The summer seemed to be starting off well. Our 13 year old grandson, Tom, was with us at these games – and had a great time – and was a great help. Next weekend we traveled to **Chatham** – and it looked a little dark on the trip down. But up went the tent and we, again with our grandson, Tom, set to talking to people and



Orillia - beautiful spot

generally 'taking Scotland to the people'. Then it got darker, and darker, and darker. We still didn't get the message – it never rains at Chatham Games! Too late – the sky just opened and before you could say 'cover up' we were dripping. Wet kilts do not smell good! But it only lasted a half hour or so – then out came the sun and dried everything up again. We had a nice visit with Dave and Catherine Elder at these games. **Orillia Highland Games** were next – and the sun shone on us, and we had a lovely day talking to people and visiting with other clan associations. Tom (our grandson) was not able to be with us on this trip - and we missed his help and youthful exuberance (and tirelessness!). We went back to **Kincardine Games**



Laurie & Sheila Hunter (Ottawa)

this year after missing them for quite a few years. The day was dry – but a little cool with a breeze off the lake. Actually if your clan tent was under the trees (as ours was) it was quite cool – if it was out in the sun – it was very hot. So we kept stepping out into the sun, and the McDougall's kept visiting



Kincardine in the shade

us in our shaded location. It all worked out well. To finish off the summer we traveled to **Maxville** and **Montreal** at the beginning of August, then to **Fergus** the



Fergus - At least someone was having a good time

following weekend. Four days of Games in the two weekends – washed out all four days. They were Games to write home about. They were Games to tell your grandchildren about – literally. They were almost the Games to end all Games. Joking apart, the organizers of all three Games must be shaking their



Maxville during the rain



heads in disbelief. I have never seen so much rain.

Maxville we had a lovely morning – met lots of old friends – met lots of new prospective members. Then in the afternoon it started to rain. Our daughter and her two wee ones were with us. Torry is three years old and Isla was four weeks old when we were at Maxville. It got so bad there that my daughter, Lizz, and I were



looking around for somewhere to put the girls that would keep them safe. We were so sure that we were in the middle of a tornado. It did finally pass – but we left a bit earlier than usual. And off we went to Montreal! It rained off and on all day there, until finally we decided to pack up again a little early – and actually drove the min-van **into** the clan tent to load it up.

Next week we were off to Fergus – I told you we were not quitters!!!! Nor did I say that we were the smartest apples in the barrel! But we love the games. We love

meeting members, non-members, and in fact anyone with a love of Scotland – and all things Scottish. Fergus was very wet! What more can I say, we were standing in the clan tent watching a river run **through** the tent – and getting deeper by the minute. The annual general meeting at the Holiday Inn that night was the



highlight of the weekend. A lovely meal with great company. Nothing daunted, after the Sunday 'Kirkin' of the Tartan' service at St Andrew's Church in Fergus, we headed back to the Games. To muddy fields, wet paths and eventually more rain! 200 cars were still stuck in the mud from the Saturday Games. Early afternoon, we finally called it quits and packed up the Hunter Clan "stuff" and headed back to our hotel.

I can't say the Games were a total wash-out for us this year because we love to go to them, we love to see all of you who manage to come out to meet us,



and we love to take the name of the Hunter Clan to the people. But they were definitely wet this year – like we have never been wet before – ever!

One last little story.

A few weeks after the Games were over, Tom and I were traveling in our van with our granddaughter Torry (she's the three year old). I looked at the sky and mentioned to her that it looked like it was going to rain. Without a pause Torry said "Is it a Highland Games today?" Yes she had noticed the difference this year – all three Games that she attended



were the 'washed-out' ones. Ah well, here's to next year. Your very wet membership secretary

Christine Hunter

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