



CLAN ROSS

Association of Canada,
Inc.
Founded 1960

David C. Ross of Ross, Chief

February, 2007

An Cìrean Ceann Cinnidh



Photo by Helen MacRae

Mrs. Jean Watson, founder of Tartan Day

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 March

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

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

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STANDARD OF CHIEF DAVID CAMPBELL ROSS

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers:

Computers are wonderful tools and at times, frustrating. Do to an unfortunate glitch, you may have noticed that the second line of credits for the photograph on the cover page of the December issue appeared at the top of page two.

A new year of events is well under way. The Manitoba Chapter's Burns Dinner in Winnipeg was a resounding success.

Mrs. Jean Watson, the subject of the cover and an article in this newsletter, will also be honoured as the Scot of the Year by The Scottish Studies Foundation at the annual Tartan Day celebration at Casa Loma in Toronto this April. (See "Upcoming Events" for more details.)

My sincere thanks to those who have contributed articles and photographs for this newsletter. The deadline for submissions for the May Newsletter is Friday, April 27, 2207.

Patricia D. Ross
Editor



Clan Ross Manitoba 2006 Christmas Party and Annual General Meeting

By Len Perry

This event was held for the second year at McBeth House, on Saturday, December 2, 2006. There were nineteen members attending. Format for this occasion took the form of some fellowship and conversation, then a potluck dinner, ending with the formal AGM. Combining the AGM with the Christmas party has been the tradition with Clan Ross Manitoba for several years.

McBeth house is a gracious, heritage home, close to the banks of the Red River, in Old Kildonan. The home was originally owned by descendants of the Red River settlers, and when the last descendant of the McBeth family donated the home and property to the City of Winnipeg, the city decided to allow the home to be used for public use, such as, the gathering of Clan Ross Manitoba for their meeting/party.

Several reports were presented covering various activities in which Clan Ross Manitoba participated. Our Burns Dinner, held Saturday, January 28, 2006, (as close to Robbie Burns Day as possible), was again a highly successful event, as has been the case for the past nine years. In recent years, the venue for this occasion has been The Fort Garry Hotel, a grand heritage building in downtown Winnipeg. The evening consisted of dinner, followed by entertainment of a Scottish nature; toasts, dancers, singers, closing with "Auld Lang Syne".

Festival of the Nations, a multi-cultural event is held each year, usually in June or July, in various rural towns in southern Manitoba. And yes, Clan Ross is usually represented as part of the British Isles pavilion. This past year the town hosting this event was St. Claude and volunteers staffed a display table.

Folklorama is a major, multi-cultural, annual event held in Winnipeg, drawing busloads of visitors from the Northern United States, as well as from the province. This takes place during the first two weeks of August each year. Clan Ross volunteers staff a table, at the Scottish Pavilion, displaying various items of interest about Clan Ross, it's history, and Clan Ross Manitoba current activities.

In early fall, the group enjoyed a Night at the Races at Assiniboia Downs, Winnipeg's horse racing facility, which includes dinner and (some betting, of course) viewing the races themselves.

Some possible activities to be pursued for the coming year are; a barbecue in early summer, possibly at McBeth House, and a visit to our Provincial Archives to view documents and artifacts related to the Ross families who were among the Selkirk Settlers.

CLAN ROSS – MANITOBA CHAPTER BURNS DINNER

by Denis Fletcher

Photographs by Roger Stagg

Over 80 fans of Burns gathered in the Club Room at the Fort Garry Hotel this last January 20th for the 10th Annual Burns Dinner.



Guests were greeted by Chapter President Don Ross and Dinner Committee Chair Denis Fletcher, while Patricia and Roger Stagg circulated selling silent auction tickets. MC Christine Turnbull officially started the proceedings by introducing President Don for a formal welcome. Don used this opportunity to present the history of Clan Ross Manitoba. Don also made a cash presentation to duty piper Jimm Simon for the Shrine Children's Burn Fund.

A Burns grace was given by Alan Scott. Then, with the skirl of the pipes, haggis-bearer Angus Mackintosh and Carole Mackintosh came forward to give the Address to a Haggis. Carole is the first

woman to give the Address at our dinners. It was a great rendition.

Dave Ross entertained us with his dissertation on the Flower of Scotland. He then presented the Clan's huge thistle to President Don Ross.

After haggis, neeps, and a wonderful prime rib dinner, the group was entertained by dancers from the Manitoba Highland Dance Association.

After a short break, Chair Denis Fletcher thanked his committee members, prize donors, and all for coming, followed by entertainment supplied by the Brochan Lom male chorus. This led into our keynote speaker of the evening, Ian Ross, who gave us a most entertaining Immortal Memory. An enjoyable light-hearted Toast to the Lassies and Response were given by Bob and Audrey Vandewater.



To wrap up this fine evening, Patricia and Roger Stagg conducted the silent auction and Roger Ross led one and all in singing Auld Lang Syne. We look forward to the 11th Annual Burns Dinner next year.



TARTAN DAY

By Ian Mackay Ross and J. Douglas Ross

Most people know that April 6 was chosen for tartan Day because that day in 1320 was the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath by the Scottish nobility (including William, the Earl of Ross), declaring Scottish independence from England. It is said to be the inspiration for many future documents declaring national liberty and protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens.

There are more people of Scots descent throughout the world than you'll find in Scotland itself. Tartan Day was established for people of Scottish heritage in the New World" to show pride in their background and respect for their pioneer ancestors who were instrumental in developing the countries in which they now live. The Scottish value of hard work and education resulted in their prominence in the fields of business, education, government, the military and the professions.

Tartan Day originated in Nova Scotia, Canada, with a proposal by Mrs. Jean Watson on March 9, 1986, which was supported by the Federation of Scottish Clans. She contacted the Premier and each member of the Cabinet plus other members of the Legislative Assembly and, on Monday, April 6, 1987, John William Gillis, MLA for Antigonish, stood up in the House and made a private member's motion encouraging the wearing of "tartan" on April 6th of this year and in future years. Jean Watson continued tirelessly to write letters to federal and provincial politicians and Scottish groups across Canada. Since 1987, Tartan Day has been embraced by peoples of Scottish descent worldwide.



WHY PIPERS SHOULD KEEP MOVING
© J.D. ROSS 2002.03

In response to action initiated by the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada, Ontario MPP Bill Murdoch put forth a private member's bill and, on December 19th, 1991, the Ontario Legislature unanimously passed a resolution proclaiming April 6th as Tartan Day. When British Columbia passed a similar resolution on March 25th, 1992, the Honourable F. Garden, MPP of the Federal Legislature from Vancouver pondered the possibility of a Federal Tartan Day Holiday, and praised the BC proclamation of Tartan Day that April as follows:

The declaration of Scottish Independence was signed in my home town in 1329, and it was a declaration of freedom. In the words of those

Scottish nobles, when they wrote to the powers of the day to get their independence, it said: "It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom, for that alone which no honest man or woman gives up but with life itself." That's what Scots people brought to Canada – that freedom.

Manitoba was a typical Canadian Province to recognize this day after Elden Ross of Winnipeg prevailed upon Mr. Gerry McAlpine, a Progressive Conservative MPP and a member of the local St. Andrew's Society, to sponsor a private member's bill. Royal Assent for the Manitoba Tartan Day Bill wasn't received until July 11, 1994, although April 6th had been proclaimed Tartan Day on a year by year basis for several years prior to this. The specific passage after the preamble reads:

Manitoba Tartan Day ... 6.1 – in recognition of the role that Scottish Manitobans have played and continue to play in Manitoba's cultural heritage, April 6 in each year is to be declared to be "Manitoba Tartan Day."

Similar resolutions had been passed by most other Canadian provinces including Newfoundland on April 6, 1995, and Tartan Day was now formally celebrated on April 6. Many clan societies had already been following Nova Scotia's lead during intervening years.

ADDRESS TO A HAGGIS, by Robert Burns

A translation from "Lallans Scots" into modern English by Ian Ross

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the puddin-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
 Painch, tripe or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy of a grace
 As lang's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,
Your hurdies like a distant hill,
Your pin wad help to mend a mill
 In time o' need,
While thro' your pores the dewes distil
 Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic Labour dight,
An' cut ye up wi' ready slight,
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,
 Like onie ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
 Warm-reekin, rich!

Then, horn for horn, they stretch an'
 strive;
Deil tak the hindmost, on they drive,
Till a' their weel-swallow'd kytes belyve
 Are bent like drums;
Then auld Guidman, maist like to rive,
 "Bethankit!" hums.

Is there, that owre his French *ragout*,
Or *olio* that wad staw a sow,
Or fricassee wad mak her spew
 Wi' perfect sconner,
Looks down wi' sneering, scornfu' view
 On sic a dinner?

Poor devil! see him owre his trash,
As feckless as a wither'd rash,
His spindle shank a guid whip-lash,
 His nieve a nit;
Thro' bluidy flood or field to dash,
 O how unfit!

But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed,
The trembling earth resounds his tread,
Clap in his walie nieve a blade,
 He'll make it whistle;
An' legs, an' arms, an' heads will sned
 Like taps o' thrissle.

Ye Pow'rs, wha mak mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill o' fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware,
That jaups in luggies;
But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer,
 Gie her a Haggis!

Good luck fall upon your honest, jolly face,
Great chieftain of the sausage race!
Above them all, you take your place,
 Stomach, tripe or intestine:
Well are you worthy of a grace
 As long as my arm.

The groaning platter there you fill,
Your buttocks like a distant hill,
Your wooden skewer [*used to hang the haggis in its steaming pot*]
 Would help to mend a water wheel if needed [*it's so big!*],
While through your pores the juices ooze
 Like beads of amber.

See the country labourer wipe his knife
And skillfully cut you up,
Making a trench from which your bright entrails gush,
 Just like any drainage ditch;
And then, oh what a glorious sight,
 Smoking-hot, rich!

Then, spoon [*made of horn*] for spoon, they [*who have been waiting for the haggis*] reach and strive [*with each other*];
The Devil take the slowest, on they all push,
Until all their well-swollen bellies are
 Soon stretched as tight as drums;
Then [*and only then!*] the old man-of-the-house, just about to burst,
 Murmurs a grace.

Is there anyone, who over his spicy French stew,
Or hot-pot that would disgust a pig,
Or hash that would make her vomit
 With perfect loathing,
Can look down with sneering, scornful view
 On such a dinner [*as a haggis*]?

Poor devil! see him [*probably an Englishman!*] over his rubbish,
As weak as a withered reed,
His leg, skinny as a spindle, [*would make*] a good whip-lash,
 His fist [*small as*] a nut;
[*He is*] Thoroughly unfit to charge through any bloody river
 Or battlefield!

But note the simple countryman, haggis-fed,
The trembling earth echoes his footsteps,
Put into his massive fist a sword,
 He'll make it whistle;
And legs, and arms, and heads will be lopped off
 Like the tops of thistles.

You Gods who make mankind your care,
And provide us with food,
Old Scotland [*true Scots*] want no watered-down stuff,
That splashes about in little dishes [*with handles, lug = ear*]
But, if you want her grateful thanks,
 Give her a Haggis!

WHAT IS HAGGIS ...EXACTLY?

Every country and race has its hearty peasant food, made from the rich man's cast-offs: Ukrainian kolbasa, English tripe simmered in milk, and even chitlins from the deep South. But best of all is the Scottish haggis. When a sheep was slaughtered or a deer hunted, the meat went to the nobles. The peasants got the guts. They would chop up the best bits (heart, lungs and liver), mix in chopped suet, onions and toasted oatmeal, and stuff the whole mess into a sheep's stomach. (Its name is thought to come from the French word "hachis", to chop.) After long simmering, this giant "sausage" was cut open and spooned out to the awaiting crowd, along with neeps and tatties (mashed turnips and potatoes). If you were lucky enough to have some salt, pepper and butter you had a meal fit for a king!

By the time of Robert Burns, a properly prepared haggis was considered a delicacy. He often enjoyed it with his Bachelors' Club at the Tarbolton inn, accompanied by ale, whisky and camaraderie ... just as we are doing this evening. It is traditional to address this "chieftain o' the puddin-race" in the same words that Burns dashed off just before attending one of his Bachelors Club meetings.



THE IMMORTAL MEMORY (PART I)

Address by Ian Ross at Burns Dinner

January 20, 2007 (Clan Ross, Winnipeg)

To truly appreciate Robert Burns, you must **first** understand the character of the Scots.

Roger Ross phones the dentist and asks the cost of an extraction. 85 dollars, replies the dentist.

Oh .. that's way too expensive Haven't you got anything cheaper? But that's the normal charge for an extraction, says the dentist. What if you don't use any anaesthetic?, says Roger. Well, that is most unusual, and would be very painful ... but if you insist I could do that for 70 dollars.

*Hmmmm, says Roger. What if you used one of your dentist trainees and still without anaesthetic? The dentist explained that he couldn't guarantee the trainee's level of expertise ... and that would likely be even **more** painful. But it could be done for only 40 dollars.*

That's still too much, I think, says Roger. What if the student did it without anaesthetic, but with another student watching? Then you could write it off as a training session .. and just charge me for the paperwork. I suppose it would be a good thing for my other student, says the dentist. All right ... I can do that for only 5 dollars.

Now you're talking, says Roger. It's a deal. Can you confirm an appointment for my wife, Mary, on Tuesday?

So, the Scots are inventive ... as well as being very frugal. They know very well the value of a dollar. For example:

Have you heard about the old lecher, Eldon Ross? He lured a buxom young lass up to his flat to see his etchings. Before she could escape, he had sold her four.

Scots are practical. They value hard work, education, and useful skills.

Doctor Lowther attended a Thanksgiving Dinner where he watched the host expertly carve up the turkey, placing each perfect slice symmetrically upon the serving platter. "Well, Doctor," said the host. "Wouldn't I make a good surgeon?" "Maybe," said the doctor, "Let's see you put it back together again!"

THE IMMORTAL MEMORY (PART I), Cont'd:

Of course you have heard hundreds of jokes like these. How strange ... in these times of political correctness ... when it is unacceptable to stereotype **any** ethnic group! Why are there still such jokes about the Scots? Who **dares** to keep making them up?

Why, we do! And this tells us a lot about the Scots character. It tells us that we Scots have a great sense of humour. But, more importantly, it proclaims a natural pride and self-confidence that no mere joke can ever threaten. This is rooted in our belief in equality, and in the inherent **nobility** of the common man, a belief perhaps **best** demonstrated by Scotland's most famous poet and **champion** of the common man ... Robert Burns ... when he wrote:

“ What though on hamely fare we dine,
Wear hoddin grey, an a' that?
Gie fools their silks, and knaves their wine –
A man's a **man** for a' that.
For a' that, an' a' that,
Their tinsel show, an' a' that,
The **honest** man, tho' e'er sae poor,
Is **king** o' men for a' that.”

And Burns did not just **write** these stirring lines ... he lived his life accordingly. He became a successful poet ... perhaps the most famous in the world ... first, because he had done the hard work of educating himself, reading his books as he guided his plow on his farm in Ayrshire ...and second, because he **believed** that he could be as good as **any** man, despite the class structure which prevailed at that time.

These Scottish characteristics of education, hard work and self-confidence have also made countless other Scots successful around the world ... to the great benefit of their adopted homelands. The very presence of the Scottish pioneers in British North America resulted in the creation of our great country, Canada. It was the Scots running the fur trade ... whether through Hudson Bay or out of Montreal ... who explored and opened up the wilderness. Then John A. MacDonald had the vision to see one nation spanning the continent from sea to sea, bound together by a railroad the English thought impossible to build. But the Scots ... men like planner Sandford Fleming, financiers Donald Smith and George Stephen, and engineer James Ross (in charge of the most difficult part ... mountain construction) ... DID build the CPR, creating the Canada we know today.

In the 20th century, the longest serving Prime Minister in the history of the British Commonwealth was of Scots descent, William Lyon Mackenzie King. He led Canada through its transition from former colony to being a significant power in World War II, and pioneered many social reforms. The man who took social reforms to a much higher level was Tommy Douglas, the father of universal health care in Canada ... and the creator of a distinctive political voice for the Canadian worker.

Now have I been fair in naming a Progressive Conservative, a Liberal and a founder of the NDP?

However, I don't want to dwell this evening on all the **noble** characteristics of the Scot ... as so eloquently depicted in the writings of Burns. Rather, I want to pursue some of Burns' flaws ... flaws which made him so red-blooded and real. I want to pursue the love, the romance and the unapologetic **passion** in Burns life.

Part II will appear in the May Newsletter



UPCOMING EVENTS

"The Vision" Writing Contest for writers and lovers of the works of the Scottish Bard, Robert Burns. The Prize is the James Turnbull Memorial Award - \$500 (Cdn) and possible publication in the Celtic Faerie Magazine. Choose your favorite poem/song by Robert Burns, and tell why you like it, what you believe Robert Burns was trying to convey to his readers, and any relevant history or documentation of interest. Entry fee: \$10 (Cdn). Word maximum: 2000. **Deadline for entries: May 1, 2007.** Entrants are strongly encouraged to contact the contest trustee for full guidelines at ilmoore@mts.net or phone: (Canada) 204-482-8271; or the website of the Winnipeg Robert Burns Club: <http://www.winnipegrobertburns.org/> "Strive in thy humble sphere to shine."

March 14th to 18th, 2007: CelticFest Vancouver will present hundreds of local and international artists at more than 60 events scheduled at dozens of popular venues and two outdoor stages along Granville Street – in the heart of Downtown Vancouver's Entertainment District.
www.celticfestvancouver.com

Wednesday, April 18, 2007: Toronto, Ontario. **Tartan Day at Casa Loma**, 1 Austin Terrace. Experience an elegant evening of fine food, Scottish music, and dance in a setting reminiscent of a Highland castle.
<http://www.scottishstudies.com/950tartanday06.htm>

Saturday, April 14, 2007: Fredericton, NB. **3rd Annual Celtic Gala.** A Tartan Day celebration. Fredericton Inn.
<http://www.highlandgames.ca/>

May 19, 2007: Courtenay, BC. **12th Annual Comox Valley Highland Games**, Lewis Park. Info: (250)338-0363.
<http://www.cvhg.org/>

May 20, 2007: Victoria, BC. **70th Annual Victoria Highland Games**, Bullen Park in Esquimalt (250)598-1531 evenings and (250 598-8961 daytime).
<http://www.victoriahighlandgames.com/>



CEUD MILE FAILTE A hundred thousand welcomes to our new members

Robert and Winifred Trudeau, Jonquiere, QC
Terry and Sandy Ross, Brandon, MB
Robert and Evelyn Andrews, Brandon, MB

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

A long time member of Clan Ross Association of Canada, Georgina Catherine Ross of London, ON and Alisa Craig, ON, passed away in April, 2006, after a courageous battle with cancer.

PHOTO GALLERY
Manitoba Chapter Burns Dinner, January 20, 2007
Photographs by Roger Stagg



Inspecting the silent auction



Two young highland dancers entertain