Clan Hunter Association, Canada Summer 2026

Hunters' Halloo

From the Editors

Happy Summer everyone! It has been a scorcher so far, so I hope you've been able to find ways to keep cool, but also enjoy the long-awaited sunshine. It already feels like it is flying by and before you know it we'll be back to cooler autumn temperatures and longing for those long, hot summer days!

Two things of especial note in this newsletter:

- You will see that there is no report from the Membership Secretary. After more than 30 years of looking after the membership duties of Clan Hunter Canada, Christine Hunter has decided to take her well-earned retirement. She is still continuing to look after things in the background while we wait for someone to step up to fill her shoes, but there will be no report in the meantime.
- We are thrilled to have two submissions from our Clansfolk in this edition, one from Denis Hunter of Quebec and one from Jim Hunter of Saskatchewan. The one from Jim was from early in the spring so it is reminding us of the weather that we don't have right now but perhaps it will inspire some of us to make some winter vacation plans for next year. Thank you to both Denis and Jim for thinking of us and sending something in to share with everyone!

Enjoy the summer!

Lynn & Lizz

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From the Clan Officer, Dale Hill

I hope everyone enjoyed a safe, healthy, and refreshing spring as we now turn our faces toward the warmth and energy of summer. This season will be a lively one for Clan Hunter Canada, with several Scottish Festivals and Highland Games taking place across the country. These gatherings are always a wonderful chance to reconnect, celebrate our heritage, and welcome new faces into the community.

We are also looking forward with great excitement to the International Gathering at Hunterston Castle in Scotland. For those making the journey, it promises to be a memorable celebration of history, kinship, and the enduring spirit of Clan Hunter. I personally will be attending and look forward to connecting with Hunters from around the world and being there to witness the important ceremonies in the life of our clan that are occurring on Friday.

As July 1 passes, it brings not only Canada Day—a moment to celebrate all the remarkable things that make us proud Canadians—but also the time for members to renew their annual Clan Hunter Canada membership dues. You can pay online, by e-transfer, or by mailing a cheque. If you have any questions about payment, please reach out to our Treasurer, Tom Ball, who will be happy to assist.

Wishing each of you a wonderful summer ahead. I hope to see you at one of the Highland Games, during an upcoming online gathering, or perhaps even at the International Gathering in Bonnie Scotland.

Safe travels wherever summer takes you.

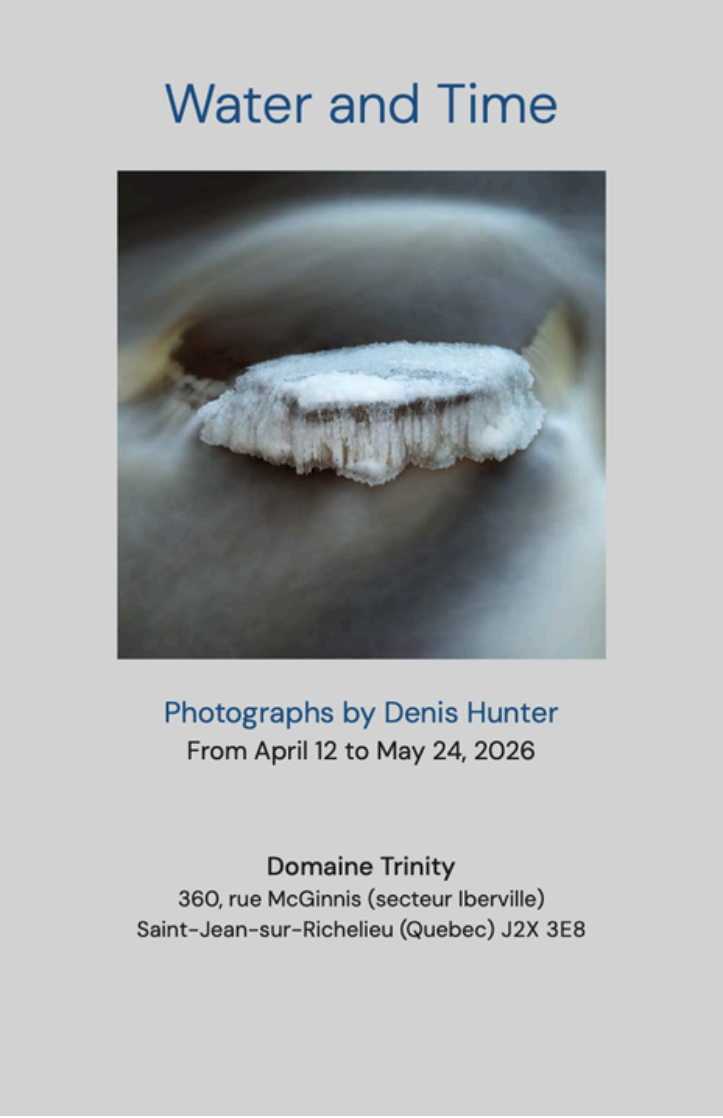
Dale

From the Clansfolk

A message from Denis Hunter of Quebec:

I don’t know if there are many heavy metal fans among the members of Clan Hunter, but they probably already know that Anthrax’s latest album is called Cursum Perficio … Should it inspire our bagpipers?

On a more serene note, I’m continuing my work as a landscape photographer. My latest exhibition was held at Domaine Trinity in Iberville, Quebec. For those interested, here’s the link to the exhibition brochure:



Kingsville Highland Games

By Daphne Clarke

It was a perfect weather day on June 27th in Kingsville, Ontario for the 2026 highland games. Kingsville is a lovely and quaint small town on Lake Erie. Many birders come to this area to enjoy hiking, beaches and nature. It is no wonder that the logo for this event includes a bird.

The Kingsville Highland Games took place at a new location this year, Colasanti's Tropical Gardens. It was an ideal location. These games feature heavy weight competitions, highland dancing, sheep shearing, tug of war, piping and drumming competitions.

Clan Hunter proudly marched in the Opening Ceremonies as our Clan Officer Dale Hill was personally announced and introduced to the crowd.

A big thank you to Joan Hunter, our resident genealogist, for helping to host the tent with us.

We welcomed some more Hunters to our clan tent. Mike Hunter was so proud to participate with us by carrying the Hunter flag in this parade. We also got to chat with some of our Hunter members who were participating with the Jacobites at the festival, too.

The festival food vendors were lovely as many of them were from local businesses in town. We were thrilled to find some healthy food options along with the food truck fare.

There was a nice variety of vendors selling local goods from bbq sauce, homemade soda pop, crafting items, pottery and baked goods.

It was a warm day with a lovely breeze. The day was enjoyed by all.

If you ever get the chance to visit. It is worth the drive to Kingsville.

Embro Highland Games

By Daphne Clarke

On July 1st, as the bagpipes began to warm up and the clans set up their tents, unseasonably hot weather was already setting the tone for the Highland games. Thankful we had a breeze every so often at our tent. Never fear, Clan Hunter was all decked out in Patriotic attire, even Nessie got into the fun.

Thanks to Susan Hill for helping to host the tent with us.

This is a lovely small Highland Games festival with all the fixings of a big one. It is the oldest in Ontario and they celebrated their 87th year. We were able to watch the heavy events competitions right from our tent, especially the famous caber toss. Many of the competitors landed near perfect throws the 12:00 - 12:10 range. Very Impressive!

There was an educational animal display with highland coos and black headed sheep. It also included an Ayrshire dairy cow. In another corner of the venue, they had dog demonstrations.

The local Presbyterian Church puts on a high tea in the air-conditioned hall. A local brewery and restaurant called MadMash was serving up haggis pub style. There was highland dancing, massed bands, solo competitions and tug of war including teams from Canada, U.S.A. and Ireland.

Overall it was a very successful day but the heat got to everyone and the attendance was down. Even food trucks had to close due to the heat level in their trucks.

As always it was a fun way to celebrate Canada Day. Fortunately we were packed up and on our way before the major thunderstorm and severe high winds rolled into the park but we met the severe storm on our drives back home.

The Embro annual Highland Games proved once again that Scottish traditions and heritage remain stronger than ever across Canada.

Photos from the Games

Embro Games:

Photo 1 - Dale, Susan and Daphne with the Canada Day themed Clan Hunter tent

Photo 2 - highland coo at the festival

Kingston Games:

Photo 1 - Dale, Joan and Daphne in front of the tent

Photo 2 - group parade photo with Mike Hunter

From the Clansfolk

A message from Jim Hunter of Saskatchewan

I was in Ottawa for a few days in the new year, and on January 22 my youngest son, Robert and I took advantage of what I thought was a very nice day.

It was overcast but the temperature was about -8 degrees C. We decided to go for a skate on the Rideau Canal.

It had been cold enough that they had a length of it open for public skating. They have really first class heated skating gazebos for changing skates.

They keep the snow pushed off and they flood the ice surface with water pumped out from under the ice so it is a fairly good ice surface, but it does have natural cracks in the ice.

I had skated the canal last year at the end of January and wanted to see if at 86 years of age, I could do it again.

It is only 7.8 km in length, but the only way back to the starting point is to skate the distance back again.

When we started we had a very strong head wind, and I really wondered if I could make it all the way.

When we made it to the 7.8 km marker at the "end" and started skating back again the wind was behind us and it felt as though we were skating down hill all the way.

I felt so energiezed that I even skated the extra loop around Dow Lake just to be able to say I had skated 16 km in total.

16 km is approximately equivalent to 10 miles, but after watching all the winter olympics I like to think of it as equivalent to skating 16,000 meters.

Any other Hunter Clan skaters willing to match this challenge?

Photos from the Rideau Canal