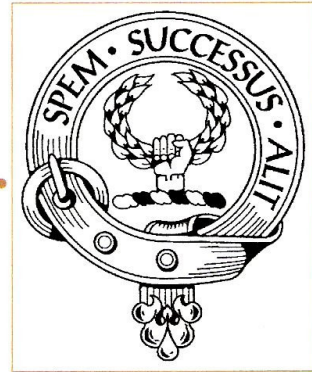


Clan Ross

Association of Canada, Inc.

Founded 1960
David C. Ross of Ross, Chief

Spring Issue
May 2006



An Cirean Ceann Cinnidh

THIS IS YOUR INVITATION!!

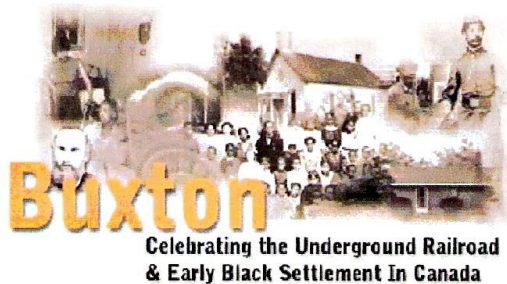
JOIN YOUR CLANFOLK AND FRIENDS FOR
A WEEKEND OF FUN!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

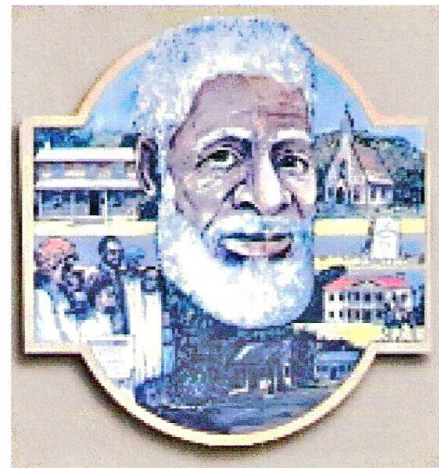
CEILIDH

CELEBRATION OF DR. ALEXANDER MILTON
ROSS

TOUR THE BEST KNOWN HERITAGE
ATTRACTIONS OF SOUTHWESTERN
ONTARIO!!



Celebrating the Underground Railroad
& Early Black Settlement In Canada



Uncle Tom's Cabin HISTORIC SITE

Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site commemorates the life of Reverend Josiah Henson and his contributions to the famous Underground Railroad. It was Henson's life experiences that inspired Ms. Stowe's creation of the character Uncle Tom in her 1852 outcry against slavery.

THE CLAN ROSS ASSOCIATION of CANADA, INC.

MOTTO: Spem successus alit (Success nourishes hope)
GAELIC NAME: Clann Aindrias (Clan Andrew)
CREST: A hand holding a garland of juniper, proper
BADGE: Juniper
PIPE MUSIC: The Earl of Ross's March

SEPTS: (according to Scottish Kith & Kin/Chief of Clan Ross)

Anderson	Denoon	Gear	MacCulloch	Taggart
Andison	Denune	Gillanders	MacLulich	Tullo
Andrew/s	Dingwall	Hagart	MacTaggart	Tulloch
Corbet/tt	Duthie	Haggart	MacTear	Tyre
Crow/e	Fair	MacAndrew	MacTier	Vass
Croy	Gair	MacCullie	MacTire	Wass

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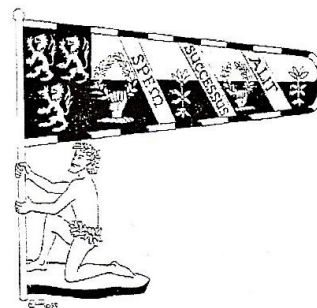
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Standard of Chief David Campbell Ross of Shandwick

From the Editor's Desk

Finally, another edition of the newsletter! Having eventually resolved most of the technical difficulties which plagued the production of the first issue this year, personal illness has taken its toll more recently. I am truly sorry for the lengthy delays between publications, but I do hope that I can produce one more before retiring from the position. In the meantime, I hope you will find some items of interest within the pages of this edition and that its extra pages will compensate somewhat for the extended periods of time between issues.

In the last issue, I retyped an article by Ian M. Ross titled "The Clan Ross Association of Canada, Inc," and made the unforgivable mistake of renaming our association president Denis Ross. His name is, of course **Denis Fletcher!** I offer my most sincere apologies to Denis and Ian and to any of you who may have been confused (and rightly so!) by my error.

As I was setting up the page for Ian Ross' "The Keeper of the Atholl Brose", I found myself humming along and hoping that there will be an official performance at the AGM in London in June. Those of you who live near or are in touch with the composer might, perhaps, encourage him to come prepared! If you are not able to attend, could a recorded version be sent, Ian?

Southwestern Ontario was the main destination for the Underground Railroad which supported many black Americans on their escape to Canada. During the tour at the Annual General Meeting, participants will have an opportunity to visit two centres which present many stories of these difficult journeys and how these Canadian immigrants established new lives in this country. On the cover, you will see logos from each of these facilities.

Amazing as it may seem, the story of the Underground Railroad even has a "Ross" connection in the person of Dr. Alexander Milton Ross! We will be introduced to Dr. Ross by Steven Duff, author of his biography, Hunter of Dreams and learn about how he assisted thousands of American slaves to escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad. In addition, it is hoped that our next Clan Ross National Project will be complete in time to be unveiled in honour of Dr. Alexander Ross while touring Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site.

With such a full weekend of activities as well as all the regular business of the Annual General Meeting, June 23-25 in London. ON should be a priority for Ross Clan members from across the country.

See you in London on June 23-25!!

Invitation

to attend a special family reunion!!

WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO BE A DESCENDANT OF ALEXANDER ROSS AND HIS WIFE SARAH FRASER? IF SO, WE WANT TO LET YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR FAMILY REUNION JULY 28, 29, 30, 2006 IN SEAFORTH, ONTARIO. THIS IS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE FIRST REUNION HELD IN 2001 IN BASSWOOD MANITOBA.

ALEXANDER, SARAH AND FAMILY LEFT GLENGARRY COUNTY, ONTARIO AROUND 1850 TO SETTLE IN PERTH COUNTY, ONTARIO IN THE AMULREE/STRATFORD AREA. THEIR CHILDREN MARY (MRS JAMES MAYBERRY), CHRISTINA (MRS WILLIAM KELSO) AND DONALD (WIFE TABITHA RUTHERFORD) EVENTUALLY MIGRATED TO THE WEST. THEIR SONS THOMAS (WIFE ELLEN MCARTHER) AND WILLIAM (WIFE CHRISTY MCGREGOR) EMIGRATED TO MICHIGAN, AND THEIR ELDEST SON ALEXANDER (WIFE JESSIE CAMERON) SETTLED IN HURON COUNTY NEAR SEAFORTH.

ALEXANDER, ALSO KNOWN AS WILLIAM ALEXANDER, WAS BORN AROUND 1804 IN GLENGARRY COUNTY, AND IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT HIS PARENTS WERE ALEXANDER ROSS AND MARY MCLEAN, AND HIS GRANDPARENTS WERE THOMAS TAYLOR ROSS AND ISABELLA.

IF YOU THINK YOU ARE PART OF THIS EXTENDED FAMILY AND ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING OUR REUNION – OR IF YOU WANT TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE FAMILY CONNECTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT JEAN HILLEN AT (416) 783-2743, OR E-MAIL TO JHILLEN@IDIRECT.COM, OR MAIL TO 503 – 839 ROSELAWN AVE., TORONTO ON M6B 1B5. WE'D BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU IN SEAFORTH THIS SUMMER.

Ceud Mile Failte

Clan Ross Canada is always delighted to welcome new members! Hopefully, you will be able to attend the Annual Meeting and meet some of our long-time members.

Tom and JoAnne Carrothers Burlington, Ontario

Graeme Ross South Lancaster, Ontario

Hugh Ross Brandon, MB

It is also great to welcome members returning after being away for a while!

Glenda M. Bishop New Minas, NS

A Hundred Thousand Welcomes to each of you from all of us!!

"Do not confuse motion and progress. A rocking horse keeps moving, but does not make any progress."

-- Alfred A. Montapert



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

It is with our most sincere condolences to family and friends that we inform you of the recent passing of clan members:

Ted Ross of Winnipeg

Addie Smith of Orillia

and

Hugh Ross of Treherne, Manitoba, a long-time member of Clan Ross, passed away on January 6, 2006. Left to mourn are his beloved wife Elda and children Heather, Hughie, Brenda and Eldridge.

Hugh was born January 29, 1928 in Holland, Manitoba. He was a self-made man. He didn't go beyond Grade 8 in school, but he briefly attended classes at the Manitoba Technical School while holding a job at a candy factory during the day. The majority of his skills were self-taught, and these skills were many. He operated the family grain farm for several years, and then developed and ran a plumbing and heating firm. He subsequently established a construction company that built and renovated many homes in the Treherne area. In his "retirement", he could often be found in his impressive workshop, where he crafted fine furniture and taught himself the almost lost art of making buggy wheels. His great pride in these retirement years was the Model T truck he restored, complete with wooden coachwork and hand-made upholstery, in which he led the 2003 Austin Thresherman's Reunion Parade.

But perhaps most important was his wide circle of friends in Southern Manitoba. Hugh and Elda square danced twice a week. They were the first on the dance floor and the last off at regular dances at the Treherne Friendship Centre. He always had a joke to tell. Hugh organized a tremendously successful Burns Dinner for many years in Treherne, raising thousands of dollars for the local high school grad and countless other community needs. And his friends always looked forward to the peanut brittle he regularly made. Clan Ross – Manitoba fondly remembers their Christmas Party that Hugh hosted one year at the Treherne Masonic Lodge, where he proudly presented trays full of his wonderful bread pudding.

Proof of the remarkable impression that Hugh made on his community was the fact that the Treherne United Church was filled to overflowing at his funeral. There were representatives of no less than five Masonic Lodges in attendance, and the entire Treherne Rec Centre was needed to hold those paying their respects after the service.

Submitted by Ian Mackay Ross



Clan Ross – Manitoba Burns Dinner

"A blethering, blustering, drunken blellum"

- by Ian Ross

Over 60 fans of Burns gathered at the Fort Garry Hotel this last January 28th for the 9th annual edition of this shindig. It wasn't really a "drunken blellum", but it well achieved our goal of maintaining the Burns Dinner traditions in a friendly, non-stuffy atmosphere.

Once folks got by the watchdog eye of Treasurer Len Perry collecting tickets at the door, they were greeted by Chapter President Don Ross and Dinner Committee Chair Denis Fletcher, while Ian & Jacquie Ross practiced their sideshow barker skills by selling them Silent Auction tickets. MC James Hickerson officially started the proceedings by introducing President Don for a more formal welcome from the podium. Don used this particular "pulpit" to advantage in promoting awareness of the new National Project honouring A. M. Ross and his development of the Underground Railroad ... plus promoting attendance at the AGM in London this coming June.

Shirley Tulloch gave an excellent Scots Grace which (hooray!) was not the Selkirk Grace. Good for you, Shirley. The Selkirk one has become as worn out as the piping of Amazing Grace! Then the skirl of "A Man's a Man" announced piper Carl Heaman-Warne, sword-bearer Jacquie Ross, haggis-bearer Denis Fletcher and Ian Ross to give the Address to a Haggis. Ian gave his usual melodramatic rendition ... but we all escaped without loss of "legs, an' arms, an' heads", though he did make the blade "whistle".

As we consumed the haggis with gusto (and a little uisge bae), Al Newton entertained us with his dissertation on the Flower of Scotland. He then presented a huge plastic thistle, decorated as elegantly as any Sadie Hawkins Day corsage, to President Don for his safekeeping until next year. After a main course fit for a gourmet, we enjoyed expert Highland dancing by champions of the Manitoba Highland Dancers Association. Then, to another skirl of the pipes, Ian Ross (Keeper of the Atholl Brose) initiated one and all into the mysteries of this elixir of the gods. A copy of his presentation (spoken and sung, with backup group) can be found elsewhere in this epistle. A conversational break followed while piper Carl entertained us on the shuttle pipes, a unique Canadian-invented variant of the Scottish small pipes.

After the break, choral group "The Rusty Nails" entertained us with an excellent Burns-oriented program, including a singalong of Burns favourites. They closed with a great tune describing the mating habits of the rare Highland Haggis. This led in to our keynote speaker of the evening, Dr. Glen Lowther, who gave us a most informative Immortal Memory. He outlined the great social changes that were occurring throughout the world at the time of Burns, and how Burns both reflected and shaped them. An enjoyable light-hearted Toast to the Lassies and Response were given by John & Judith Perrin.

To wrap up this fine evening, Ian & Jacquie MC'd the silent auction, and Donna Fletcher led one and all in joining hands for the singing of Auld Lang Syne. We look forward to the 10th annual edition next year. (New committee members are required!).

The Tradition of the Atholl Brose

- Ian Ross, January 28, 2006

The St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg has the distinction of being the only group in the world to develop a formal ceremony of the Atholl Brose ... creating a Scottish tradition out of thin air. In 1990, Eldon Ross established the position of Keeper of the Atholl Brose through the donation of this marvelous chain of office. It was first worn by Rod McRae, then by Dr. Glen Lowther. Last year, I was honoured to assume this post.

Now what in the world is Atholl Brose? It is, of course, a drink. But what a drink! Made of whisky mixed with oat water, honey and cream, it is sheer nectar of the gods. And it has a legend ... centering on Clan Ross. Here it is, as recounted by Glen Lowther:

It seems that John, Earl of Ross, was laying siege to Blair Atholl, the great castle of the Duke of Atholl, chief of Clan Murray. The Ross was having the best of it and Lord Murray, not wanting his household goods to fall into the hands of The Ross, proceeded to hide them. His prize stores of oats, whisky, honey and cream were dumped straight down his well so that they could not be carried away. The Earl of Ross drank deeply from this well and, in the gospel according to Lowther, got royally pissed and passed out. The Duke seized upon this unexpected turn of events, and took the comatose Earl prisoner.

Now that story has never rung true for me. I have personal knowledge of Ross capacity for strong drink. Even on an off day, an average Ross can easily manage a well-full!

So I did my own research. I discovered that this John, 10th Earl of Ross and 4th Lord of the Isles, was in fact a most unruly troublemaker... a typical Ross. In 1462 he and his wild northern clansmen led a rebellion against King James II, captured the royal castle at Inverness, then Urquhart castle and, according to my **highly** reliable sources, **successfully** stormed Blair Atholl, dragging the then Earl and Countess of Atholl off to Islay as **his** prisoners.

Admittedly, there are **other** historical accounts ... that the King dispatched Lord Murray into the Highlands to put down the Earl of Ross's rebellion, where he successfully used the ruse of putting this beguiling and intoxicating brew in the Ross's favourite well. This last version may possibly be the true one, because I discovered yet **another** key fact.

In 1370 King David changed the succession of the Earldom of Ross ... conferring it upon the 5th Earl's daughter, Euphemia, as Countess of Ross ... to continue down the female line. Now that's women's lib! Euphemia's daughter, Margaret, married Donald, Lord of the Isles and, upon her death ... no females being available ... her grandson John became 10th Earl. But he was **not** a Ross by birth. Thanks to Grandma, **he was a MacDonald!**

I can understand a MacDonald getting dead drunk from a mere well-full.

With apologies to MacGilbert & O'Sullivan, and assisted by The Rusty Nails, I will conclude with a tribute to the Society's tradition of the Keeper of the Atholl Brose.

"Most success springs from an obstacle or failure. I became a cartoonist largely because I failed in my goal of becoming a successful executive."

-- Scott Adams

The Keeper of the Atholl Brose (Jan. 28/06)

- with apologies to MacGilbert & O'Sullivan

When I was a lowly member, new,
of Winnipeg's Society of St. Andrew
I joined committees and worked intense'
and followed the advice of all the Past Presidents.

REPEAT

I followed their advice and, what do you suppose?
Lo, now I am the Keeper of the Atholl Brose!
He followed their advice and, what do you suppose?
Lo, now he is the Keeper of the Atholl Brose!

I worked so hard they promoted me to
Member of the Board, the very top of the tree.
And there we debated, with hammer and tong,
and never ever nodded off if meetings went too long.

REPEAT

I never ever slept ... nor even dared to doze ...
and now I am the Keeper of the Atholl Brose!
He never ever slept ... nor even dared to doze ...
and now he is the Keeper of the Atholl Brose!

And soon the year was two thousand four
and stalwart Doctor Lowther gave his notice: "Never more!".
So, Eldon Ross asked me, his knickers in a twist,
"What will the Atholl Brose be like with no psychiatrist?"

REPEAT

"What will the Atholl Brose be like?", this question Eldon posed.
So now I am the Keeper of the Atholl Brose!
"What will the Atholl Brose be like?", this question Eldon posed.
So now HE is the Keeper of the Atholl Brose!

Now Clan Ross guests, whoever you may be,
I'm sure you all are waiting to enjoy the barley bree.
But first a little message ... Pay heed to what I say! ...
The recipe is easy to make up in your own way.

REPEAT

A recipe so easy, o'er time, I do propose,
you all may become Keepers of the Atholl Brose!
A recipe so easy, o'er time, he does propose,
you all may become Keepers of the Atholl Brose!

So charge up all your glasses, and join me in a toast
to all my predecessors in this most important post.
Let's drink to this tradition, and looking forward, too,
let's hope that we may always savour this delightful brew.

REPEAT

A brew so delightful, it has led me to compose,
this plagiaristic ditty to the Atholl Brose!
*A brew so delightful, it has led him to compose,
this plagiaristic ditty to the Atholl Brose!*

Ladies & gentlemen ... let us drink to the tradition of the Atholl Brose!

--- Ian Ross

Manure

In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything had to be transported by ship and it was also before commercial fertilizer's invention, so large shipments of manure were common. It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, it not only became heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, a by product of which is methane gas. As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen. Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone went below at night with a lantern, BOOOOM! Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening.

After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the term "Ship High In Transit" on them, which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane. Thus evolved the term "S.H.I.T", (Ship High In Transit) which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day.

You probably did not know the true history of this word.

Neither did I.

I had always thought it was a golf term.

MOON WISDOM

Sowing and planting should always be done with the waxing moon, so that as she increases in size, she influences the crops to increase in size also.

Plowing and reaping are best done at the waning moon, but wood for boats must never be cut at this time, as the craft may fall prey to storms and unexpected capsizings as the moon calls the craft down to the watery realm she commands.

From The Little Book of Scottish Folklore Parragon 1999

A good tale is none the worse for being twice told!!



Webmaster Doug and Pat Ross at Tartan Day 2006 Celebrations

A.M.

Photo by Alastair McIntyre

***HIGHLAND GATHERINGS AND EVENTS
from
EAST to WEST***

****June 1 - 3, 2006:** Halifax, NS. Celtic Feis of music, dance, art and storytelling in venues across the city.

June 2 - 3, 2006: North Bay, ON. Celtfest in Callander.

June 3 - 5, 2005: Arlington, TX. Clan Ross - USA Annual General Meeting. Details on

June 7: Prince George, BC. The Gathering of the Clans. Massey Place Stadium.
(250)564-0910.

June 9 - 10, 2006: Brockville, ON. 6th Annual Celtic Festival at St. Lawrence Park
(613)341-8864

June 11, 2005: Abbotsford, BC. Sons of Scotland Games. (604)435-0764.

June 10, 2006: Georgetown, ON. Georgetown Highland Games at the Fairgrounds. (905)584-5440

June 10 & 11, 2006: Hamilton, ON. International Tattoo 7:30 PM & 2:30 PM respectively at Copps Coliseum (905)523-1753

June 13, 2004: Grande Prairie, AB. Grande Prairie, Highland Games, Macklin Field (403)532-4250.

June 18 - 19, 2004: Sherwood Park, AB: Highland Gathering in the Park.

June 18 - 20, 2004: Windsor, ON. Celtic Festival at the Civic Terrace. (519)253-8065.

June 17, 2006: Spencerville, ON. Veterans' Memorial Highland Games

June 21 - 22: Fort Erie, ON. Loch Sloy Highland Games & Friendship Festival. Old Fort Erie. (905)871-7152

June 23 - 25, 2006: *London, Ontario. CLAN ROSS - the Annual General Meeting of the Clan Ross Association of Canada. Reception and Scottish entertainment on Friday evening; Saturday Tours out of London; Sunday afternoon AGM.*

June 23 - 25, 2006: Summerside, PE. Summerside Highland Gathering & Celtic Festival. College of Piping. (902)436-5377.

June 25, 2005: Ottawa, ON. Ottawa Police Tattoo. Ottawa Civic Centre, Landsdown Park.

June 24, 2006: Coquitlam, BC. United Scottish Highland Games & Festival. Coquitlam Town Centre Stadium. Phone: 604-263-9111.

June 24, 2006: Red Deer, AB. 59th Annual Red Deer Highland Games. Westerner Altaplex. (403)343-6418

June 23 - 24, 2006: Ancaster, ON. Hamilton Highland Games

June 25-27, 2004: Whitehorse, YT. Yukon Gathering of the Clans & Celtic Festival. Rotary Peace Park. (867)667-6133

June 27, 2004: Edmonton, AB. Ellerslie Highland Gathering at Grant McEwen Park. (780)987-5261.

June 30 - July 2, 2006: Kincardine, ON. Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games. Victoria Park. Toll Free: 888-232-7952

July 1 - 8, 2006: Halifax, NS. The Nova Scotia International Tattoo. Halifax Metro Centre. Tickets: Phone 902-451-1221

July 1, 2003: Pugwash, NS. Gathering of the Clans. Main Street. Phone: 902-468-5601.

July 1, 2003: Belfast, PE. Belfast Historical Society honours the 200th Anniversary of the Selkirk Settlers. (902-659-2209).

July 1, 2004: Embro, ON near Woodstock. Zorra Caledonia Highland Games. Community Centre. (519)475-4171.

July 1 - 5, 2006: Calgary, AB. Scotdance Canada Championships

July 2, 2005: Cobourg, ON. 42nd Annual Cobourg Highland Games. Donegan Park, D'Arcy Street South.

July 2, 2005: Selkirk, MB. 35th Manitoba Highland Gathering at Selkirk City Park. Contact: (204)269-1304

July 2, 2005: Penticton, BC. 29th Annual Penticton Highland Games. Kings Park. (250)493-1257

July 3, 2005: Winnipeg Beach, MB. Informal Piping Competition, "Bands on the Boardwalk" at the Provincial Recreation Park. Phone: (204)389-5126.

July 3, 2004: Picton, ON. Prince Edward County Highland Games at Picton Fairgrounds. (613)476-4513.

July 2 - 7, 2006: Vancouver, BC. The championship Simon Fraser University Pipe Band. The PHSD will have piping, drumming, fiddling and Highland Dancing

July 7 - 8, 2006: Chatham, ON. 17th Annual Tartan Sertoma Chatham-Kent Supreme Highland Games. Downtown Techumseh Park. Admission \$8 per person (Children under 10 free). Contact: Ruth McNeil at 519-352-8737 or Gary Dick at 519-352-9550.

July 8, 2006: Haliburton Village, ON. Haliburton Highland Games at Head Lake Park (705)457-3543.

July 8, 2006: Halifax, NS. Halifax Highland Games and Highland Festival. 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Garrison Grounds at base of Citadel Hill. Admission: Adults \$10 Students & Seniors \$8

July 10, 2004: Edmonton, AB. Fort Edmonton Highland Games. (403)962-8476.

July 14 - 17, 2004: New Glasgow, NS. Festival of the Tartans at Tartan Field. (902)752-4800.

July 14 - 16, 2006: Orillia, ON. The 29th Annual Orillia Scottish Festival. Couchiching Beach Park. Friday night Ceilidh at the Legion. Saturday parade to the Park, and I'll see

you there!. (705)325-8442

July 14 - 16, 2006: Antigonish, NS. 144th Antigonish Highland Games. Columbus Field. Phone: 902-863-4275

July 14 - 15, 2006: Cambridge, ON. 31st Annual Cambridge Highland Games at Churchill Park. Phone: 519-241-4906

July 16, 2005: Toronto, ON. Scottish Fiddle Orchestra at the Hummingbird Centre. Info/Tickets: (416) 872-2262.

July 18, 2005: Spencerville, ON. Veteran's Memorial Highland Games. Follow the directions through the village

July 23 - 24, 2005: Kingston, ON. Kingston Heritage Tattoo CANCELLED

July 23 - 25, 2004: Barrie, ON. Barrie Highland Games Championship Supreme. Burl's Creek Family Event Park. (705)487-3663.

July 22 - 23, 2006: Uxbridge, ON. 11th Annual Highlands of Durham Games. Elgin Park in Uxbridge. (905)852-0112

July 28 - 30, 2006: Fredericton, NB. 25th Annual New Brunswick Highland Games and Scottish Festival. Old Government House. Phone: 506-452-9244.

July 31 - August 6, 2005: Winnipeg, MB. Scottish Pavilion at Heather Curling Club, Folklorama 1-800-665-0234

**June 1 –Opening of Celtic Feis Halifax– Changing of the Guard Concert at Rebecca Cohn Auditorium – 7:30 pm

2006 marks the 100th Anniversary of the departure from Halifax of the last British Garrison and the full undertaking of responsibility by Canadians for our own defense. In celebration of this historic occasion, the concert will feature original compositions by members of the band as well as performances by a number of other Celtic musicians and dancers.

This is the first concert the 78th Highlanders (Halifax Citadel) Pipes and Drums have given in the city in almost 15 years. In that time, the band has excelled in competitions throughout the Atlantic Region, across Canada and in Scotland

"Thank you" to "Canadian Bagpipe Links" website and to webmaster Doug Ross of our own Great Clan Ross website for providing direction to such a wealth of information! I hope you find it helpful; and remember that www.greatclanross.org is always a great source of up-to-date resources!

**CLAN ROSS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA, INC.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**CLAN ROSS CANADA – NATIONAL GATHERING
JUNE 23-25, 2006 in London, Ontario**

Come and Discover South Western Ontario's Underground Railroad with Clan Ross! The Underground Railroad was the escape route to Canada of American slaves in the 1850s and early '60s. Please join us in 2006 in London, Ontario for a wonderful weekend! Enjoy great food, interesting historical sites, fantastic entertainment and comfortable accommodation with Clan Ross members from across Canada!

Clan Ross Canada will honour Dr. Alexander Milton Ross (1832-1897) as part of our 2006 Gathering

The driving force behind Canada's involvement in the Underground Railroad was Dr. Alexander Milton Ross of Belleville, Ontario. Dr. Ross was an extraordinary character, but one relatively unknown except to historians specializing in his era. The theme behind Clan Ross's National Gathering is to help uncover the role this great Canadian played in helping bring freedom to thousands of people.

Our Special Guest will be a Dr. Ross expert, author Steven Duff

Clan Ross is honoured to have Steven Duff, an author, historian and Dr. Alexander Ross expert, as our special guest through out this incredible weekend. Mr. Duff's book, "Hunter of Dreams" (www.trafford.com for more information) reveals the story of the relatively unknown Dr. Ross, based on his own memoirs and contemporary magazine and newspaper articles.

Alexander Ross traveled in the Deep South, using his background in ornithology (the study of birds) as pretence at doing research. In reality, he was alerting slaves to the existence of the Underground Railroad and in the process, faced a number of dangerous situations. His work brought him to the attention of Abraham Lincoln, who commissioned him as a special agent to monitor the Confederate activities in Canada during the Civil War. Ross's work, declared Lincoln, shortened the Civil War by the better part of a year.

Steven will join us for all of the weekend's events, and will be our "after lunch" speaker on our Saturday bus tour.

WEEKEND EVENTS:

Friday, June 23rd , Evening. 7 pm. Scottish Ceilidh, at the Ramada Inn London.

Enjoy the foot-tapping Scottish music of "The Gaels" folk group, who have entertained in the London area for 3 decades. Cash bar with free snacks.

Saturday, June 24th Discovering the Underground Railroad in Southwestern Ontario.

A bus tour from London to the Chatham area (a 75 minute drive) to visit 3 exciting sites will depart the Ramada Inn at 9am and return at 10pm. The tour fee includes lunch, dinner, the air conditioned coach, and entrance fees into all 3 sites!

Tour itinerary:**A) Our First Stop - Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site. www.uncletomscabin.org**

This world famous site commemorates the life of Reverend Josiah Henson and his contributions to the Underground Railroad. Josiah Henson's name became synonymous with the central character "Uncle Tom" in Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous novel Uncle Tom's Cabin. The novel sold 300,000 copies within the first year and helped to raise awareness to the brutality of slavery. Abraham Lincoln credited the book as being a catalyst of the Civil War. It was Henson's life experiences that inspired Ms. Stowe's creation of the character Uncle Tom in her 1852 outcry against slavery.

Born in Maryland, Josiah Henson worked as a slave for forty-one years. In 1830, he and his family escaped to Upper Canada (Ontario) via the Underground Railroad. In 1841, he moved his family to Dresden and helped to establish the Dawn Settlement. The settlement was established to provide a refuge and a new beginning for former slaves.

Clan Ross will enjoy a special guided tour of the site and a wonderful catered lunch. Our visit will conclude with an interesting presentation by Steven Duff on Dr. Alexander Ross's role in the Underground Railroad. We are tentatively planning on unveiling a gift to the site to honour Dr. Ross on behalf of Clan Ross Canada.

B) Our Second Stop – RM Classic Car Exhibit, www.rmccars.com

This restoration shop and museum features an ever-changing display of 100 historical automobiles from the last century. The exhibit offers an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see some of the world's rarest and greatest automobiles up close.

C) Our Final Stop -Buxton Museum & National Historic Site - www.buxtonmuseum.com

The site is a memorial to the Elgin Settlement, which was a haven for fugitive slaves. The tour guides are descendents of fugitive slaves and are a wealth of information and stirring personal stories. It is one of Canada's few remaining Black Canadian settlements in existence since the pre-civil war era.

A SOUL FOOD DINNER & GOSPEL CONCERT! That night we will feast on a Soul Food Dinner, home-cooked by the Buxton Ladies Auxiliary. Following the dinner, Clan Ross will enjoy an inspiring gospel concert and traditional African-Canadian entertainment. Not to be missed!

The bus will depart Buxton around 8:45 pm and return to the Ramada Inn in south London at 10pm. It will be an incredible day!

Sunday – Brunch, the AGM, and a Backyard Barbeque

Morning - Optional Church Service at Chalmers Presbyterian Church, in London. 10:30 am

Brunch - at the Ramada Inn, followed by the National Annual General Meeting. Brunch 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Meeting 1:30 pm to 3pm.

6pm Optional Dinner at the Ramada Inn's excellent restaurant. Participants will individually pay for their meals.

Registration Fees:NOTE: Non-Clan Ross members are more than welcome to attend the weekend events. If you have a family member or friend who is interested, but not a formal member, please extend the invitation!

Entire Weekend, including food and entertainment at the Friday Ceilidh, the Saturday bus tour (including lunch and dinner), and Sunday brunch. \$120 plus accommodation and breakfast.

Bus Tour Only, on the Saturday. \$85

Friday and Saturday Only. \$105

Clan Ross Host Hotel – Ramada Inn, located at the 401 and Wellington Road. For Reservations call 800-303-3733. Rooms are \$94. The hotel has an excellent restaurant, indoor pool, and will host our Friday night and Sunday afternoon events.

Send Registration and the cheque for the National Gathering 2006 to, Clan Ross Canada, National Treasurer Barb Fletcher, at 66 Crestwood Cr., Winnipeg, Man. R2J 1H6 204-257-7511. Email: barbf@miic.ca

Questions? Contact Andrew Ross Thibodeau, 2006 AGM Host at Email: andyspeaks@rogers.com, 519-851-3014.

See you in London in June 2006!

The Good Golfer

An old golfer set up his ball on the first tee, took a mighty swing and hit his ball into a clump of trees. He found his ball and saw an opening between two trees he thought he could hit through. Taking out his 3-wood, he took another mighty swing; the ball hit a tree, bounced back, hit him in the forehead and killed him.

As he approached the gates of Heaven, St. Peter saw him coming and asked, "Are you a good golfer".

To which the man replied, "Got here in two, didn't I?"

The Golfing Groom

The September bride came down the aisle and when she reached the altar, her groom was standing there with his golf bag and clubs at his side.

She said: "What are your golf clubs doing here?"

He looked her right in the eye ... and said, "This isn't going to take all day, is it?"

Golf Score

Police are called to an apartment and find a woman holding a bloody 5-iron standing over a lifeless man. The detective asks, "Ma'am, is that your husband?" "Yes" says the woman. "Did you hit him with that golf club?"

"Yes, yes, I did." The woman begins to sob, drops the club, and puts her hands on her face.

"How many times did you hit him?"

"I don't know, five, six, maybe seven times.....just put me down for a five."

CLAN ROSS CANADA – NATIONAL GATHERING JUNE 23-25, 2006 in London, Ontario

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Enjoy the foot-tapping Scottish music of "The Gaels" folk group. Cash bar with free snacks.

Saturday, June 24th – All Day Bus Tour: Discovering the Underground Railroad in Southwestern Ontario.

A bus tour from London to the Chatham area (a 75 minute drive) to visit 3 exciting sites. The trip will depart the Ramada Inn at 9am and return at 10pm. The tour fee includes lunch, dinner, the air conditioned coach, and entrance fees into all 3 sites! Itinerary:

A) Our First Stop - Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site. Includes the tour, lunch, and special presentation on Dr. Ross

B) Our Second Stop – RM Classic Car Exhibit. Tour.

C) Our Final Stop -Buxton Museum & National Historic Site. Includes the Tour, Soul Food Dinner & Gospel Concert

Sunday – Brunch, the AGM, and a Dinner

Brunch at the Ramada Inn, followed by the National Annual General Meeting. Brunch 11:30 to 1:30pm, AGM till 3pm.
6 pm Optional Dinner at the Ramada Inn's excellent restaurant. Participants will individually pay for their meals.

Registration Form

NOTE: Non-Clan Ross members are more than welcome to attend the weekend events. Accommodation and Breakfast is NOT INCLUDED in these fees. Fees cover tours, food, the bus, room rental and entertainment.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM, NOTING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE & THE PACKAGE YOU WANT

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Entire Weekend, including food and entertainment at the Friday Ceilidh The Saturday bus tour (including lunch and dinner), Sunday brunch and AGM		# of People Attending
	\$120	_____
Bus Tour Only, on the Saturday.	\$85	_____
Friday Ceilidh and Saturday Bus Tour Only.	\$105	_____

TOTAL: (Please Make Cheque payable to Clan Ross Canada) _____

With receipt of your registration, you will receive a confirmation call. An info package will then be mailed to you.

Clan Ross Host Hotel – Ramada Inn, located at the 401 and Wellington Road. **For Reservations call 800-303-3733** and tell them you are part of the Clan Ross National Gathering. Rooms are \$94. The hotel has an excellent restaurant, indoor pool, and will host our Friday night and Sunday afternoon events.

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