



CLAN ROSS

Association of Canada,
Inc.
Founded 1960

David C. Ross of Ross, Chief

FALL ISSUE
NOVEMBER, 2008

An Cìrean Ceann Cinnidh



Standing stone: Ring of Brodgar,
Orkney

PDR

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

CLAN ROSS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
17th Annual Meeting Since Incorporation
MINUTES

Sunday, July 13th, 2008

9:40 a.m. Iona time

Highland Heights Inn, Iona, Cape Breton, NS

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Denis Fletcher called the meeting to order, welcoming approx. 20 members. Organizers Donald Ross and NS Comm. Chris Rayworth gave words of welcome.

MOTION: (Doug Ross, Andy Thibodeau) that the agenda be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

2. MINUTES

Secretary Ian Ross reviewed the minutes of the 2007 AGM.

MOTION: (Donald Ross/Denis Ross) that the minutes of the June 23rd, 2007 annual general meeting be approved.

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM 2007 MINUTES

3.1 Current National Project (Dr. A. M. Ross plaque in Chatham, Ontario)

1st VP Andy Thibodeau reported on the memorial plaque to Belleville native Dr. Alexander Milton Ross, world-renowned naturalist and builder of the "Underground Railroad" which aided slaves coming to Canada from the USA in the 1850s. Work is under way on the Freedom Park in Chatham, Ontario honoring heroes of the Underground Railroad. Organizers have recently finalized a standard plaque design in black marble. The plaque will cost \$3K, the top end of our approved price range. Andy will coordinate modifications of our wording to fit their standard. The finished plaque will be in place in a prominent position in the park by next summer.

3.2 Charitable Association Application Status

Secretary Ian reported that a critique dated June 12, 2008 had finally been received from the Charities Directorate of the Canada Revenue Agency on our June 23, 2007 application. As anticipated, our application has been denied because:

a) Clan Ross-Canada was not established exclusively for charitable purposes.

b) They view the public educational effect of our national project plaques, newsletter and website as being intangible ... simply an opportunity for self-education.

Secretary Ian recommended we drop our application for charitable status, as:

1) Being established exclusively for charitable purposes would require setting up another organization with its own officers. We currently have difficulty getting officers for the existing Clan Ross-Canada.

2) We need a formal public education program or a scholarship program to be judged tangible. Where would we get the people to develop and run such activities?

3) We have difficulty developing national projects now, and have more money than we can spend on them ... even though members only donate relatively small amounts every few years. Do we really need tax receipts for such small amounts?

MOTION: (Patricia Ross/Shelagh Rayworth) that we formally withdraw our application within 90 days of Canada Revenue's June 12, 2008 critique. *[Removing it from the public record and allowing a fresh start should we ever wish to]* CARRIED

At Donald Ross's request the Secretary agreed to retain the application and associated information in the Secretarial files for future reference.

3.3 Plans for Our 50th Anniversary

1st VP Andy reported the Clan Ross AGM and Gathering will be held in our 50th Anniversary Year, 2010, in Niagara Falls ... near Toronto where the first meeting was held. As a central tourist location, this should generate good attendance. Ontario Commissioner Wendy Ross noted she has a friend who manages Niagara Parks who could speak at the event.

4. TREASURER'S & AUDITOR'S REPORTS

Outgoing Treasurer Barb Fletcher presented the audited financial statement for the 2007 fiscal year (ending December 31, 2007). Income: \$558.40 (down from previous year's \$8,030.03 as existing members received free membership in 2007); expenses: \$2,298.11 (down from previous year's \$7,681.64, as that was an AGM gathering year). Bank balance at year-end was \$4,755.86, down from the previous year-end's \$6,495.57, but 2008 dues have been flowing in since the 2007 year-end date so funds currently on hand are ample for our needs.

MOTION: (Barb Fletcher/Jean Harrington) that the report be accepted. CARRIED

5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

It was agreed not to appoint an auditor, pending acquisition of a new Treasurer.

6 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Outgoing Membership Chair Barbara Fletcher reported 134 memberships (218 members), including 8 Honorary, 1 Life Member and 1 Associate Member, at July 5, 2008. This is a decrease of 15 memberships since June 23, 2007 ... but better than the 125 memberships at July 20, 2004. Of the total, 118 memberships (195 members) are in Canada, 14 memberships (21 members) are in the USA and 2 memberships (2 members) are in Scotland. Of 19 new memberships received since the last AGM, 12 were received through our GreatClanRoss website. There were 2 deaths.

MOTION: (Barb Fletcher/Ian Ross) that the report be accepted.

CARRIED

7 OFFICERS' REPORTS **Highlights of verbal and written reports as follows:**

Outgoing National President Denis Fletcher

Thanks to:

- 1st VP Andrew Thibodeau of London, incoming President, for his continued efforts on the national project honouring Dr. A. M. Ross
- Interim 2nd VP Denis Ross of Kincardine who will be moving up to 1st VP
- Donald Ross of Halifax, incoming 2nd VP, and NS Commissioner Christopher Rayworth of Halifax for their outstanding work organizing this annual meeting
- Ian Ross of Winnipeg for his years of dedicated work as Secretary
- Barb Fletcher of Winnipeg for her 15 years as Treasurer and Membership Chair
- Doug Ross of North York for his outstanding work as Webmaster
- Pat Ross of North York for her fantastic job as Newsletter Editor

British Columbia Commissioner Dorothy O'Donnell

- I have phoned a number of Ross citizens in the current phone book, assisted by Norma Tener, inviting them to view the GreatClanRoss website.
- I have delivered a flier to Ross homes in the area.
- The Victoria Highland Games in May were a great success.

Manitoba Commissioner Christine Turnbull

- Clan Ross ran a table for the week at Folklorama, selling wares produced by our Craft Committee headed by Patricia Ross, with Mary Ross and Barb Fletcher.
- A pot-luck picnic at Assiniboine Park was a great success.
- In September we had a night at the races, at Assiniboia Downs.
- Our Christmas Party/Annual Meeting was held for the 3rd year at McBeth House.
- The 11th annual Burns Dinner was again held at the Fort Garry Hotel. Thanks to the hard working committee, it was very well attended.
- Thanks to Denis Fletcher, our one-man phoning committee, and to the Clan Ross Executive for keeping everything running smoothly.

Ontario Commissioner Wendy Ross

- In the summer of 2007 I visited four games, and plan no more than four in 2008.
- I have attended most CASSOC meetings.
- I have Clan Ross golf shirts (*youth, S, M, L, XL*) for \$21.50 plus postage, tax incl.
- Check the GreatClanRoss website for availability/cost of Clan Ross name tags.
- No Ontario Chapter formed as yet, but numbers are increasing.
- \$500 in Ontario funds have been transferred to me from J. Donaldson Ross and Margaret Montgomery (deceased) in Orillia. \$300 has been spent on golf shirts.

Nova Scotia Commissioner Christopher Rayworth

- Preparations were made for the AGM. Thanks to Donald Ross for the excellent tour, the Highland Heights Inn, fiddler Joe Peter MacLean and to all for attending
- We have two new NS members.
- We have cancelled membership in the Fed. of Scottish Clans of Nova Scotia.
- Congratulations to incoming 2nd VP Donald Ross of Halifax.

Webmaster Doug Ross

- A full report is at the website. Contact Doug Ross for details.
- Emphasis continues to be on membership.
- The countdown to our 50th Anniversary in 2010 continues.
- Duties of Commissioners and a summary of our objectives have been added, along with an invitation to fill any vacancies.
- The Family History Section has been opened to non-members, with all submissions directed via the Newsletter Editor.
- Thanks to Bob Ross of SC for assistance in spreading info about the 2008 AGM.
- Thanks to Andy Thibodeau, Barb Fletcher and Donald Fraser Ross for helpful suggestions and corrections.

Newsletter Editor Patricia Ross

- Thanks to predecessors Ian & Jackie Ross and Shelagh Rayworth.
- Four issues were published, with pdf files forwarded for e-publishing on Electric Scotland at www.electricscotland.com
- Thanks to Ian Ross, J. Douglas Ross, Andrew Thibodeau for submissions. I encourage all members to submit articles, poems information and photos.
- Sincere thanks to Barb Fletcher for proofreading, printing and mailing.

8 HONORARY MEMBERS

MOTION: (Andy Thibodeau/Ian Ross) that Janet Montague Jones and Gillian Blair, living descendants of Dr. A. M. Ross, be made Honorary Members (non-voting) and encouraged to continue their involvement as we honour their distinguished ancestor with a plaque at the Chatham Freedom Park.

CARRIED

9 ELECTIONS

Secretary Ian outlined the unusual situation when the Executive appointed Denis Ross of Kincardine as 2nd VP when Don Ross of Winnipeg withdrew in the spring of 2007. Our By-Laws give the Executive this right of appointment, but also require this position to be elected. It was decided the appointment would be considered Interim, with an election at the next AGM gathering in 2008.

MOTION: (Ian Ross/Doug Ross) that Interim 2nd VP Denis Ross of Kincardine be confirmed as 2nd VP.

CARRIED

Outgoing President Denis reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee that:

- 1st VP Andy Thibodeau of London had agreed to move up to President
- 2nd VP Denis Ross of Kincardine had agreed to move up to 1st VP
- Donald Fraser Ross of Halifax had agreed to be nominated as 2nd VP
- Secretary Ian and Treasurer & Membership Chair Barb had decided not to run for re-election. Despite extensive advertising and personal contacts, no interest had been received in the positions of Secretary, Treasurer or Membership Chair. Without these, the future of Clan Ross-Canada was in jeopardy. He asked for nominations from the floor.

No nominations were received. Incoming President Andy volunteered to be interim Treasurer/Membership Chair beginning January 1, 2009 and Barb volunteered to stay as interim Treasurer & Membership Chair until December 31, 2008. Proposed 2nd VP Donald volunteered to assume the duties of Secretary, also on an interim basis, while the search for permanent volunteers for these three positions continued.

MOTION: (Ian Ross/Andy Thibodeau) that Donald Fraser Ross of Halifax be 2nd Vice President of Clan Ross-Canada.

CARRIED

Andrew Ross Thibodeau took the Chair as new National President. Gift presentations were made to outgoing officers Denis "Mhor" Fletcher, Barb Fletcher and Ian Ross.

10 NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Advisory Committee

Outgoing Secretary Ian noted that Webmaster Doug had proposed the concept of an Advisory Committee to the Executive. The Executive had determined:

- this should be volunteers from the ranks of former National Executive Officers or former Regional Commissioners who were still members resident in Canada
- it could assist the Executive in various projects and act as a sounding board for significant Executive decisions, at the Executive's request
- it would have no implementation or veto powers, but would provide years of experience and knowledge of Clan Ross traditions to the elected Executive
- one member would act as Chair/Contact with the Executive

In the past few months the Secretary has contacted the 12 resident Canadian members who fit the criteria. Seven have agreed to serve on the committee:

- * Eldred F. Cook, Mississauga: 1st VP and Secretary 1991-93
- * Edward B. Swinton, Mississauga: Treasurer 1991-93
- * Bill McCullough, Winnipeg: President 1993-94
- * Ian M. Ross, Winnipeg: 1st VP 1993-94, President 1994-97, Secretary 2000-08
- * Barbara Fletcher, Winnipeg: Treasurer 1993-2008
- * Denis Fletcher, Winnipeg: Secretary 1993-2000, 1st VP 2000-04, President 2004-08
- * Eldon Ross, Winnipeg: Manitoba Commissioner c.1983-91

The Outgoing Secretary will poll these members for a volunteer Chair/Contact.

10.2 2009 Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh

President Andy outlined his efforts in promoting an international Clan Ross presence. He has arranged a Clan Ross tent at Holyrood Palace, with costs being split between Canada and the USA (still working on Australia and New Zealand). He has contacted Chief David's son, Hugh the Younger, about possible activities with Chief David and his son in Edinburgh and at Tain. Clan Ross-Canada attendees to-date include Andy and family, Doug & Pat Ross, Donald Ross and likely Wendy Ross.

10.3 Next National Project

Outgoing President Denis noted he had contacted the Director of the new National Human Rights Museum being developed in Winnipeg, advising that the Highland Clearances should be included and that he and Ian Ross would assist in such a project.

10.4 Genealogy Database

Angus Ross Campbell asked if there was family tree software and the ability to develop a common Ross genealogy database within the GreatClanRoss website. Webmaster Doug advised the website does not have the storage capacity. 2nd VP Donald suggested listing in our website which member is researching which branch of the Ross family so that researchers do not duplicate efforts. Secretary Ian advised that Clan Ross -Canada has not had a Clan Genealogist, as has the US, and that it would be a great service if anyone wished to volunteer for such a position.

10.5 Membership

There was a general sharing of ideas on how to generate and retain new members.

11 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45.



GAELIC FUN FOR CLAN ROSS IN CAPE BRETON (PART 2)

Written by Andrew Ross Thibodeau, Clan Ross Canada President

SATURDAY TOUR OF CAPE BRETON

3. Third Stop: Glenora Distillery, near Mabou www.glenoradistillery.com

We drove about an hour west for our tour of North America's only single malt whiskey distillery. The setting was absolutely stunning, with beautiful white buildings backing onto a tree covered low mountain and with a sparkling river flowing through the property. Twenty two streams converge on this river, chosen as the site of the distillery because it's the purest water on the island. The water flowing over apple tree roots and granite gives the whiskey its distinct flavor.



Our guide's talk was very descriptive and interesting, bringing to life the process used to make such a unique product. Single malt only has three ingredients: water, malted barley and yeast. The barley is from Saskatchewan, where it's malted & smoked over hickory wood to develop the sugars for fermenting. The yeast comes from South America.

They only make one batch a week, in the late fall, winter, and spring, because by summer it is too hot in the processing area. The process from water to being placed in a barrel takes five days.

A key step in the process is when the mix is placed in huge 30 foot deep barrels that hold ten thousand litres. The best wood for these barrels, used by distilleries world-wide, is

Douglas Fir from BC. Due to the climate of BC, Douglas Fir has amazing resistance to water and thus is excellent for this job. The barrels themselves are made by special trades people in Scotland. Yes, huge 30 foot barrels, with wood from Canada shipped to the UK, manufactured in Scotland, then returned over the Atlantic to Cape Breton.

The whiskey comes out clear ... it gets its entire colour from the barrels that it is fermented in. The first bottles are sold after being aged for eight years, most are sold at 10 and 15 years, and this year they realized a limited edition of 18 year whiskey from the distillery's first year of operation.

Our tour was done by 3:45pm, so we gathered in their pub area for a few drinks, food, and some entertainment. On our way to the distillery, Inverness Beach, located only 10 minutes away, got the interest of the passengers in my minivan. Before dinner, I took Cindy from BC, the Rosses from Virginia, and the Underhills from Maine for a beach walk. It is a beautiful beach, with kilometers of sand, the Cape Breton highlands to the north, and a very "Scottish" looking island off the coast.

We returned to the Distillery and all had a wonderful meal. Then, it was about an hour's drive east to return to the hotel, and we enjoyed the scenery of farms, forests and hills of the island.

The Saturday Evening Ceilidh

By 8:15 pm the restaurant area was packed with people, including "non-Ross" guests. Excitement was in the air as we waited for the Scottish treat to arrive ... the Haggis! Ian Ross, Chris Rayworth and Donald Ross followed a piper as they brought in "the chieftain of the puddin' race". The piper was a local 20 year old young man who worked as a piper for the nearby Highland Museum. Before Ian did his famous Robbie Burns' toast to the Haggis, they all drank a shot of Scotch. Then Ian ripped into his address with the best Scots dialect this side of the Hebrides. Some



Ian Ross and Donald Ross – Toast to the Haggis

women in the audience, not with the Clan but from Scotland, told Donald that it the best address to the Haggis they had ever Seen. I posted two minutes of it on Youtube, at my account "AndyThibodeau" ... check it out. There are also three other short video clips under my account from the Gathering, including the Saturday & Sunday fiddle playing at the Ceilidh and the Milling Frolic.

Funny thing ... Donald Ross later told me that the young piper was not used to shooting Scotch. He later admitted to the men that after the shot he got suddenly light headed and was almost sick. He told himself to "hang in there" because he still had to play the pipes on the way out of the room. The young man stuck it out and the audience was none the wiser.

Our next entertainment was legendary local fiddler Joe Peter McLean. Interestingly, we had just seen him in the afternoon as he had a cameo role in the Gaelic film that we watched. He was wonderful and full of energy and performed many songs over the hour. The room was a din of laughter and conversation, while some ordered late dinners and many pieces of lemon pie were eaten. Don Ross from Halifax had more members of his Cape Breton Rosses join us, thrilling long lost cousin Angus of Guelph. In all, a wonderful wrap up to a busy day.

SUNDAY

The AGM

Clan Ross had a late evening, so breakfast spread out from 8 to 9:30

The meeting was well attended and chaired by outgoing president Denis Fletcher. This AGM marked the final meeting as executives for long-time Clan Ross leaders Denis Fletcher (outgoing president), his wife Barbara (Ross) Fletcher (Treasurer & Membership Chair), and her brother, Ian Ross (Secretary), all of Winnipeg. If you have read this newsletter over the last 15 years, you know of their active involvement! We have been so blessed to have their donation of time and talent over the years. They will remain as part of the clan's Board of Advisors for. All three were presented with thank-you gifts from the Rosses.

We confirmed the \$3000 for the Dr. A. M. Ross plaque to be erected in downtown Chatham, Ontario. This National Project is coming to a conclusion ... it should be up by next spring. More information will follow.

We now are looking for a new National project. Over the next year, we will be looking for ideas and sharing criteria with all of you.

The AGM confirmed my rise from 1st VP to Clan Ross Canada President for a two year term. Dennis Ross from Kincardine became 1st VP, while Don Ross from Halifax became 2nd VP. We are awaiting some decisions from people before we know who our Treasurer/Membership Chair and Secretary will be. If you are interested in these positions, please contact me, or Barb, our current treasurer. Both are fun and rewarding volunteer positions that do not take up much time.

Finally, we concluded by sharing the location of our 2010 National Gathering - Niagara Falls/Niagara on the Lake. Clan Ross Canada will celebrate 50 years! More information will follow in 2009. I will be working on this project with Doug & Patricia Ross from Toronto and Wendy Ross from St. Catharines. If you have thoughts or ideas, please share them with me!

I felt very fortunate to become your new Clan Ross Canada president and I look forward to serving the Association over the coming years!

Our Sunday Afternoon in Baddeck.

Several participants said their good byes because they had to return home that afternoon. Our host Donald Ross used the facility as the opportunity to have a family reunion for his cousins that live on the island.

When I knew we had free time on the Sunday, I called the Tourism Information Office for this area of Cape Breton. I find it's always best to talk to a local office and ask, "What is there to do?" I learned that the nearby town of Baddeck has a Ceilidh featuring great island entertainment every night. They also told me about the tall ship "Amoeba" which sails out of the town for tours of St. Andrew's Channel. With that excellent information, I planned a great day for some of us ...

Alexander Graham Bell Museum

The "Ontario Rosses", Wendy, Doug, Patricia and I, joined later by the Rosses from BC, spent 90 minutes touring the Alexander Graham Bell Museum. The museum housed an impressive collection of artifacts and was a moving tribute to an incredible man (and woman, because his wife Mabel was also quite a special person). Bell lived half the year in Washington, DC, and spent half the year living on Cape Breton Island. I learned about his amazing contributions to our life beyond the telephone, from the hydrofoil to air flight to helping teach the deaf to speak. The photograph collections were so vast and personal, it was like he had a photographer with him every day capturing special moments.

On a special note, I learned that next February marks the 100th anniversary of the first flight in the British Empire. Overseen by Bell, it happened here in Baddeck with a plane called the "Silver Dart". Wendy Ross told us that a replica of the Silver Dart is being built in Welland, Ontario as I write. As an Air Force Cadet Commanding Officer, Wendy is part of the team that is bringing this replica to Cape Breton next year. They will be recreating that flight ... so when you see it on national news, remember Wendy Ross's role in that.

The Amoeba Schooner

We then joined the Rosses from Kincardine at 4:30 pm to board the schooner Amoeba for a 90 minute lake tour. Built 50 years ago by the father of the current ship's captain, it has been giving tours for several decades. An early highlight was watching the captain catch the attention of a bald eagle by waving a fish in the air! As the eagle began its descent, he tossed the fish into the water while 50 people watched in amazement as this majestic creature grabbed his meal and took off into the sky.

from left:
Doug Ross
(Webmaster),
Wendy Ross
(Ontario
Commissioner),
Denis Ross (1st
Vice President)
and Shirley
Ross, and Andy
Ross
(President)



The Bell "Cottage" (actually, a gorgeous late 19th century mansion), plus hundreds of acres of waterfront and a low mountain, are still in the private hands of the Bell family. Bell's granddaughter lived in the home until two years ago when she passed at the age of 102. The property is closed to visitors, but has eleven homes and cottages used by Bell's descendents. A number of these homes, plus the Bell mansion, were clearly visible as we sailed by. It was fantastic. I learned that the first Montessori school in North America was held on the second floor of Bell's waterfront workshop that we also saw. We saw the home of the recently retired Chair of the National Geographic Society. Bell with several others founded this organization in Washington in the 1880's. One of the co-founders, a former chair of the Society, married Bell's daughter, and their great-grandson was the man whose cottage we saw

The highlight of the trip came on the final leg back to the harbour. The captain "warned" us that the strong wind would hit the boat in a way to put us on a steep angle. Well ... I wasn't prepared for what happened. Clan Ross was on the low side of about a 40 degree angle for 15 minutes! Once the initial shock wore off, the experience was thrilling as we raced over the waves at such an angle! Wendy Ross commented that she saw cars driving the coastal road pull over to look out at the incredible site of us cutting through the water.

Sunday Ceilidh

We joined 11 other Clan members at the Linwood Inn for a fantastic dinner. For \$20, I got a whole lobster, plus mussels ... a great reason to come to the East Coast! We then all walked next door to St. Michael's Parish for the nightly Ceilidh. We were treated to Gabrielle, a fiddler, and Tom, a guitarist. While I was unable to get her story, (she was from Cape Breton and my guess was that she was in her twenties), I was able to speak with Tom. He was from Comerbrook, Newfoundland, 32 years old, a music professor at St. FX University, and on a "musical sabbatical" for a few months before returning to teach in the fall. They were amazing ... fun, powerful, and took the time to answer questions from the audience. We learned about the music, and their answers gave us things to consider as we listened. A highlight for me was when Tom played a cool acoustic version of "Here Comes The Sun." Another highlight was when the two explained and played the different types of Fiddle pieces: March, Strathspey, Waltz, Reel & Jig. It was a great learning experience!

In all, a fun and memorable weekend in Cape Breton. You know, I was a Clan Ross Canada member for five years before I considered attending a National Gathering. I kind of thought ... it was for "other" people, people that were more involved than me, and since I didn't know many others in the Clan, why go? Maybe some of you reading this have the same thoughts. Well, having attended the last two, I am now at the point where I can't imagine not going. I have learned that meeting new people is 50% of the fun ... the other 50% is experiencing a special area of Canada. As Sally from Moncton wrote to me, (she is not a Ross, but attended with someone who was):

"As a "weekend Ross" I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the gathering, and the company of all your very nice relatives. You are truly fortunate to have such a highly diverse group who still manage to share a common love - family.

Thank you again for allowing me to participate - with such a warm welcome - with this wonderful group of people."

I hope this helps you as you consider participating in our next Gathering ... 2010 – Celebrating 50 Years of Clan Ross Canada in Niagara Falls!



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Lloyd O. Anderson of Elmira, ON, died July 24, 2008.

FAMILY HISTORY CORNER

1) It is my wish to discover my Scottish roots. Can your organization assist me in this quest? Great Grand-father – Senator James Hamilton Ross (born – London, Ontario). Grand-father – John Gordon Ross (born, Moose-Jaw, Saskatchewan). Father – John Gordon Ross (born Moose-Jaw, Saskatchewan). **Contact: Jim Ross**
jimross@telusplanet.net

2) My Grandfather was Alexander Ross who married Margaret Isabella Ritchie. They lived their lives in a Gourdon. My Grandfather was in the Royal British Navy all his life. His eldest daughter Elizabeth was my Mother. I was born in Stonehaven in 1949, at the age of 3, my parents and two sisters immigrated to Canada, where we still reside. I still have lots of relatives in Scotland and have been back only once to visit my birth place, I may be Canadian but Scotland will always be in my heart. **Contact: Christine Elizabeth Freriks: cefrefriks@hotmail.com**



EDITOR'S NOTE

Please welcome Lizz Thibodeau who will replace Barbara Fletcher as our new Treasurer and Membership Chair on January 1, 2009. Lizz's contact information is on page two. Many thanks to Barbara for her many years of dedicated service to the Clan Ross Association of Canada.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

The following was sung (*blared? gargled?*) at the recent Clan Ross-Manitoba Burns Dinner by Ian Ross, Keeper of the Brose ... accompanied by Jacquie (one-note) Ross on the pianoforte. (*The "ham" referred to in Stanza III is the same Ian Ross.*)

The "MODERN KEEPER OF THE BROSE" Song
(*To the tune of Gilbert & Sullivan's "Modern Major-General" song from The Pirates of Penzance*)

I

I am the very model of a Modern Keeper of the Brose,
I've recipes and formulae more curious than you suppose,
This potion's source I say, of course, to me is not a mystery
Because I am acquainted with its elemental history.
I know the legend of its birth in times of yore most perilous,
With warlike confrontations 'tween the Earls of Atholl and of Ross,
I've researched sources near and far, including several antidotes,
For this ambrosial mixture of Scotch whisky, honey, cream and oats.

I'm very good at exposition on this topic's relevance
When graced with such a charming and congenial Scottish audience.
In short, in matters where Scotch whisky, honey, cream and oats repose
I am the very model of a Modern Keeper of the Brose.

II

I can with great authority detail Earl Atholl's master plan
To keep his whisky, honey, cream and oats from out of Ross's hands.
He bundled them and tumbled them in quantity straight down his well
Then mounted up Blair Atholl's towers and told The Ross to "go to hell".
But Earl of Ross and henchmen bold could not be stopped from breaking in.
They battered down the walls, then raped and pillaged ... to them not a sin.
A powerful thirst then overtook him, since 'twas in the heat of noon.
The well was nigh, he drank it dry, then toppled in an awful swoon.

But have no fear of drinking brose tonight until you're comatose;
I've followed rules so moderate ... you'll only get an **ample** dose.
In short, in matters where Scotch whisky, honey, cream and oats repose
I am the very model of a Modern Keeper of the Brose.

III

When manufacturing Atholl Brose I am entirely at my ease,
I mix it up and bottle it and know that it will surely please,
My certitude is well imbued through triumphs astronomical,
With learned presentations both dramatical and comical.
I know I'm welcome with my brose and rhyming prose, I do confess,
Unlike that ham who, earlier, the rustic's haggis did address.
That melodrama previous was o'er the top, sensational.
While **this** discourse is most genteel, refined and educational.

My elocution's guaranteed to stimulate and edify,
Especially now a glass of Atholl's elixir is at your side.
In sum, in matters where Scotch whisky, honey, cream and oats repose
I am the very model of a Modern Keeper of the Brose.



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 29, 2008: Toronto, ON. St. Andrew's Ball, co-sponsored by the 48th Highlanders and the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto. Held at the Royal York Hotel. Reception begins at 6:00 PM. Phone: (416)449-8070. Website: <http://www.standrews-society.ca/ball.cfm>

November 30, 2008: ST. ANDREW'S DAY. Scots around the world celebrate this day to honour the Patron Saint of Scotland. Traditionally, 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, 2008: The 48th 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 48th Anniversary by encouraging another Ross or Ross Sept to become a member.**

December 27 - 30, 2008: Toronto, ON. Preparing for Hogmanay. Gibson House , 5172 Yonge Street at Park Home Avenue (between Sheppard and Finch Avenue) from noon to 5 PM. Event Hotline: 416-395-7432.

12th ANNUAL CLAN ROSS-MANITOBA BURNS DINNER

On **Saturday, Jan. 17th, 2009** Clan Ross will once again hold its Burns Dinner at Winnipeg's Fort Garry Hotel. We are modestly proud (*is that an oxymoron?*) that our dinner maintains all the traditions, dispenses with any stuffiness or excess formality and retains all the wit, warmth and humour of the poet himself.

We will include the Address to a Haggis by Ron McFarlane, a Salute to the Atholl Brose by Ian Ross and the Toast to the Lassies and Response by Robert and Barbara Tisdale. Giving the Immortal Memory will be Winnipeg's own Bill Blaikie, recently retired senior member of the House of Commons. There will be entertainment by the Gaelyn McGregor School of Highland Dance, and a tribute to Burns and Scotland in song by Colleen Morrison ... the wonderful singer heard at the dedication of the Selkirk Settlers Monument this last September.

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. Kilted Highland formal dress is preferred, but appearing in regular jacket and tie will not result in being thrown into our corral of wild *haggi*.

Tickets are \$55.00, same as last year, and will be available at the November 29th Clan Ross 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.

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR