



Crest Badge of a
Member of Clan Hunter

hunters' halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

Oct 2009 Vol 6,1

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Dear Clansfolk,

2009 is proving to be a very successful year for the Hunter Clan, but also a sad one as we have lost several prominent Clan members.

Sadly this year we have lost Charles Hunter, first President of the US Clan Association. Without his enthusiasm and energy there would have been no Hunter Clan Association in the USA. Secondly we have lost Harry Hunter who was a Master Craftsman and carved the Clan Chiefs Stick that I am proud to use and will be passed on to future Clan Chiefs.

Our most recent loss is of Gordon Hunter a founder Clan member and Council Officer of the Hunter Clan Association in the UK. Gordon was also a very good friend to my late father, Neil Hunter of Hunterston, 29th Laird.

These three members of our Clan represent the dedication and enthusiasm that Hunters have put in to our Clan and we thank them and their families for their many years of support

All the above members have family that are members or are active within the Clan Associations and I am very pleased that they have continued to be involved and we send all our good wishes to them.

It is so good to have continuing generations of families involved and I hope they will continue to participate in Clan events.

I was very fortunate this year and was invited to the Garden Party held by Her Majesty the Queen, Queen Elizabeth in June at Holyrood house Palace. I was even able to stand near to her as she walked round and was presented to someone next to me. For this event I had a new outfit made, a matching bonnet and jacket, which I also wore to the Gathering in July.

As many of you will know, this year is Homecoming Scotland year. The main event for the Clans of Scotland was a huge Gathering in Edinburgh at the end of July. I booked our place well in advance and there was a fantastic turnout of Hunters to celebrate this unique event. We also invited the Muirhead Clan, as part of our Link of Friendship, to join us for all the celebrations. I had the good fortune to shake hands with his Royal Highness Prince Charles as part of his meeting all the Clan Chiefs who were present.

I have never in my life seen such a superb spectacle as the March of the Clans up the Royal Mile. It was one of the proudest moments as



Clan Chief to be able to lead our many Clansmen and Clanswomen on that March. I thank all of you who came for your support and hope you all felt the importance of the event as I did. I would specially like to thank our Flag and banner bearers. Tam Hunter USA took the lead with our Hunter banner and 16 year old Kieran, one of our most recent members, was charged with carrying the Saltire. Robert Hunter, my official -Standard Bearer carried the Hunter standard with Tom Hunter carrying the new Canadian banner. I am proud to tell you that everyone marched in an orderly fashion and we held our ranks despite the huge crowds that lined the Royal Mile. We estimated that around 20,000 took part in the parade and there were at least the same again lining the length of the Royal Mile.

The Clan tent was manned by Bill Hunter and Ellen Hunter UK Clan members and we had visitors from all corners of the world, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the USA and many other countries.

Our Clan tent was superbly dressed with a new Canadian Banner from the Canadian Clan association, presented to me by Tom Hunter, Clan Officer of the Canadian Clan Association and our new Clan standard, donated by Patsy Lawrence (USA). We were privileged to have on loan the three panels of all the Hunter Coats of Arms, created by David Hunter of Montlaw, who sadly died suddenly last year. David was an expert in heraldry and we are grateful to Becky and Ron of Caberdancer for lending them for the Gathering.

At the occasion of our Clan Dinner, held at the Royal Scots Club, I was honoured by the Muirhead Clan and presented with a lifetime membership of the Muirhead Clan and their highest award "The Order of the Saltire" by Raymond Muirhead, Chief Elect and Clan President of the Muirhead Clan in recognition of our Link of Friendship.

I had the great pleasure in presenting Bill Hunter with the "Order of the Royal Huntsman". Bill has given freely of his time and skills for many years and continues to do so. He supports the Clan by taking all the Clan visitors round the Castle. He is a Council member of the UK Clan Association and has helped in many ways with the care of Hunterston Castle. The Clan owes him grateful thanks and gratitude for his dedication and time. The Honour I bestowed upon him is very well deserved.

Yours Aye Madam Pauline



Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston presenting Bill Hunter of the UK with "The Order of the Royal Huntsman"

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Connections Corner



Lizz Thibodeau

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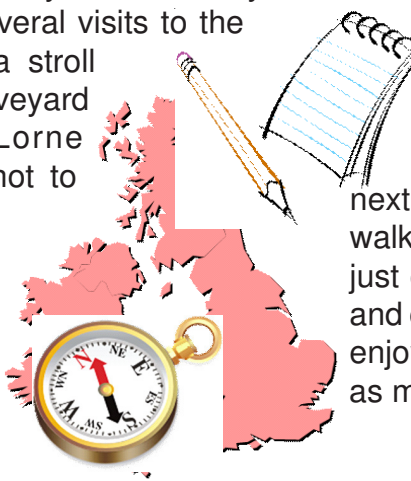
I haven't had many requests for genealogy help from Hunters this year, but that doesn't mean I haven't had things to do. One such request came in a very strange manner in late June this year. One of our neighbours is a tree-care specialist and he was over at our house looking after one of our damaged trees. Andrew asked him if he had any plans for the summer and he responded that he was taking the trip of a life-time: going to Scotland for a thing called the Gathering. Andrew's jaw dropped as he informed him that we were also attending. Our tree guy continued on to say that the only thing that could make the trip better is if he could find out exactly where his

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

family roots are from. His grandfather had always said they were from Argyllshire but he didn't know exactly where. So, Andrew offered my services. Curt sent me all the information he could and I began the search. The request arrived on June 21st and I was leaving for Scotland on July 9th so time was definitely of the essence. To make a long story short, after many hours on my computer, several visits to the library, and a stroll through a graveyard in West Lorne (which was not to be found at the address listed on its website!), I was able to trace their family back to the town of Saddle in Argyll. They had emigrated to Canada sometime between 1851 and 1881 and I was able to trace the family back

to the turn of the 19th century in Scotland. I haven't had a long chat with him since getting back but he did call to say that they changed some of their plans around so that they could spend a day in Saddle and really appreciated being able to walk the streets of the town where their great great grandparents lived over 200 years ago. How cool!

On a related note, being the daughter of a genealogist can give children a unique view of the world (as well I should know since I am one myself). Driving to church Sunday morning, we passed a cemetery and my daughter Torry said to me, "Look mummy, the next time you want to go for a walk in a cemetery, we could just go to this one. It's nice and close." I guess she didn't enjoy the drive to West Lorne as much as I did.



Congratulations

Congratulation to Bob and Aldene Hunter on their 55th wedding anniversary. Bob and Aldene are staunch supporters of Clan Hunter Canada. Such strong supporters, in fact, that when their special day clashed with our meeting, they brought their celebrations, including their family, to the AGM/dinner and celebrated with us all.

We wish them both the very best of Health and Happiness.

Donald Lecocq

DONALD STANLEY LECOCQ
1937 – 2009

It is with deep sadness that we report that Don died peacefully early Sunday morning, September 27, 2009 at the Trinity Village Care Centre in Kitchener where he had been a resident for the past two years after an almost 10 year struggle with Frontal-Temporal Lobe Degeneration (a rare form of Dementia). Husband for 47 years of Mida Betty (Hunter). He was born in Chatham, Ontario. He received an Honours Bachelor of Engineering Science Degree from the University of Western Ontario and a Master's degree from



Stanford University. Upon graduation from Stanford he was employed as a Systems Design Engineer specializing in the design of Air Traffic Control Radar, with Raytheon Canada Limited working there until illness caused him to retire after 37 years. In addition to his wife, he is survived by three children, Ian (Coreen) of Toronto, Kathryn of Kitchener and Stephanie (Mark) of Stoney Creek, Ontario. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Rebecca, Dorian, Devin, Joshua, Alexander and Faith. He was predeceased by his parents, Stanley and Lois Lecocq and his sister, Marlene. Don was an avid Scottish Country Dancer and a walker.

Membership News

Christine Hunter - Membership Secretary

Recently I was bemoaning the fact that we had not had any new members in almost a year – and lo and behold two new memberships arrived in my mailbox.

Welcome to William Arthur Smith who resides in Indiana, USA - and welcome to Stephanie Jane Foster who resides in Peterborough, here in Ontario.

William, whose mother's maiden name was Hunter, comes to us from the USA, and we are pleased to welcome him. As I write this note William is in Scotland and has been to visit Hunterston Castle. Check out the photographs sent to us by our friend Bill Hunter of the UK Association who was on hand to meet William.

Stephanie's maiden name is Hunter, and because she lives in Peterborough, we are hoping that she will be able to join us at Fergus, or one of the other Highland Games that we visit, and so become an active part of our Association.

In other news – this is the time that we send out reminders of dues unpaid. If you receive a reminder, please consider sending us a cheque to keep your membership active. Remember that it is only by keeping your membership current that you will continue to receive the newsletters and any other correspondence. Membership cards are enclosed (or a few have already been sent) for those whose dues are already paid – and we thank you for your payment.



New member, William Smith USA being given "The Grand Hunterston Tour" by Angus and Bill Hunter (not shown)

Fergus 2009



Even the kids are having a go. 4yr old Torry tries her hand at tossing the caber

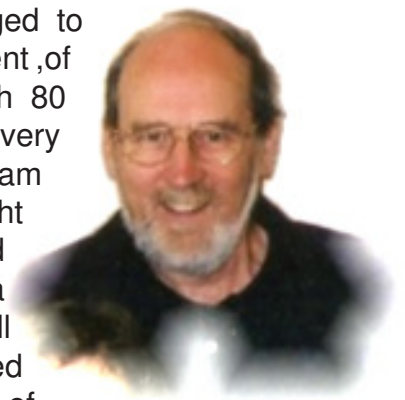


Our second Clan Banner on parade at Fergus



Young Justin Hunter Colvin of Three Hills AB. with mother Kirsten. taking time off from the Highland Dancing competition to check out the Hunter tent

Well, here I am, fighting to find a little space in the newsletter to share my few thoughts with you. Even with 8 pages it sometimes become a difficult editing job to fit as much in as I can. This year of course the highlight was "The Gathering" I was privileged to accompany Madam Pauline to a special conference in the Scottish Parliament, of Clan Chiefs and their representatives. 100 clans were represented with 80 chiefs. Clan Chiefs involvement in their various Associations was not always very good and in some cases non-existent. We are privileged to have Madam Pauline and benefit greatly by her involvement in the Association. The highlight of the Gathering for many of us was of course the parade from Holyrood Palace up the high street to Edinburgh Castle high on the rock. It is about a mile and a quarter and much to my surprise the street was lined 4-6 deep all the way up by cheering enthusiastic supporters. An estimated 20,000 marched and about the same cheered us on. What a thrill! We have an abundance of photos on our web page which tell you more than I can here and I am about to add even more from an excellent collection sent to me by Madam Pauline.

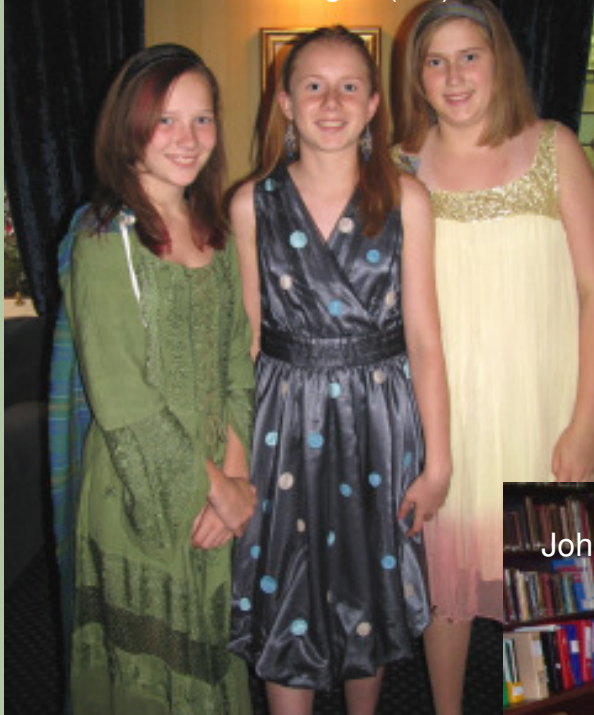


I would be remiss indeed if I didn't use the rest of the space available to announce and **congratulate Josephine A. Spates, Danvers, MA , USA on reaching a marvelous 100 years young on 21st July this year.** I had hoped to have a photo to share but we are still working on that. Perhaps for the next epistle.

Tom

The Gathering 2009 - Edinburgh The Banquet

Crissy (Can) celebrates with cousins
Alex and Megan (UK)



The Banquet
The Royal Scot Club



Time to meet with old friends
John(Can), Christina(UK) Lianne(Can) and Allen(UK)
Hunters All.



Sisters, aunts, cousins, mothers and grandmas.
What a lovely assembly of UK and Can. family



Tom and Joyce Hunter(Can) enjoying some
time with Ken and Maria Hunter(Can)



The Gathering 2009 - Edinburgh At the Park



And a smart bunch they were



The Muirheads - "Friends of Clan Hunter"
share the tent and show of their banner



Gathering for the big parade.

The clan tents with Holyrood Palace in the
background



Christine and Tom Hunter march with
Torry, Isla and Lizz Thibodeau

Hi there everybody. "I marched the whole
way and my sister had to be carried."

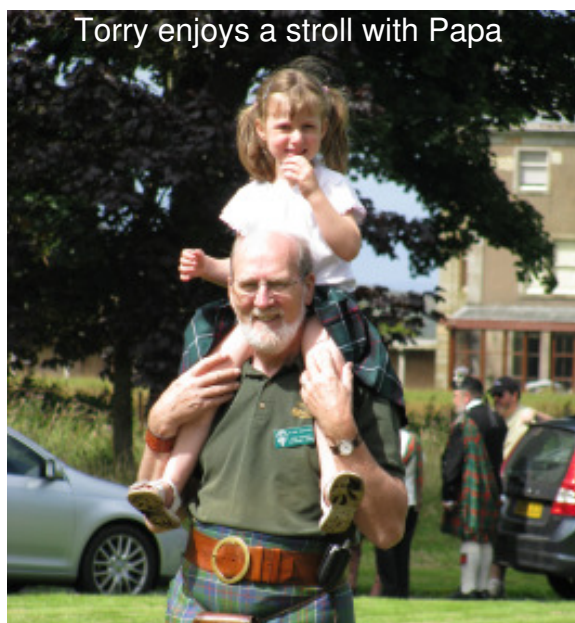
The Gathering 2009 - Hunterston



The Canadians



The whole Family



Torry enjoys a stroll with Papa



Lianne and John Hunter (B.C.) with
Madam Pauline



Tom Presenting the Canadian Banner to
Madam Pauline



Photo opportunity in the walled garden for
Lianne Tom and John.

Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Notice of Dues for July 1st 2009 to June 30th 2010

This is a gentle reminder that a new season is upon us and now is the time to renew your membership in the association.

If you have already renewed your membership, we thank you sincerely and please kindly ignore this reminder.

If not perhaps you would like to fill in this note, add a cheque for \$30 and pop it in the envelope provided.

Name: _____ Membership No. CHAC _____ \$ _____

Address: _____

Cheques should be made payable to Clan Hunter and mailed to the Clan Hunter Association treasurer at:

Donald R Hunter

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