



CLAN ROSS

Association of Canada,
Inc.
Founded 1960

David C. Ross of Ross, Chief

FALL ISSUE
NOVEMBER, 2009

An Círean Ceann Cinnidh



JDR

**Unveiling of bronze marker honouring The Honourable Sir George William Ross,
Premier of Ontario, 1899–1905, Mount Pleasant Cemetery Visitation Centre,
October 15, 2009.**

From left: Jan Hunter (née Saddington), Hon. David C. Onley (Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario), Mickey Mehal, bronze marker, Dr. Valerie-Dawn Girhiny, Jim Brownell (MPP, representing Premier Dalton McGuinty), Hon. Kathleen Wynne (Minister of Education), Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander (Chairman of Ontario Heritage Trust).

For a more complete report, please visit: <http://www.greatclanross.org/GWRoss2009.html>

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
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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STANDARD OF CHIEF DAVID CAMPBELL ROSS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, FALL NEWSLETTER, 2009

I hope you are all enjoying the start of preparations for the Christmas season! As I write this, it is Halloween. With two babies, age 1 and 4, I have learned that Halloween equals Christmas in terms of build up and excitement. My eldest, Torry, was stunned when she learned at age 3 that she can "go door to door, and people give me candy ... for free. WOW!"



In my world of motivational speaking for grades 6 to 12 and post secondary schools, the last week of August to the first week of December is my busiest season. In the last two months, I have been to New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Saskatchewan, Detroit, all over Western New York, southern Ontario from Windsor to Kingston, and north to North Bay and Sudbury. I am very blessed to see the stunning beauty of our nation.

Looking ahead to the summer of 2010, I wanted to update you on a few exciting items.

Our National Gathering, July 16-18 in Niagara Falls: We have confirmed the Best Western Fallsview as our host hotel. Registration forms will be in the next newsletter, early in the New Year. With Wendy Ross and her friend at the Niagara Parks Commission, we are designing a tour for the Saturday. Put those dates in your calendar now!

I have been corresponding with our USA Clan Ross friends and several have expressed interest in joining us for our 50th Anniversary celebration. I had a phenomenal time with our American friends this summer in Scotland and I do hope that they can join us. I will be advertising our gathering in the American's newsletter.

The Fergus Scottish Festival, Canada's largest, is August 13-15, 2010. Clan Ross will be the featured Clan for the first time in our history. I have confirmed a special celebratory dinner at the Holiday Inn, Guelph, on Saturday evening, the 14th. It will begin at 5:30pm and will feature an amazing buffet dinner. For several years I have joined my wife's family, Clan Hunter, for their post-games dinner at that location. For those of you considering joining us, I recommend this hotel for your accommodation. My family will be there. They are located at Stone Road and 601 Scottsdale Drive. Call them at (519) 836-0231. Book early to ensure a room!

Enjoy the blessings of the Christmas Season and Happy New Year.

Andrew Ross Thibodeau

CEUD MILE FAILTE

A hundred thousand welcomes to our new members

Rob Ross, Mississauga, Ontario
Jennifer Ross, Victoria, British Columbia

APOLOGY



The caption to the cover photo, Summer Newsletter, should read: Current and past executive of Clan Ross Canada, Inc. at dedication of plaque honouring Dr. Milton A. Ross in Chatham, Ontario. From left, back row: Denis Fletcher (Past National President), Andrew Ross Thibodeau (National President), Shirley Ross, and Denis Ross (National Vice-President). Front row: Barbara Fletcher (Past Treasurer and Membership Chair), Patricia Ross (Newsletter Editor), and Doug Ross (National Webmaster).

I sincerely apologize to Denis and Barbara Fletcher.

Patricia Ross, Editor

THE STUARTS IN EXILE

- by Ian M. Ross, with lots of plagiarism of H. V. Morton and John Prebble

*"Speed, bonnie boat, like a bird on the wing, Onward! the sailors cry;
Carry the lad that's born to be King, Over the sea to Skye."* ... and then what?

A year ago, my wife Jacquie and I started preparing for a trip to Rome. Besides modern travel guides, I picked up H. V. Morton's *A Traveller in Rome*, to bone up on historical details. (Although written in 1957, Rome's history doesn't change ... and Morton is excellent. If you haven't read his *In Search of Scotland* and *In Scotland Again* ... do so!)

One of the intriguing tales of Rome he weaves is that of the Stuarts in exile. The story starts not with The Young Pretender Bonnie Prince Charlie, who escaped from the fiasco of Culloden "*over the sea to Skye*" in 1746 ... not with his father and mother, The Old Pretender James Edward and Maria Clementina Sobieski ... but with his grandfather, the last ruling Stuart King, James (VII of Scotland and II of England).

In 1688, the blindly arrogant James VII (& II) was deposed when his minority Roman Catholic Jacobite supporters (so-named from the Latin word *Jacobus* for James) were overwhelmed by Protestant forces, first in England's "Glorious Revolution" and then in Scotland. With his son-in-law, Dutch Protestant William of Orange (II of Scotland and III of England), now on the throne of England, James fled to St. Germain in France (*which was, as usual, at war with England*). After 130 years of struggle, Presbyterianism was finally established in Scotland.

James and William clashed on July 12, 1690 at the Battle of the Boyne in Ireland, where "King Billy's" Protestant forces roundly defeated the Catholic forces under James. This day is still celebrated by the Orange Lodge. [**Note for Manitoba readers:** *it was the extreme agitation of the Orange Lodge in Upper Canada which influenced the Canadian Government to treat French Catholic Louis Riel as a criminal and traitor for the 1870 trial and admittedly rash execution of Thomas Scott (an Ulster Orangeman by way of Ontario, something of a bully-boy and rabble rouser). This was despite the fact that Riel headed the only viable government in Assiniboia after the withdrawal of the Hudson Bay Company and was completely loyal to the British Crown in what was then a part of British North America...not yet legally part of Canada at all.*]

King William demanded oaths of loyalty from all rebel Highland chiefs, but the exiled James delayed in giving them his permission to relinquish their existing oaths to him. As a result, most were unable to meet the imposed deadline of Jan. 1, 1692 ... but only one was selected to be made an example of: the MacDonald of Glencoe. His small clan group was massacred by two companies of government-supporting Campbell soldiers.

James VII (& II) died in exile in 1702, but he did have an heir, James Edward. At the start of the 18th century Scotland was suffering greatly from the subjugations of the English, who treated Scotland with contempt while extracting both men and taxes to support its wars with France. The independent Scottish Parliament had been abolished in the 1707 Act of Union, amidst great unrest. James Edward, whom we call The Old Pretender, saw the time as ripe to regain the throne of Scotland. In 1708, just 20 years of age, he arrived at the mouth of the Forth with a French fleet and an army of 6,000 men provided by Louis XIV. However, the arrival of 28 English men-of-war caused the French, and James Edward, to flee.

William of Orange had also died in 1702, without issue. His successor (*and sister-in-law*), Queen Anne, died in 1714, also childless. The English Parliament had arranged in such circumstances for the crown to go to the Electress Sophia of Hanover, granddaughter of James VI (& I). Her son, the Hanoverian German George I, ascended the throne of England ... and therefore of Scotland. But many Scots felt they still had the right to choose their own king, and definitely not a foreign one. There was also strong resentment of English breaches of the Act of Union. The Jacobites saw the opportunity to restore the House of Stuart through rebellion.

Their leader, the Earl of Mar, raised the Stuart standard on the Braes of Mar in September, 1715 ... but James Edward did not arrive in Scotland until Christmas. The battles had already been lost and Mar's followers reduced to a few hundred. Unlike his son, The Old Pretender proved to be no inspiring leader. By early February he returned to France, never to return.



A portion of the front of Palazzo Muti

By 1719, James Edward was in Rome. He was accorded royal honours by the Papal Court as it was believed the Hanoverians might still be displaced. He lived in the dull little Palazzo Muti (*now an office building with retail on the main floor*) at the north end of the Piazza dei Santi Apostoli (*really just a widening in the street in front of the church of that name*), off the Corso and not far from the Trevi Fountain. That year he married Polish aristocrat Maria Clementina Sobieski. They lived in Rome as "James III and Queen Maria Clementina of England". For 70 years, Palazzo Muti was the headquarters of "The King Over the Water".

Clementina's grandfather, John Sobieski, was famous for having halted the Turkish advance at Vienna and liberating Hungary from the Ottoman Turks. Part of the 16-year old Clementina's trousseau was a relic of these events ... a four-poster bed whose hangings were made of the curtain which had surrounded the standard of Mohammed. It was embroidered with Arabic texts in turquoises and pearls on a gold ground. She also had three huge rubies found in the harem tent of the Grand Vizier Amurath.

Even stranger was her journey to Rome. On her way from Poland she had been kidnapped by the Emperor, who was in alliance with England, and locked in the Castle of Innsbruck (*to prevent a marriage which could produce a Catholic heir to the English throne*). Four gallant Irish officers pledged to James they would rescue his bride-to-be. They rode to Innsbruck through April storms with the scheme of smuggling a young woman into the castle to take Clementina's place. It was a pitch-dark night, snowing hard. The castle guards had gone indoors and the streets were deserted. Charles Wogan, the leader, saw approaching through the storm a young girl in hooded cloak, walking slowly, burdened with two parcels. It was Clementina. In one parcel she had packed some clothing; in the other were the Crown Jewels of England, sent to her by James as a betrothal gift.

Wogan took her to an inn, where a special double-sprung coach was waiting to take her over the Alps to Rome. No sooner had they set off than the princess missed the Crown Jewels. One of the men, O'Toole, rode back and found them lying behind a door of the inn! There followed a hair-raising trip over the Alps, in which the carriage axles were smashed and Clementina eventually delivered safely in a cart. The four Irishmen were knighted by James and Wogan made a Senator of Rome by the Pope.

The first six years of their married life were perfect. Charles Edward (*Bonnie Prince Charlie*) was born in the Palazzo Muti in 1720. He inherited his Polish mother's fair colouring ... as opposed to his father, James, darkest of the Stuarts, son of Mary of Modena, and the "Blackbird" of Jacobite song. Henry, who became Cardinal Duke of York, was born in 1725. The pope was most pleased to have in his city a Catholic "King of England" whose wife was said to be more Catholic than the Pope himself. But the strain of the impecunious court and the preoccupations of her melancholy husband finally got on Clementina's nerves. In a moment of hysterical anger, she fled the Palazzo Muti and took refuge with the nuns of Saint Cecilia in their residence in the Via Vittoria, now the Academy of Music.

Two years later, Clementina returned, but she was a changed woman. Her life was now devoted to religion. When she died in 1738 at the age of 35, James and her two sons were heartbroken. If you enter the left-hand side of St. Peter's at the front, just above the exit door from the dome, you will see a most magnificent monument to her memory. A sorrowful widower, James spent hours on his knees at his wife's tomb. He died in the Palazzo Muti in 1766.



In July, 1745, Charles Edward departed from Rome and landed in Scotland ... armed almost entirely with just his charm and dashing appearance ... to begin a rebellion and restore his father to the throne (*despite the disapproval of his father, Louis XV of France, and most of his sympathizers in Scotland*). His gay confidence and early victories raised the Jacobite clans, but he had come too late. With the creation of the government's Black Watch at the start of the century (*to guard against the rest of the wild Highlanders*) and with the strong Campbell forces of the Duke of Argyle aligned with the government, there were soon more Scots forces against him than with him ... let alone the forces mustered in England itself.

At first there was success. Charles' Highland swordsmen scattered the government forces at Prestonpans and he occupied Edinburgh. His small force marched into England, as far south as Derby. But three English armies had assembled and there was neither English popular uprising nor the expected French invasion. Charles began a retreat, with successful actions at Clifton and at Falkirk, but the force against him was unstoppable. At dawn on April 16, 1746, after a night-time forced march, less than 5,000 of his hungry and exhausted men formed up in a snowstorm on Culloden Moor against much superior English forces. It was a grave tactical

error, which only the Prince thought could succeed. The feared Highland charge had no chance on a field of mire and bramble. The English mowed down Scottish sword and spear with musket and cannon. Wounded and fleeing rebels were hunted down and slaughtered by "Butcher" Cumberland. The carrying of arms and the wearing of tartan, kilt, or plaid, were all forbidden. The Highland clans were broken for all time. A way of life had ended.

Bonnie Prince Charlie fled into the Highlands, taking refuge on the island of Benbecula. Aided by Flora MacDonald, and disguised as an Irish spinning maid, he made his way *over the sea to Skye* and then back to the mainland, where a ship took him off to France. He was accompanied by one Clementina Walkinshaw, whom he had met in Scotland the previous year. She shared his wandering life on the continent, passing as his wife under such names as Mr. & Mrs. Johnson, or Thomson. She bore him an illegitimate daughter, Charlotte. The couple quarreled violently, often in public, until finally Clementina fled with the child. Charles returned to the Palazzo Muti in Rome.

In 1772, at the age of 52, Charles Edward married 19-year old Princess Louisa of Stolberg. Her youth and beauty were a marked contrast to "Bonnie" Prince Charlie, now well advanced in alcoholism. Delighting the Romans, who called her "The Queen of Hearts", Louise had a positive effect on Charles ... for a while. But he was too old to change his drunken, jealous ways. On a St. Andrew's Eve in Florence, where they were living at the time, he burst into her room and, accusing her of infidelity, tried to strangle her. (*He was justified in his accusations, if not his method. She **had** started an illicit affair with the Italian poet, Count Alfieri.*)

Louise fled to a convent, and then appealed to her brother-in-law, Cardinal Henry, for help. He arranged for her to return to Rome and find sanctuary in the same convent of Saint Cecilia which had sheltered his mother, Clementina. Alfieri followed. The naïve Cardinal Henry, the only person in Rome (*along with the Pope*) who believed the relationship to be platonic, settled Louise in the magnificent Palazzo della Cancelleria, seat of Rome's papal government of the time. It was conveniently near Alfieri's villa. For two years the couple openly carried on their romance under Henry's unsuspecting nose ... until Charles Edward finally revealed the truth. Shocked and outraged, Henry appealed to the Pope who, equally shocked, banned Alfieri from the city. Louise soon followed, and the couple spent the next twenty years together.

PHOTO: Memorial in St. Peter's to Maria Clementina Sobieski, wife of the Old Pretender and mother of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

By 1776 Charles Edward was an invalid, sick as a result of disappointment and dissolute living. In his old age he reconciled with his now 31-year old illegitimate daughter, Charlotte. He legitimized her by deed, gave her the title of Duchess of Albany, and brought her to live with him at the Palazzo Muti. She was a female version of himself in his "bonnie" days. She nursed her father with love and devotion. He recovered his health under her care, at least to the point where the two could sometimes be seen driving about Rome in a coach with servants in the royal livery of Great Britain and with the motto CR on the door beneath a royal crown.



His last two years finally spent in dignity and peace, Bonnie Prince Charlie died at Palazzo Muti at the end of January, 1788. He had a box under his bed containing 12,000 gold sequins, kept there in case he should be called back to the throne of his ancestors. The devoted Charlotte died shortly after when her horse stumbled and fell.

After his brother's death, Cardinal Henry proclaimed himself Henry IX of England. However, the Hanoverians were now firmly entrenched and not even the pope would recognize that title. Although a rich man, living grandly in his see of Frascati in the Alban Hills outside Rome, the Napoleonic struggles of the Holy See soon left Henry destitute. With great delicacy, George III persuaded him to accept a small pension from England.

The Old Pretender, Young Pretender and Cardinal Henry Duke of York are all buried in the crypts of St. Peter's. The Prince Regent of England paid for a somewhat austere monument to these last three Stuarts, by Canova, which can be seen opposite the much more ornate monument to Maria Clementina.

Besides St. Peter's and the Palazzo Muti, there are several other sites in Rome which bring back

memories of the Stuarts in exile. The Piazza Navona is a long rectangular plaza in the heart of the Centro Storico. Its long narrow shape results from it being on the original site of Domitian's chariot racing stadium. The surrounding buildings are where the stands were located. From the 17th century until 1867, on Sundays in the heat of July and August, the drains of Bernini's fountains were plugged and the square filled with water. Parties were given in the surrounding houses, bands played, and aristocrats (including *The Old Pretender* and *Maria Clementina*) drove their carriages through the water. In 1727 Bonnie Prince Charlie, as a lad of seven, was seen on a balcony excitedly throwing coins into the water for the street urchins below.

At the Castel San Angelo, when touring the grand papal apartments, look for a large canvas depicting "The Entry of James III of England into Bologna". In the group of attending Jacobites portrayed in the painting stands a striking young lad of about fourteen. This lad must surely be Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Finally, in the Piazza of Santa Maria in Trastevere you will find the church of that name in the southwest corner. To the altar's right you will find the Stuart Chapel, the entrance of which is topped with the Lion Rampant of Scotland, the royal coat of arms placed by Henry Cardinal Duke of York.

PHOTO; The monument in St. Peter's to the last of the Stuarts, who are buried there. The Latin inscription reads:

James III
son of James II, King of Great Britain

Charles Edward
and Henry, Dean of the Cardinal Fathers
sons of James III

The last of the Royal House of Stuart
1819

PHOTOS: Ian Ross

MY PILGRIMAGE TO TAIN, July 2009

by Andrew Ross Thibodeau

In medieval times, Scotland had four key Christian sites for pilgrimage, forming almost perfectly the four points of the cross on a map. To the west, St. Columba's island monastery on Iona, to the south, St. Ninian's Wishart to the east, the relics of St. Andrew in the town that bears his name, and to the north, Scotland's oldest royal burgh, Tain. Tain, the birthplace of St. Duthac, who became renowned by the 1200's for the miracles that he performed, owes its existence to the arrival of pilgrims over several centuries. With a very small river and a poor harbour, the only reason it grew was because of pilgrims coming to view the relics of this little known saint. It's most famous pilgrim was Scottish King James IV, who made 18 visits before his death at Flodden in 1503.

For me, my second visit to the heart of Ross-shire and Clan Ross, was a pilgrimage to my family's ancestry that took me from a grave yard outside Paisley, Bruce County, Ontario, to the edge of the Scottish highlands.

After almost three weeks in Scotland in July, 2009, I joined Clan Ross USA for three days for their excursion to Tain. Our American friends had arranged for 12 of their members to participate in a 15 day Scottish tour arranged by Estelle Quick of Highland Museum Services in Scotland. I had enjoyed their company on the weekend of the huge Gathering Festival in Edinburgh. Many of them helped at the Ross tent and all had joined in the parade.

In researching ancestry that goes beyond 100 years ago, it is so exciting to find the person who was born overseas and made the decision to come to Canada. For me, that revelation was confirmed in 2006 in a small cemetery at a crossroad called Lovat, near Paisley, Ontario. My great-great-great-grandfather on my mother's side, Thomas Ross, was buried there, and the record clearly stated, "A native of Tain, Scotland". Perfect! We had our link, we had his home town. I had been to Tain in 2001 and I just knew it was connected to my family. I remember finding it difficult to sleep, so I got up and out around 5am, and walked through the town with my video camera, taking images I still treasure today. Five years later, I had my proof. More research showed that his parents were Alexander Ross and Catherine Tulloch, who remained in Scotland.

Our Clan Ross bus left Edinburgh before 10am and got to Tain by 5pm after a two hour stop at the excellent Highland Museum. As a living museum, with factual recreations of crofters' homes from 250+ years ago, it was compelling to walk into these buildings and smell the peat fires! This is how our Ross and Scottish ancestors lived! In Tain, our hotel was the Morangie House. Glen Morangie, (meaning Valley of Tranquility) is the locally brewed whisky.

With a few dates and names, I was able to email Estelle before my arrival in Scotland in July 2009 and ask for her help. When I saw her on the bus to begin our trip north to Tain, she handed me two documents which totally changed the focus of the trip for me.

The first was from the 1851 census, showing Alexander and Catherine's family with two sons listed, but not Thomas, my ancestor. One son, Andrew, was born within a year of my gr X 3 grandfather. I later learned that Thomas and his brother Andrew were baptized on the same day. Our conclusion was that they may have been twins! Since he was not on the census, I now knew that Thomas, born in 1832, left Scotland for Canada before 1851 when he was aged 20. I also knew that I would have more Ross relatives in Scotland because he had two brothers who stayed behind. Finding those ancestors will be a fun future project, hopefully leading me to extended family members in Scotland. The document also listed their home as Newtown. The next two families also lived in Newtown. This was a farm and collection of small homes just east of Tain. One brother was listed as a Blacksmith, the other as a Journeyman Tailor. My great X 4 grandfather was a House Carpenter. Were they tenants or owners of this farm?

The location of the farm helped explain the second document. It was the 1858 death certificate of my great X 4 grandmother, Catherine. Instead of being buried in Tain, she was buried at the Tarbat gravesite in Portmahomack. This grave was closer to Newtown than Tain. It listed Alexander as present at her death, at 2am, due to chronic bronchitis/ asthma, at the age of 56. The place of death was in Tain, on Petley Street. Using a map from that time, we saw that there were only seven homes on that street in the 1850's, and all were still there today. So, late one afternoon, Philip, a volunteer with the Tain Museum, walked with me to the street to take pictures and to take it all in. Philip, who was our guide for some of the day, had that great British accent that was perfect for historical tours or documentaries. I asked him to say my favourite word in their accent ... extraordinary. The way they say that word ... wow ... they could make reading the phone book sound interesting. Philip perfectly set

up my mood as I stood looking down that street. "Look at that view," he said, looking north up the street to the Dornoch Firth and hills of Sutherland in the distance. "You can see the point of Caithness from here. Just imagine, your ancestors, walking these very streets, past these very homes, getting that view. Now, here you are today." I am not making this up. That's exactly what he said ... He was the stuff of documentaries!

Our guess was that Alexander had brought Catherine into town from the country to a Doctor's home located on Petley Street. With her chronic bronchitis, it must have been a challenge for her to breathe in those final days. She had probably had such a bad attack that Alexander took her directly to the doctor's home to see if he could help. I felt a wave of emotion as I held the death certificate, standing on that street, near the home where she passed. I thought about Alexander, her husband and my grandfather, being present with her in those final hours. They had been a couple for 35 years and it must have been so difficult.

Tain Through Time and the Clan Ross Museum work together to preserve the area's heritage. Mo rag Bremner (nee Ross!) and Sheila are the two part time employees (who put in full time hours), with a team of dedicated volunteers like Philip, Alastair, and many others. They just fed off our Clan Ross enthusiasm for knowledge of the area, sharing with us in conversations and formal presentations everything they could. One example of their willingness to help was when I went into the gift shop looking for suggestions on how to get to Portmahomack and find that gravestone. "You could just call from here," Sheila said, offering the phone behind her cash register. "That graveyard is part of the Tarbat Discovery Centre Museum." So, there I am, on her chair, in a small space behind her register, talking to Michelle who was about 10 miles away at the Tarbat Centre. She looks up the names on her database of the graveyard. "I think I have it," she says, "the only Alexander Ross & Catherine Tulloch buried here." Unfortunately, no dates were listed on the inscription. "Let me go have a look" she says. I was thinking that I would have to call back, but no, she is walking now with her phone out into the grave yard! "Here it is" she says. "It's a tablet stone, flat and level with the ground, typical of the 1850's, with a lot of wear. Let me clean it up a bit and see if I can get more information from it. Do you have email?" Wow, I was so impressed by everyone's willingness to help.

Hopefully in the coming months I can get more information from her and the grave stone.

If you consider a trip to the "homeland", I so recommend that you visit our friends at the Clan Ross Museum at Tain through Time. We are so blessed that our Clan has established such an amazing permanent site in partnership with them. I cannot thank them enough for the generous hospitality they demonstrated to me and our Clan Ross USA membership.

Their Website: www.tainmuseum.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

13th ANNUAL CLAN ROSS-MANITOBA BURNS DINNER

On Saturday, Jan. 16th, 2010 Clan Ross will once again hold its Burns Dinner at Winnipeg's Fort Garry Hotel. We are modestly proud that our dinner has all the traditions but dispenses with any stuffiness or excess formality. In short, it retains all the wit, warmth and humour of the poet himself.

We will include the *Address to a Haggis* by Archie McNicol, a Salute to the Atholl Brose by Ian Ross and the Toast to the Lassies and Response by Robert and Lynne McKibbin. Giving the Immortal Memory will be Winnipeg's Chief of Police, Keith McCaskill. There will be entertainment by the Gaelyn McGregor School of Highland Dance, and rousing Manitoba folk songs by Ted Longbottom, accompanied by fiddler Daniel Koulack ... both heard at the gala dinner after the dedication of the Selkirk Settlers Monument in 2008. John Perrin III will be our jovial Master of Ceremonies.

The event will be held in the Fort Garry's intimate lower level Club Room. Cocktails commence at 6:00, followed by a fine meal from the hotel's ever-reliable gourmet kitchen. (*Veal shank and all the trimmings this year!*) Kilted Highland formal dress or tuxedo is preferred, but appearing in regular jacket and tie will not result in being fed to our corral of ravenous wild *haggi*. (Bowling shirts will!) Tickets are an affordable \$57.00 and will be available at the December Clan Ross-Manitoba Christmas Party ... or by contacting Denis Fletcher at (204) 257-7511. Roger and Patricia Stagg will once again coordinate our Silent Auction. All Clan members are encouraged to rustle up items to donate and contact the Staggs at (204) 339-3487. We hope to have a "better-than-ever" silent auction table this year!

Submitted by Ian Ross

UPCOMING EVENTS, Cont'd

From: <http://www.greatclanross.org>

November, 2009: Québec, QC. The 78th Fraser Highlanders of Fort Saint Andrews, Québec, will celebrate their Scottish patron-saint at Québec High School on Rue Belvédère at 6:00 P.M. Tickets (\$30 each) limited to 60 persons (first come basis). Contact: Marc Lestage 418-843-1967.

November 28, 2009: Toronto, ON. St. Andrew's Ball, co-sponsored by the 48th Highlanders and the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto. Held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Reception begins at 6:00 PM. Phone: (416)449-8070 <http://www.standrews-society.ca/ball.cfm>

November 30: ST. ANDREW'S DAY. Scots around the world celebrate this day to honour the Patron Saint of Scotland. The Scottish Saltire of St. Andrew is a diagonal white cross on an azure blue background. Traditionally, Advent begins on the Sunday nearest St. Andrew's Day and lasts from 21 to 28 days. The Order of St. Andrew or the Most Ancient Order of the Thistle is an order of Knighthood established by King James VIII of Scotland, and it is restricted to the King or Queen and sixteen others.

December 1, 2009: The 49th ANNIVERSARY of The CLAN ROSS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA in terms of its continuous existence since the meeting of "revitalized founders" in Montreal on December 1, 1960, the day after St. Andrew's Day. Help us to celebrate our 49th Anniversary by encouraging another Ross or other persons in the Clan Ross Family (Sept) to become a member.

JANUARY 1, 2009: MEMBERSHIP DUES (\$15) (OR US\$21 TO COVER US POSTAGE) FOR THE CLAN ROSS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA ARE NOW DUE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN YOUR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP STATUS.

February 7, 2010: Toronto, ON. The Band of The Irish Guards and Pipes & Drums, and dancers of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Roy Thomson Hall. For tickets call (416)872-4255.



FERGUS, 2009



Left: Joanne Ross-Zuj, the Mayor of Fergus/Centre Wellington, and her Daughter Kathryn, in front of Ross tent.

Right: John and Frank Ross from Toronto, with their Ross tattoos.

Photos: Andrew Ross Thibodeau