Clan Hunter Association, Canada

Winter 2025-26

Hunters' Halloo

From the Editors

I feel like I should just copy and paste my opening note from the summer newsletter. I am once again late with putting this all together. I have once again just moved house—although this time into my own little bungalow where I plan to stay for many, many years, and I'm once again swamped with the exam period at school. This time, I did actually put my computer together a couple of weeks ago, but I still haven't found my mouse! I assume it's in one of the boxes that has yet to be unpacked, but for now I have stolen Islay's. I'm also just getting over two of the worst weeks of flu that I've had in a very long time. I had heard that it was going to be a rough flu season, but I can now personally confirm it!

We hope you have all had a very peaceful and relaxing holiday season!

Lynn & Lizz

Image in honour of anyone who has decided to learn the bagpipes as their New Year's Resolution.

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From the Clan Officer, Dale Hill

As I look back on the past year, I feel incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together as Clan Hunter Canada. It has been a year filled with connection, dedication, and moments that reminded me why our community is so special.

A Year of Shared Success

One of the greatest joys of this role is seeing how our members show up for one another and for the clan. Our festival tent hosts, in particular, deserve heartfelt thanks. Their enthusiasm, early morning setups, and warm welcomes have helped countless people discover or reconnect with their Hunter heritage. Every conversation they've had, every curious visitor they've greeted, has strengthened our shared identity.

I also want to extend my deepest gratitude to our core team - Tom and Christine, Lizz, Lynn, and Tom B. Their time, energy, and commitment behind the scenes keep everything running smoothly. Whether it's planning, communicating, organizing, or simply being there when needed, they are the backbone of our success.

Reflections on Our AGM

This year's AGM was a meaningful one. I'm grateful to everyone who prepared reports, shared updates, or contributed to the discussions. Your voices guide our direction, and your willingness to participate shows how deeply you care about the future of Clan Hunter Canada.

After the meeting, several of us gathered in person to enjoy a delicious meal together. Sitting around the table, sharing stories and laughter, I was reminded once again of the connections that sustain us. These moments — simple, warm, and genuine — are what make our clan feel like family. Special thanks to Kathryn and Mida Betty for hosting us!

Looking Ahead to Hunterston 2026

One of the most exciting things on the horizon is the International Gathering at Hunterston Castle in July 2026. I know many of us are already dreaming about walking the grounds of our ancestral home, meeting Hunters from around the world, and celebrating our shared heritage in a truly unforgettable setting.

Adding to the excitement, Madam Pauline has been sharing a series of wonderful announcements on social media. Each update brings something new to look forward to — enhancements to the event, special plans, and thoughtful touches that will make the Gathering even more memorable. Her leadership and vision continue to build a sense of anticipation across the global Hunter community.

From the Clan Officer Cont'

With Gratitude and Optimism

As we head into a new year, I want to thank each of you for your involvement, your enthusiasm, and your support. Whether you attended an event, volunteered your time, shared your ideas, or simply stayed connected, you helped make 2025 a year to remember.

I'm honoured to serve as your Clan Officer for Canada, and I'm excited for everything we'll continue to build together.

Dale
clanhunter.ca@gmail.com

Members who gathered for fellowship and a delicious meal following the AGM.

The delicious meal spread out to enjoy!

Membership Report—Winter 2025

We have had 4 new members since our last report.

- Barry Hunter – Who resides in Falmouth, Nova Scotia
- Hunter Taylor – From Shawnigan Lake, British Columbia
- Jeremie Hunter-Nagy – From St Colomban – in Quebec
- And – Aaron Hunter – from St. Thomas in Ontario

SO – All from different Provinces

Welcome to the Clan Hunter association of Canada, Barry, Hunter, Jeremie and Aaron

We have now welcomed a total of 9 new members this year.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, and an enjoyable New Year.

As we head into (hopefully) better weather – watch the Newsletters for a List of Highland Games that the Clan will be having a presence at. It is always nice for our Clan Officer, Dale Hill, to meet members and get to know us all on a new and exciting level. We also have some volunteers who look after a table in their area – allowing us to have a presence at more Highland Games than one person can easily manage. Have a chat – get to know other clan members. We are, after all, a family.

Yours aye,

Christine Hunter

Membership Secretary

Clan Gathering—July 24-26, 2026

Join us for an unforgettable journey into history at the Clan Hunter International Gathering 2026. Whether you're reconnecting with fellow Hunters or discovering the rich legacy of our clan for the first time, this special event promises a truly memorable experience.
Our knowledgeable guides – dressed in authentic medieval attire – will bring the story of Hunterston Castle to life. As you explore its ancient halls, you'll hear tales of historic events and meet the remarkable Lairds who shaped our heritage through the centuries.
The weekend will be filled with exciting activities for all ages. Test your strength with the Haggis Hurl, design your own Viking-inspired helmet, or take aim with the Ancient Society of Kilwinning Archers as they help you hit the bullseye.

On Saturday evening, our **Clan Dinner** will be held in the West Kilbride Village Hall – an evening of fine food, lively music, and traditional Scottish dancing. Be sure to bring your dancing shoes!
See the booking page for a full menu for the gathering.
clanhunterscotland.com/clan-international-gathering

If you are planning to attend the Gathering, please let Clan Officer Dale know so that we can keep track of the Canadian contingent—clanhunter.ca@gmail.com

Paying your Annual Subscription

Do you find paying your Annual Subscription online, confusing?

Maybe we can help. There are **two** ways that you can submit your Annual Subscription online:

Direct deposit from your bank

Proceed to….. http://www.clanhuntercanada.com/membership.html

Select: "**Register online Canada only"**

you will be presented with a Membership form which you can….

Fill in and **submit** via computer. And Then….

You may use the **direct deposit** option from your bank account using this link: **ClanHunterPayments@gmail.com**

(When using this option, we ask that you include text within your bank transfer to include your membership number **e.g. CHAC*** ** or if appropriate the note **"New Membership"**)

Paypal

To create a PayPal account, access this web address at www.paypal.com

PayPal will ask you for your email address and to create a password and how you wish to pay for any transaction you initiate. This can be a credit card and/or a bank account number. During a transaction PayPal will attempt to use your initial payment choice and should that be unsuccessful it will try the second choice. I personally use a special bank account with only a minimum of funds to cover small to medium purchases.

To register online using your new **PayPal account.**

Proceed to….. http://www.clanhuntercanada.com/membership.html

Select: "**Register online Canada only"**

you will be presented with a Membership renewal form which you can….

Fill in and **submit** via computer. (please remember to include your **CHAC number)**

And Then….

You must select the pay by PayPal option to complete the transaction

Note

PayPal will automatically ask you to log in (email address and password previously created and should everything match, it will send your pre-determined fee to the merchant website (Clan Hunter Canada) and you are done.
(You will find other opportunities to use PayPal to purchase an item and the procedure is the same. Just select the PayPal button on the merchant's website and proceed as before.)

Annual Subscription by Regular Mail:

If you wish to pay your subscription by cheque please supply:

Identification: including your name, address, appropriate subscription year

e.g 2024-2025 and membership number **e.g. CHAC*** ** and then send with a cheque for $30 made out to **Clan Hunter**

To:

Clan Hunter Treasurer,

Tom Ball, 69 Parliament Cres, London, ON N6C 2X8

New Members may download a membership application form from the website **http:// www.clanhuntercanada.com/membership.html** or pick one up at any Highland Games in which Clan Hunter is participating.

From Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston

Dear Clansfolk,

What a tremendous year you have had with new members and increased presence at Games. Thank you all so much.

I am delighted to see that we have such visibility with our representation at so many different games throughout Canada.

It is wonderful to see so many of you joining in the conversations on our Clan Hunter Facebook page. With advice from Martin Beer, it was decided to make the group page private so that everyone could have safe and private chats with each other. As part of this change, we are looking for Moderators to contribute to our Group page. To ensure we receive contributions from all our Clan Associations, I am inviting our Canadian Hunters to continue to share interesting stories and news and become a Moderator. Martin is kindly guiding us and has created a template for posting. Please get in touch with your Clan Officer, Dale, if you are willing to help out. I am very keen to have input from ALL our Clan Associations.

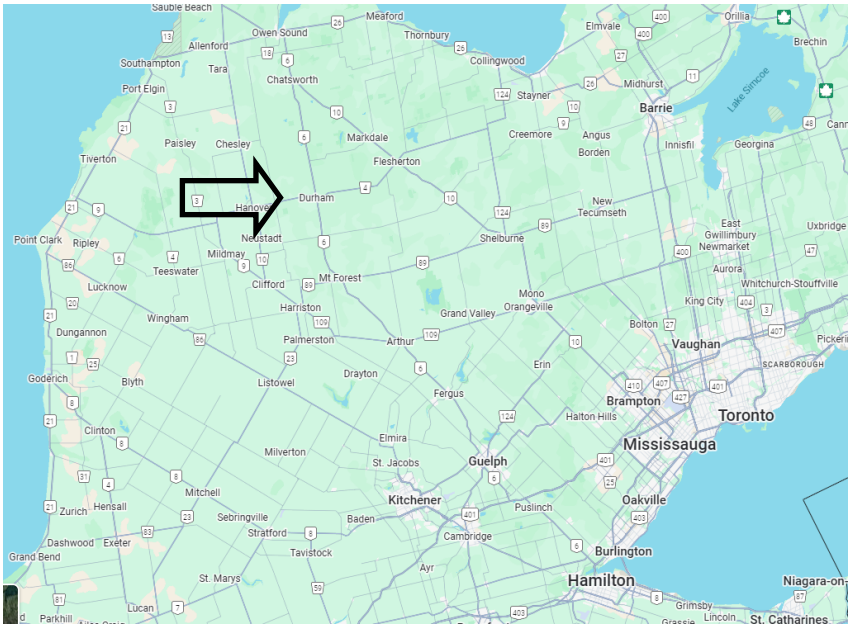
Next year is to be a very special Gathering Year. Very recently, we discovered an ancient Bearing Sword in Hunterston Castle and as far as we know, it is the ONLY Bearing Sword held by a Clan in Scotland, the other three known swords are in museums. We are holding a special presentation of the sword at the Gathering.

Yours aye,
Madam Pauline

From the Clansfolk — The Founding of Durham, Ontario by Archibald Hunter - shared by John Fearnall

Archibald Hunter III came to Canada from Kilbarchan, Scotland via New York City, up the Hudson River and Erie Canal to Lake Ontario. From there, he and three others crossed the lake to Oakville and walked to Guelph where they met surveyors of Upper Canada. At this point they then came up Colonization Road, now Garafraxa Road to the banks of the Saugeen River where they were told there was land on the top of the hill. They arrived on the evening of May 1st 1842. The next morning they forded the river where the conservation dam now stands as the river was a little shallower, and a little less swift. It took time to ascend the hill where a deserted wigwam afforded them some shelter. In 1935 a cairn was installed here. After erecting homes to the East and West of Garafraxa Road on the top of the hill they returned to New York to bring their large families to Canada. At this time Archibald built the British Hotel as a waystation in 1843. He also cleared land. It was the main intersection in the community which became known as Bentinck. An Irish settler, John Edge, came and built sawmills in the late 1880s. Durham has been known as one of the first and only self-sustaining communities including a sawmill (Welbecks), cement producer (National Portland Cement) for a decade, a furniture factory (still up and going well), a stock exchange, an animal hospital, two grocery stores and lots more!

Of note, the original home burned down in the mid 1960s with one of the three remaining Hunter sisters in the kitchen (John's Grandmother's sister). If you have the opportunity to meet and chat with John at a festival or meeting, be sure to ask him more about his family's connection to the founding of Durham, Ontario.



Dr. Nadine Hunter Scottish Youth Heritage Fund

Revised 2023

Purpose

The purpose of the Dr. Nadine Hunter Youth Heritage Fund is to assist young people in pursuing activities that support their Scottish heritage. Activities may include, but are not limited to, dance or music lessons or competitions, travel expenses to activity, entrance fees for activity, or supporting the purchase of appropriate attire for performances or competitions.

Administration

The fund is administered by the Youth Heritage Fund Committee of Clan Hunter Canada. The Committee (Graham Hunter, Kathryn Lecocq and Dale Hill) will be established at the AGM and have the ability to make decisions on behalf of the membership. Decisions regarding the disbursement of bursaries will be made twice per year, in the Spring and Fall. The names of successful applicants will be acknowledged at the AGM and published in the Spring or Fall newsletter.

Conditions of Disbursement

· Each year, up to three (3) bursaries of $100 each may be awarded to successful applicants (Spring and Fall disbursements combined).
· Applicants must be 20 years of age or younger.
· Applicants must be the child/ward/grandchild of a Clan Hunter member paid and in good standing for at least 2 years.
· Preference will be given to first-time applicants.
· Applications must be received by the Committee prior to March 1st of the current year to be considered for the Spring disbursement and August 1st of the current year to be considered for the Fall disbursement. The Committee will endeavour to notify candidates of their decisions within 25 days of the application deadline.

Requirements After Receiving a Grant

Photographs and a written summary of the activity/use of funds will be submitted to Clan Hunter Canada in a timely manner. This enables your story to be shared with the Clan in an upcoming newsletter.

Send your request for an application form to

Dale Hill, Clan Officer
clanhunter.ca@gmail.com

Please remember to visit us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Clan-Hunter-Canada-Official-188145284625528/

for funnies, announcements, keeping up with members lives, and all sorts. You can comment on, like, or share any posts that interest you.