



# CLAN ROSS

Association of Canada,  
Inc.  
Founded 1960

David C. Ross of Ross, Chief

SPRING ISSUE  
MAY, 2010

An Cìrean Ceann Cinnidh



Photo: PDR

Ross Fountain, West Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh

# 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

**Names and Families:** (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, SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2010**

Hello all!

After the warmest Easter ever, spring arrived early in London, Ontario. March was the first March in London's history that we had NO snow.

I am so excited about the summer we have ahead of us!

### **CLAN ROSS, THE HONOURED CLAN AT FERGUS, August 13 – 15, 2010**

We have wonderful news regarding our participation in Canada's largest Scottish Festival, in Fergus, Ontario.

Dr. Valerie-Dawn Girhiny, the great X 3 grand-daughter of Sir George Ross will be our guest of honour. Sir George Ross, premier of Ontario at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, founded the original "Clan Ross of America" (combining both Canada and the USA) in 1911. This manifestation of our Association lasted until 1914 when the onset of WW1 caused the temporary ending of the organization. Our Clan in its current form began in 1960. Dr. Girhiny, a professor at McMaster University in Hamilton, will attend with her husband, Rt. Rev. Dr. John Girhiny. She will join us for most of the weekend's events and will speak briefly at the Festival's opening ceremonies on Saturday at 12:30pm.

For Fergus, please email me directly about your participation in the parade and Saturday dinner at the Holiday Inn. Please join us so we have a large gathering for the parade!

To see the write up on our clan on the Fergus website, go to:

<http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com/index.cfm?page=clanRoss>

### **NATIONAL GATHERING UPDATE**

Speaking of special guests, I was thrilled to speak with former Clan Ross president, Don Ross of Orillia, a few weeks ago. He has confirmed his participation in our National Gathering in July. Don is proud to be the son of Dr. John Ross, one of the key people who formed our association in 1960. Dr. John also wrote the book *Great Clan Ross*, the inspiration behind our website's name. As a long standing member of our clan, a book store owner in Orillia (Manticore Books), an historian, and a witness to most of the Clan's major activities of the past 50 years, he will share his insights at our Ceilidh on the Friday night.

With the above news, it's so exciting that two people with key connections to the founding of our association can be part of our summer of celebration. We hope you can join in us too! For our National Gathering, please get your registration in by the end of June. We already have 16 people registered!

Enjoy your summer,

Andrew Ross Thibodeau



## **CEUD MILE FAILTE**

**A hundred thousand welcomes to our new members**

Merle & Linda Ross of Kelowna BC

## CLAN ROSS GATHERING IN TAIN, AUGUST 2009

By Hugh Ross, younger of Ross

One hundred and fifty clansfolk attended the 2009 Clan Ross Gathering at Tain in Scotland which took place over the Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009. It was organised by Morag Bremner (nee Ross) and her team at the Clan Ross Centre and this was designed to coincide with the annual Glenmorangie Tain Highland Games which take place every August on the second Thursday of the month. Chief David Ross of Ross and Balnagowan and Lady Ross along with son Hugh Ross, younger of Ross and his family, wife Jennifer and children Catriona and Calum, were in attendance throughout. Visitors came from many countries with a large contingent from Finland, others coming from the U.S.A., Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Jamaica, Holland and various parts of the UK.



**Chief David Ross of Ross and Balnagowan\*, Lady Ross (5<sup>th</sup> from left, front row), son Hugh Ross, younger of Ross (first on left, front row), his family, and other attendees at the Clan Ross gathering in Tain.**

After an Opening Ceremony in the ancient Kirk of St. Duthac, the Wednesday saw a full day of fascinating workshops organised by the Clan Ross Centre which included sessions on Gaelic language, singing and participative dancing. In the evening there was a talk on the "diaspora" from a member of the Highlands and Islands University with particular emphasis on Eastern Europe. The day's activities closed with a wonderful open air concert from Tain Pipe Band in the Town's Rose Garden.

With good weather for the Thursday, Clan Ross gathered together in the morning, enjoyed an excellent dram provided courtesy of Glenmorangie, the Games Sponsors, prior to marching through the High Street at the head of a procession. At the Games Field, the Clan members marched proudly around the arena. The accompanying photograph shows Chief David with his family at the head of the Clan. The Clan Ross had a booth at the Games field with hospitality being provided which made for a convivial day. Musical accompaniment was provided by Catriona Ross, the Chief's granddaughter. A fitting finale to the Gathering was a Cèilidh that took place in the evening after the Games which saw lots of dancing and music. A truly wonderful end to a magnificent two days.

Future Visitors to Tain during the Annual Tain Games will always be sure of a warm welcome. More information about Clan Ross participation at the games can be obtained from the Clan Ross Centre/Tain Through Time, Tower Street, Tain IV19 1DY, Tel: +44 (0)1862 894089 [www.tainmuseum.org.uk](http://www.tainmuseum.org.uk) or contact Morag Ross Bremner at [info@tainmuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@tainmuseum.org.uk).

\*The spelling "Balnagowan" refers to Chief David Ross of Ross and Balnagowan. This spelling, with three "a"s, differentiates and enhances the importance of the chiefly family from that of the property which is spelled "Balnagown". I apologize for the spelling error on the cover of the last issue of the newsletter. P. D. Ross

# **BIGGEST BURNS DINNER EVER!**

**By Ian Ross**

Saturday, Jan. 16th, 2010 saw a record attendance of 99 convivial souls gather to help celebrate the Manitoba Chapter's 13th annual Burns Dinner at Winnipeg's Fort Garry Hotel. The committee feels we have now attained the Clubroom's capacity for this event, while still retaining a sense of comfort and coziness, and will hold ticket sales to a maximum 100 in future. (Maybe next year we will have ticket scalpers in the hotel lobby!)

Our jovial and erudite MC, John Perrin III, welcomed all present on behalf of Manitoba Chapter President Barb Fletcher & VP Dorothy Hollins, followed by grace given by Don Ross. Then Piper Mark O'Rourke of the Winnipeg Police Service paraded in sword-bearer Ian Ross, haggis-bearer Jim Osborne (splendidly attired in an authentic 18th cent Highland officer's uniform) and orator Archie McNicol who performed Burns' "Address to a Haggis", complete with authentically impenetrable Glaswegian accent. Front table guests were in danger of decapitation when Archie seized and brandished the sword-bearer's claidmhor (rather than a mere carving knife) while proclaiming "an' legs, an' arms an' heads will sned". Our appetites whetted by a splendid haggis, we then tucked in to a gourmet veal shank dinner.

Entertainment followed. First up were Highland dancers of all ages from the Gaelyn McGregor Studio of Highland Dance. They included traditional dances plus a more modern choreographed routine in their delightful performance. Next was Manitoba Metis folksinger Ted Longbottom. His songs were authentic vignettes of Manitoba history, because they were the stories of his family and of his people ... stretching back seven generations to his ancestor John Peter Pruden, Hudson's Bay Company Factor at Norway House, who took a "country wife". Especially appropriate was his "Ballad of Gordy Ross" the York boat man. He was accompanied by fiddler Daniel Koulack who dazzled us with his high energy old-time dance tune choruses in "Scanterbury Dance Hall Saturday Night". This was followed by the usual nonsense as Ian Ross, dressed in a "00" baseball uniform, presented the Atholl Brose ... freely plagiarizing "Casey at the Bat" with his poem "Earl John at the Gate" (see below).

After a good break for chat, and the purchase of raffle tickets for the silent auction table run by Patricia and Roger Stagg, we proceeded to the more formal part of the evening. We were treated to an excellent Immortal Memory given by P/M Ron McFarlane (substituting for Winnipeg's Chief of Police, Keith McCaskill, who was unfortunately not available). Who would have guessed that it was Ron's very first attempt at this feat, and done at such short notice! Ron has definitely found his calling in public speaking. This was followed by the Toast to the Lassies and Response by Bob and Lynne McKibbon. The evening closed with Auld Lang Syne, led by Roger Ross.

Many thanks for a splendid evening to Committee Chair Denis Fletcher and his Committee Members: Len Perry, Don Ross, Eldon Ross, Ian Ross and Roger Ross.

And the best news of all ... the evening made some money, but not too much. See you all next year!

## **THE PRESENTATION OF THE ATHOLL BROSE**

**By Ian Ross**

There are several versions of the origin of the Atholl Brose:

One very questionable legend has the Earl of Atholl, Chief of Clan Murray, being sent into the Highlands to capture the rebellious Earl John, Chief of Clan Ross. The Atholl ... and I use this term advisedly ... lay in wait at the Ross's favorite spring, having spiked the water with a mixture of oats, honey and whisky. The Ross drank deeply of the resulting brose, fell asleep, and was captured by the most devious Murray.

Another unsubstantiated legend has the Earl of Ross laying siege to Blair Atholl, Clan Murray's great castle. The Ross was having the best of it and Lord Murray, not wanting his goods falling into enemy hands, dumped his prized stores of oats, whisky, honey and cream straight down his well. The Ross drank deeply from this well, got royally pissed and passed out. The Murray then took the comatose Earl prisoner.

However, if one consults the historical record, the truth emerges. In 1462 John, 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ross and 4<sup>th</sup> Lord of the Isles, led his wild northern clansmen in 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 Earl and Countess of Atholl off to Islay as his prisoners.

This evening, however, I shall be completely impartial. The following plagiarism of Ernest Thayer's "Casey at the Bat" draws from all the above sources. I call it:

### **Earl John at the Gate**

The outlook wasn't brilliant for the Murray Clan that day;  
Earl John of Ross and all his men had come, and not to play.  
But when one drowned in Atholl's moat, and others did the same.  
A pall-like silence fell upon the soldiers of that name.

A stragglng few got up to leave the castle siege. The rest  
Clung to that hope which springs eternal in the human breast;  
They thought, "If only John our Earl can pass that watery spate,  
We'd put up even money that he'll make it through the gate."

But Hamish Ross preceded at the moat ... and feckless Jock,  
And the former was a coward, while Jock swam like a rock;  
So upon the Clan Ross army sat grim melancholy's fate;  
For there seemed but little chance of Earl John getting to the gate.

While waiting for those two to take their chances in the line,  
The Earl of Ross paused briefly for a cask or two of wine,  
well-watered (so he thought) from out of Murray's private well  
(where Murray'd dropped his whisky, honey, oats and cream pell-mell).

But Hamish leapt across the moat, to wonderment of all,  
And Jock, the much despis-ed, waded through the water's fall;  
And when the spray had lifted, and men saw what had occurred,  
There was Hamish at the gate with Jock ... both fighting undeterred.

Then from five thousand men of Ross there rose a lusty yell;  
It rumbled through the valley, it rattled in the dell;  
It pounded on the mountains as it bellowed from their throats,  
For John, their mighty Earl of Ross, advancing through the moat.

There was ease in Earl John's manner as he stepped into his place;  
There was pride in all his bearing and a smile lit Earl John's face.  
And when, responding to the cheers, he lightly touched his pate,  
No-one could doubt that John the Earl would pass Blair Atholl's gate.

Atop the castle gate Earl Murray called out for a duel,  
"You're honour bound to humour me in this now that's the rule!"  
Defiance flashed in Earl John's eye, a sneer curled on his lip  
But hid'd'n above The Murray readied boiling oil to tip.

And now the fiery boiling oil came hurtling through the air,  
But Earl John stood a-watching it in haughty grandeur there.  
Close by the sturdy Chief of Clan the oil unheeded sped —  
"That can't hurt me," said John. .... "That's only one!" Earl Murray said.

From the Ross's Highland army there went up a muffled roar,  
Like the beating of the storm-waves on a stern and distant shore;  
"Kill him! Kill The Murray!" shouted someone, "Oil's not fair!";  
And it's likely they'd have killed him had not John the Earl been there.

With a smile of Christian charity the Ross Chief's visage shone;  
He stilled the rising tumult; he bade the duel go on;  
He signaled to Blair Atholl's Earl, once more the hot oil flew;  
But Earl John still ignored it .... Murray said "That's only two!"

"Fraud!" cried the maddened thousands, and echo answered "Fraud!"  
But one scornful look from Earl John and his soldiers all were awed.  
They saw his face grow stern and cold, they saw his muscles strain,  
They knew the Ross Chief wouldn't let this du-el be in vain.

The sneer has fled from Earl John's lip, the teeth are clenched in hate;  
He pounds with cru-el vi-o-lence his sword upon the gate.  
And now The Murray tips the oil, and now he lets it go,  
And now the air is shattered by the force of Earl John's blow.  
- - -

Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright,  
The pipes are playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light,  
And somewhere men are laughing, and little children shout;  
But the Atholl Brose has done its work ..... the Ross Chief has passed out.

## ROSS STORIES

By Andrew Ross Thibodeau

### 1) ROSS MEMORIAL MUSEUM, ST. ANDREW'S BY THE SEA. NEW BRUNSWICK

As a professional speaker specializing in youth ages 12-25, I am so blessed to travel the continent for the past 18 years. In the past few months my trips to the coast of New Brunswick has revealed two interesting connections to our Clan.

Back in November, I was speaking at a conference in St. Andrew's by the Sea at the famous Algonquin Hotel. While taking a walk around town, I passed the Ross Memorial Museum: [www.rossmemorialmuseum.ca](http://www.rossmemorialmuseum.ca) . Intrigued, I called the number on the door and reached the assistant director, Kerri Chrus. A wonderfully accommodating, insightful and friendly woman, she opened the museum for me later that day to give me a personal tour.



The museum is in a large brick home built in 1824, called Chestnut Hall. It houses the family heirlooms, artwork, furniture and placards with the story of Henry & Sarah Ross. Henry was born in Cleveland and graduated Harvard Theology School in 1909. Sarah was from Detroit and was the daughter of the founder of the financial firm Bradstreet, later to become Dunn & Bradstreet. As a couple, they started visiting college friends in St. Andrew's by the Sea in 1902 and fell in love with the area. They purchased an estate outside of town and summered there each year. With no kids, they decided to purchase Chestnut Hall in 1938 to house their collections.

In a fitting tribute to a wonderful love story, the couple passed away in 1945 within 8 days of each other.

In their will, they allowed the maid and butler to live there with a life time of paid wages. In 1976, the town was given the home and in 1980 it was opened as a museum.

I really enjoyed the hour I spent there. It was a trip back 100 years to 1910, with the artwork, rugs, and furniture in wonderful condition. Most inspiring was simply reading Henry & Sarah's love story and their commitment to giving. Their generosity and the way they shared their gifts of time, talent and money would make you proud that they were Rosses.

Outside of town, the estate is still called Rossmont. It's 87 acres, and the home is now called the Ross Mount Inn: [www.rossmountinn.com](http://www.rossmountinn.com). Located on highway 127, the Inn is famous locally for its food and is operated by the Swift family. I did not get to visit it, but, the website shows a truly stunning location.

## 2) ROSS ISLAND, BAY OF FUNDY, OFF THE COAST OF GRAND MANAN ISLAND

In February, I had one of my more unique school trips when I visited Grand Manan Island in the Bay of Fundy. Located an hour long ferry ride off the coast of New Brunswick, the island has over 3000 inhabitants. It is known for being the centre of a tremendous aquaculture industry, as well as a tourism destination.



This picture features me lying on the floor of the high school's gymnasium. The image is of the island, with the neighbouring islands around it. The one I am pointing at is called Ross Island.

The 800 acre island is named after Captain Thomas Ross, who joined Moses Gerrish, John Jones and others as the original settlers of these islands way back in 1784. These loyalists escaped from Boston to come to Canada. While the sea was rich, the land was poor, and within 7 years of arriving, only the families of Ross and Gerrish remained on Grand Manan. Settlement did not restart again until 1809. Ross is known for helping construct the first church on Grand Manan Island, the Anglican St. Paul's

church, in 1823. (The current structure was built in 1842) The first Reverend, Comelius Griffin, arrived the next year from PEI. According to the book "Historic Grand Manan" by Elaine Hogg, the Reverend's condescending attitude and demands to be the sole manager of the church and its lands caused great tension with the early settlers. With no parsonage, Rev. Griffin lived with Ross family. He later complained to his overseer that "the Ross family was of the lowest order of smugglers from the United States!" The Reverend lasted only a few months on the island.

Smuggler, pioneer, adventurer, loyalist, a person of "lowest order"... there are many ways to view Captain Ross, as it was for hundreds of others who built our nation after the American Revolution.

Another island near the main island of Grand Manan is called Wood Island. Its first owner was John Ross, son of Captain Thomas, who was personally deeded the island in 1807 by King George III. The island is now uninhabited, with the last residents leaving in 1950.

Ross is a name to be proud of! It appears everywhere. Just today I passed Ross Street in London. I then saw a large blue Tow Truck with the Ross logo on its side. Ross Towing is the largest towing company in southwestern Ontario, founded in 1957 in London by David Ross. They specialize in large vehicle recoveries. Finally, last month in Fredericton, I noticed that some downtown buildings were managed by Ross Ventures.



**Ross Island boats**

Do have the story of a Ross in your area? Please share it with me and we will get it published!

## CONNECTIONS CORNER #10

By Lizz Thibodeau

I've made an incredible genealogical discovery. I'm sure none of you have heard of this source before but it may help hundreds of you out. It's not on-line, nor in a book; it's better than that. You don't even need to leave home. I've discovered: A Genealogy Fairy. It's kind of like a fairy godmother, but for genealogists.

I realise some of you are rolling your eyes right now and wondering what I've been into, but I don't drink!

You see, I've been working, off and on, on my husband's genealogy for over a decade now and his father's side has been quite a success. We've gotten all the way back to France in the 1580s. His mother's side has been a different story. I've managed to do a fair bit through his mom's father's line but when it comes to his mom's mother, no one seems to know anything. I'd think they were hiding some skeletons in there, but it's not that they just don't know, they don't even seem to care. So for years, all we've really known is that my husband's maternal grandmother is from somewhere in England. Dead-end.

Well, about two weeks ago, I went out to check the mail and there were two pieces of paper in my mailbox, no stamp or envelope, just loose papers. My name (spelt incorrectly) and address were on the back of one. I point out that my name was spelt incorrectly to highlight that whoever dropped the papers off was not a close relative and the address leads me to believe that it was not someone who pops by often. The two papers consisted of the newspaper obituary of my husband's mother's mother's father and a copy of the British census showing his family.

That's it: no note, no card, and no signature. Just the two pieces of paper. My husband was as confused as I was. I called my in-laws and they had no idea who it could have been. I've asked everyone I could think of and the only solution I can come up with is... the Genealogy Fairy.



## FAMILY HISTORY CORNER

**1)** My name is **WILLIAM ROSS** and my Great Grandfather **DAVID ROSS** came to Boston from Prince Edward Island, CA in the late 1800's. He lived in Milton, MA (near Boston). Are you aware of any Ross's from Prince Edward Island settling in Boston?

### **Bill Ross**

239 Salmon Brook Street  
Granby, CT 06035-2334  
(Toll-free) 888-653-7361; (mobile) 860-614-8322; (fax)860-653-3768

**2)** Back in 1854 **JAMES & CHRISTIAN RAMAGE** left Lanark, Scotland to start a new live here in Australia. His sister or brother left the same sort of time & migrated to Canada, I believe their name to be **ROSS**.

We had a visit here in Australia several years ago from **CATHY ROSS** from Canada who was a distant relation, I have lost touch with her. I would like to hear from Cathy Ross if this is a possibility. I would also love to get in touch with any of the **ROSS** family from Canada who may be able to fill in the missing pieces. Any help would be appreciated.

**Andrew Ramage:** [ramageconsulting@bigpond.com](mailto:ramageconsulting@bigpond.com)

**3)** My grandfather was born in Invergordon - Rosskeen - August 26, 1891. His name was **HARRY FRASER ROSS**. His parent's were: **WILLIAM ROSS** and **MARGARET S FRASER**. On his wedding certificate he is listed as a Presbyterian. I was wondering if there was any information on my grandfather's parents.

### **Lorrie McClocklin**

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# THE NEW NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MUSEUM

Submitted by Ian Ross

Hi, folks:

Last month the staff of the new national Human Rights Museum (*which has started construction here in Winnipeg and is due to open in 2012*) came through Winnipeg as part of a cross-country tour ... looking for public input on the content of this museum (*the first national museum to be located outside the Ottawa/Hull Capitol Region*). Past National Presidents Denis Fletcher and Yours Truly attended, representing the Manitoba Chapter of The Clan Ross Association of Canada, and input the attached (see below). We were supported by the President and one of the Board Members of The St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg.

This last week I followed up with the national committee of experts who are selecting the museum's content and ensured that this document was indeed passed on from last month's public meetings. Denis and I have also offered, on at least two occasions, to assist the museum in any small way that we can ... if they decide to include a display on the Highland Clearances.

Although we haven't specifically promised a financial contribution, I am sure that the Manitoba Chapter will be interested in making a donation should a display of this nature be included. Similarly, Clan Ross - Canada should consider the possibility of making a donation to the Human Rights Museum as one of our next national projects ... again, given that a display on the Highland Clearances is included.

## January 27, 2010 The Clan Ross Association of Canada – Manitoba chapter

I would like to tell you about three things:

- 1) What were the Scottish highland clearances of 1785-1850
- 2) Why this event should be in **any** human rights museum
- 3) Why it is especially important for a **Canadian** human rights museum located in **Winnipeg**

### First, a little social background:

Scotland is two distinct areas:

#### > Lowlands in the south

- \* Rolling hills and gentle valleys (like around Brandon)
- \* Easily supports farming and commerce

#### > Highlands & islands in the north and northwest:

- \* Mountainous, with narrow rough valleys
- \* Isolated - roads not started until the 18<sup>th</sup> cent. It was the last area in Europe to be explored and mapped.
- \* The people were hunter-gatherers or fishers ... gathered together into rival warrior clans.
- \* They spoke a separate language - the Gaelic.
- \* The early highlanders didn't recognize Scotland as their country, nor its lowland-based king. They only recognized their clan territories, where land was common property.
- \* The clan chief allotted land use on behalf of all clan members, like a father to his extended family.
- \* In return, clansmen served as warriors, when not tending their herds or small subsistence farms.
- \* In many ways, the clans resembled our first nations tribes.

### Now for a little background history:

- \* 1707 Act of Union joined England and Scotland together as Great Britain ... with a single parliament and joint monarchy in London.
- \* 1714 Queen Anne died without heir. The London parliament imported a king from Germany, George I. Many Scots, especially the independent highlanders, felt they had the right to choose their own king, definitely not a foreigner.
- \* 1715 - James Stuart, descendant of the deposed Scottish Stuart monarchy, led an unsuccessful rebellion to regain the Scottish crown.
- \* 1745 - James' son, Charles Edward ("Bonnie Prince Charlie") returned from exile and again raised the highland clans.
  - At first, victory, they marched deep into England but were, inevitably, driven back.
- \* 1746 - The kilned highlanders made a last stand at Culloden with medieval broadsword and shield, and were blown away by the government's musket and cannon.

## **THE NEW NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MUSEUM, Cont'd.**

- The English commander, nick-named "Butcher" Cumberland, pursued the fleeing highlanders and murdered most of them, including the sick or wounded.
- \* 1747 –The clan chiefs' governing authority was removed. Tartan, kilt and weapons, including bagpipes, were outlawed.
- The highland clan system was broken for all time.

### **This led to the highland clearances of approx. 1785-1850**

- The larger clan chiefs had become nobles in their castles, or in the lowland cities, away from their people. In some cases titles were held by English living in London.
- No longer stewards of common clan lands, they were absentee landlords.
- Clanspeople were merely tenants ... not allowed to own the land they worked or their small cottages (called crofts).
- With development of large cloth weaving factory looms and the great cheviot breed of sheep which could withstand the highland climate, the chiefs found they could make more money from wool than rents from their tenants.
- They started to systematically evict the crofters and clear the land for sheep runs ... throughout the northern shires and western islands. The worst was in the vast lands of the Duke of Sutherland.
- The method was simple. If eviction notices didn't immediately drive the people to the emigrant ships waiting on the coast, or to the lowland city slums, club-wielding bailiffs soon followed. Vicious beatings drove families from their crofts. The thatched roofs were set afire, destroying home and belongings. Elderly and infirm were burned alive.
- It was systematic cultural genocide.
- To survive, thousands of these people emigrated to the USA, Australia, New Zealand, and to Canada.
- I have walked through these still-deserted highland glens and the remains of a burnt-out MacKay village.
- For further detail, I recommend John Prebble's book "The Highland Clearances".

### **So why should this mass displacement of people be commemorated in a Human Rights Museum?**

- Much emigration from Europe had nothing specifically to do with violation of human rights ... but resulted from inevitable human progress or quirks of nature.
- For example, thousands of poor Irish emigrated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to escape the potato famine.
- And this was the era of the industrial revolution ... when cottage laborers were replaced by factories, and farm laborers replaced by mechanized agriculture. Thousands throughout Europe went to crowded unemployment in the city slums and then ... to avoid starvation ... took ships to the new world.
- ***But the highland clearances were different. A whole class of people, the highland crofters, had their clan social order removed by law... and were purposely and forcefully deprived of their livelihood and the roof over their heads by other people... in favor of profits from sheep.***

### **And why is this so important for a Canadian Human Rights Museum, especially one located in Winnipeg?**

- The Scottish immigrants of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries effectively formed the country of Canada. Arriving first in the Maritimes and Upper Canada (now Ontario), they developed our military, commerce, banking, transportation, universities and politics.
- The best example is the Canadian Pacific Railroad ...which made Canada a dominion from sea to sea. It was surveyed by Scots, engineered by Scots, financed by Scots and driven by the political will of a Scot named John A. MacDonald.
- Here in the Red River Valley, our first permanent settlers were Scots from the highland clearances, brought by Lord Selkirk starting in 1812. Our communities of East, West and North Kildonan are named after the Strath (Valley) of Kildonan in Sutherlandshire, the home many of them left behind.
- Along with French fur-traders, Metis buffalo hunters and First Nations, they created what is now Manitoba.
- On your way home tonight, drive north on Waterfront Drive between the river and the ball park. At the first roundabout you'll see a new statue of a Highland family fleeing the Clearances. The original is in Sutherlandshire. There will be only 10 others throughout the world ... in major centres to which these people fled. Winnipeg is one.

***Best regards,***

***Ian Mackay Ross***

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**June 5-6, 2010:** North Bay, ON. Celtfest in Champlain Park. Website: <http://www.celtfest.org/>

**June 12 - 13, 2010:** Hamilton, ON. 19<sup>th</sup> Annual International Military Tattoo 7:30 PM & 2:30 PM respectively at Copps Coliseum (905)523-1753. Website: <http://www.canadianmilitarytattoo.ca//>

**June 12, 2010:** Georgetown, ON. 35<sup>th</sup> Georgetown Highland Games at the Gathering Place. Website: [http://www.georgetownhighlandgames.com/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://www.georgetownhighlandgames.com/index.php?title=Main_Page)

**June 19, 2010:** Squamish, BC. BC Legion Highland Gathering. For further information visit Website: <http://www.highlandgathering.ca/>

**June 19, 2010:** Selkirk, MB. Manitoba Highland Gathering at Selkirk City Park. Contact Roger Stagg at: 204-339-3487. Website: <http://www.manitobahighlandgathering.org//>

**June 26, 2010:** Cobourg, ON. 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Cobourg Highland Games Festival. Donegan Park, D'Arcy Street South. Website: <http://www.cobourghighlandgames.ca/>

**June 26, 2010:** Coquitlam, BC. 79<sup>th</sup> British Columbia Highland Games and Scottish Festival. Percy Perry Stadium (formerly Coquitlam Town Centre Stadium). Held on last Saturday every June. Phone: 604-263-9111. Website: <http://www.bchighlandgames.com/>

**June 26, 2010:** Red Deer, AB. 63rd Annual Red Deer Highland Games. Westerner Altaplex. (403)343-6418. Website: <http://reddeerhighlandgames.ca/>

**2011:** Nova Scotia. International Gathering of the Clans & Celts. [The Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia website](#) will be carrying information about this event.

**July 1 - 8, 2010:** Halifax, NS. The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo. Halifax Metro Centre. Tickets: Phone 902-451-1221. Website: <http://www.nstatattoo.ca/site2/index.php>

**July 2 - 4, 2010:** Kincardine, ON. 11<sup>th</sup> annual Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games. Victoria Park. Toll Free: 888-232-7952. Website: <http://kincardinescottishfestival.ca/>

**July 4-11, 2010:** Antigonish, NS. 147<sup>th</sup> Antigonish Highland Games. Columbus Field. Phone: 902-863-4275. Website: <http://www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca/>

**July 10, 2010:** Haliburton Village, ON. Haliburton Highland Games at Head Lake Park 705-457-3543. Website: <http://www.haliburtonhighlandgames.com/>

**July 16 - 17, 2010:** Cambridge, ON. 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Cambridge Highland Games at Churchill Park. Phone: 519-241-4906. Website: <http://www.cambridgehighlandgames.org/>

**July 16-18, 2010: Niagara Falls, ON. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gathering of the Clan Ross Association of Canada, Inc. Host Hotel: Best Western Fallsview. Come prepared for fun, food, entertainment and interesting historical tours. See the clan newsletter and our Clan Ross Canada website for registration information: <http://www.greatclanross.org/cra~can5a12010INTRO.html>**

**July 17, 2010:** Halifax, NS. Halifax Highland Games and Scottish Festival. 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Dartmouth Common. Admission: Adults \$12 Students & Seniors \$10. Website: <http://www.halifaxhighlandgames.com/>

**July 17 - 18, 2010:** Orillia, ON. The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Orillia Scottish Festival. Couchiching Beach Park. Friday night Ceilidh at the Legion. Saturday parade to the Park. Phone: (705)325-8442. Website: <http://www.orillia.com/index.php?op=localevents/>

**July 23 - 25, 2010:** Fredericton, NB. 28<sup>th</sup> Annual New Brunswick Highland Games and Scottish Festival. Old Government House. Phone: 506-452-9244. Website: <http://www.highlandgames.ca/hg/news.html>

**July 24, 2010:** Kingston, ON. Fort Henry Tattoo. Website: <http://www.forthenry.com/eventfrt.htm#July>

**July 24 - 25, 2010:** Uxbridge, ON. 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Highlands of Durham Games. Elgin Park in Uxbridge. (905)852-0112. Website: <http://www.highlandsofdurhamgames.com/>

**July 30-31, 2010:** Maxville, ON. Glengarry Highland Games. Agricultural Grounds. 1-888-298-1666. Website: <http://www.glengarryhighlandgames.com/>

**July 30 - August 9, 2010:** Goderich, ON. 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Celtic Roots Festival. Lion's Harbour Park, West Street. (519)524-8221. Website: <http://www.celticfestival.ca/>

**August 1, 2010:** Montréal, QC. 34<sup>th</sup> Montréal Scottish Festival & Highland Games. George Springate Sports Centre. Phone: 514-332-5242. Website: <http://www.montrealhighlandgames.qc.ca/>

**August 8 - 14, 2010:** Winnipeg, MB. Pavilion of Scotland . . . Folklorama. New Location: Glenwood Community Centre. Website: <http://www.pavilionofscotland.ca/>

**August 13 - 15, 2010:** Fergus, ON. 65<sup>th</sup> Fergus Scottish Festival and Premier North American Highland Games. Fergus Community Centre. Phone: 519-787-0099. THE CLAN ROSS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA IS THE FEATURED CLAN THIS YEAR DURING OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY SINCE FOUNDING Website: <http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com/>

**August 21, 2010:** Almonte, ON. 26<sup>th</sup> North Lanark Highland Games at the North Lanark Agricultural Society fairgrounds. (613)256-2064 ext. 221. Website: <http://www.almontehighlandgames.com/>

## FROM QUEBEC

Submitted by Debra Barry

Bill and I met Wendy Ross (Ontario Commissioner) about 4 summers ago at the Highland Games here in the Montreal suburb of Pierrefonds. We stopped at the Clan Ross booth because Bill's mother hails from the Ross clan. Bill was concerned that Wendy was sitting in the hot, August sun with no shelter and so he went home and brought back a tent. We were so welcomed by this wonderful, interesting lady that we stayed to help out, shared tea and lunch, and invited Wendy back to our home for dinner after the games. Every year since, my son, Eric and Bill meet Wendy at the park to help set up the Clan Ross booth. Our extended family at the games comes back for a BBQ dinner so Wendy has met pretty much everyone in our family by now. Bill and Eric have since bought kilts and are very proud to wear them. Of course, we joined Clan Ross and love getting our newsletters. Bill, an aerospace designer and I, a newly retired (and very happy) high school teacher, have 4 children. Diane, 24 is an elementary school teacher, Michael is studying Computer Engineering at Concordia University, Eric is studying Music at Vanier College and Kevin is studying Video Game Design and Computer Technology at John Abbott College. The picture below shows Braydon, our nephew's son, proudly showing off his new sword. Our blended Irish/Scots families are proud of our heritage and are looking forward to learning more about our Clan Ross association.



**CLAN ROSS CANADA – NATIONAL GATHERING JULY 16-18, 2010 IN NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO**

**Friday, July 16<sup>TH</sup>, Evening. 7 pm. Scottish Ceilidh, at the Best Western Fallsview, Niagara Falls.**

Enjoy the foot-tapping Scottish music of "The Gaels" folk group. Celebration of 50 years of Clan Ross. Cash bar with free snacks.

**Saturday, July 17<sup>TH</sup> – All Day Bus Tour: On the Frontier of the War of 1812.**

A bus tour visiting key sites from the War of 1812 while taking in the stunning beauty of the Niagara Gorge & River, the Falls, and the scenic towns and villages. The trip will depart the Inn at 9am and return at 5pm. The tour fee includes lunch, the bus, a professional tour guide joining us for the day and entrance fees into the sites! Itinerary: **Old Fort Erie for a tour and battle demonstrations. Lunch at Betty's in Chippewa. General Brock Monument & the Queenston Heights Battlefield, The Gorge & Whirlpool, ending with exploring the beautiful town of Niagara-on-the-Lake**

Evening: Greg Frewin Magic Show. Buffet at 6:30pm, Show 8 to 10 pm. \$60 per person includes tax, tip, non-alcohol drinks

**Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup> – Brunch, the AGM**

Brunch at the Ramada Inn, followed by the National Annual General Meeting. Brunch 9am to 10:30am, AGM till noon. Optional Events that day in Niagara and area.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

NOTE: Non-Clan Ross members are more than welcome to attend the weekend events. Accommodation and most meals are NOT INCLUDED in these fees. Fees cover tours, lunch, 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 evening snack and entertainment at the Friday Ceilidh	# of People Attending
The Saturday bus tour (including lunch)	_____
	<b>\$75</b>
Greg Frewin, Buffet Dinner & Magic Show. Sat. 6:30pm - 10	_____
	<b>\$ 60</b>

**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 – Best Western Fallsview Inn**, 6289 Fallsview Boulevard, Niagara Falls, L2G 3V7  
. For Reservations call 866-475-0004 and tell them you are part of the Clan Ross National Gathering. Rooms are \$139 + \$10/day parking. The hotel has an excellent restaurant, pools, and will host our Friday and Sunday events.

Saturday Evening: [www.gregfrewintheatre.com](http://www.gregfrewintheatre.com)

**Send Registration and the cheque for the National Gathering 2010 to**, Clan Ross Canada, National Treasurer - Lizz Thibodeau, 910 Dearness Drive, London, ON N6E 1N5 519-488-1795; lizzt@rogers.com

**Questions?** Contact Andrew Ross Thibodeau, 2010 AGM Host, at Email: andyspeaks@rogers.com; 519-488-1795.