



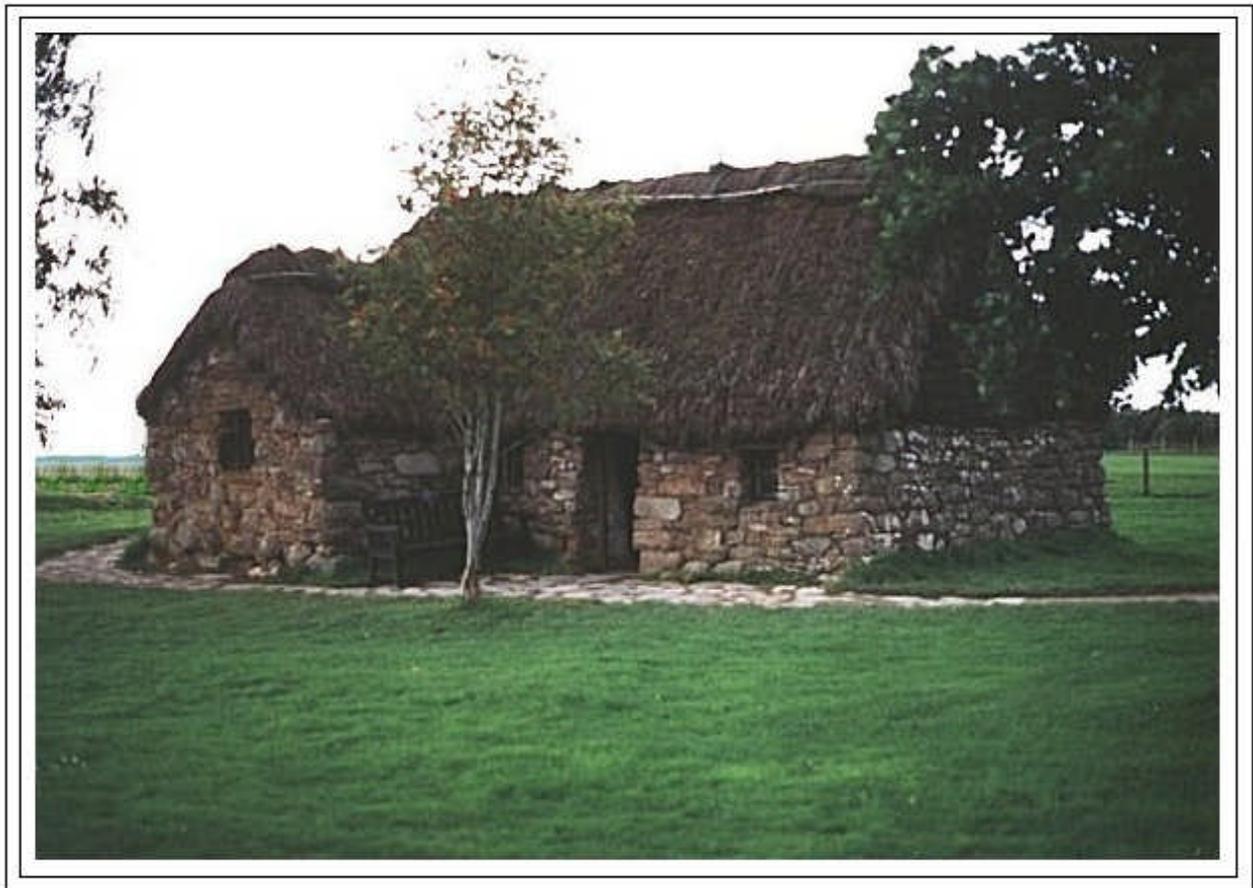
An Cìrean Ceann Cinnidh

# CLAN ROSS

Association of Canada,  
Inc.  
Founded 1960

David C. Ross of Ross, Chief

SPRING ISSUE  
May, 2007



## A COTTER'S HOME

The sample cot (cotter's home) at Culloden Moor Information Centre has a byar (housing for the cattle) at the end. On the left side of the entrance is the butt (kitchen area) and the benn (sleeping quarters) are to the right. (Photograph by J. Douglas Ross)

# THE CLAN ROSS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA, INC.

**Motto:** *Spem successus alit* (Success nourishes hope)

**Gaelic name:** Clann Aindrias (Clan Andrew)

**Crest:** A hand holding a garland of juniper, proper

**Badge:** Juniper

**Pipe Music:** The Earl of Ross March

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

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

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STANDARD OF CHIEF DAVID CAMPBELL ROSS

## FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers:

Spring has finally arrived and we are all looking forward to a summer of Scottish Games and Festivals. Be sure to check out the extensive list of upcoming events which will take place all across Canada. If you take photographs of Clan Ross participation in any of these events, please consider submitting them for publication in the Summer (August) and Fall (November) newsletters. Special invitations to the Kincardine Scottish Festival and Embro Games are included in this newsletter.

Last minute news! By Executive appointment, pending the 2008 AGM elections, Clan Ross Association of Canada has a new 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President. We welcome:

Denis Ross  
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[saugeensnowbirds@aol.com](mailto:saugeensnowbirds@aol.com) (November to April)

The final date for submission of photos, articles, etc., for the August newsletter is July 30, 2007.

I wish you a wonderful summer,

Patricia D. Ross  
Editor



### KINCARDINE SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

The CLAN ROSS will be honored at the Kincardine Scottish Festival this year. Dates for this event are July 6, 7 & 8 at Victoria Park in downtown Kincardine. Wendy Ross has made arrangements to represent us in our Clan Avenue and we will join her in the parade.

This year, the Air Command Pipes & Drums of Canadian Forces Base Upland and George Watson's College Pipes and Drums of Edinburgh, Scotland, are special guests and will be performing throughout the weekend.

There will also be 24 other competing pipe bands plus entertaining bands in Hospitality area.

The Festival will also be hosting The Canadian Scottish Athletic Federation 2007 championships and winners of this contest then advance to World Masters in Scotland.

This will be an exciting weekend and the entertainment Sunday afternoon includes a performance from all our guest bands and entertainers.

This is a special invitation for all members of the Ross Clan and Septs to join us in Kincardine as we lead the Clan Parade to Victoria Park on July 7/07 Please contact Shirley or Denis Ross (519-396-8791) if further information needed regarding the parade.

See you in Kincardine! Shirley Ross

## THE CLAN ROSS/ROSS FAMILY COAT OF ARMS, CREST AND MOTTO

*(There are no such things!)*

- by Ian M. Ross

At the Clan Ross – Manitoba Chapter annual Christmas party I had some most challenging questions put to me by our newest member, Dot From (nee Corbett). Instead of the common question: “WHAT is the Ross coat of arms and motto?” she asked: “WHY is the Ross crest a hand holding a laurel wreath?” ... “WHY is the Ross motto *Spem successus alit?*” ... “WHY is the shield three silver lions rampant on a field of red?” In other words, why were these particular designs or words chosen? Were they connected to notable events in the history of the Earls of Ross and Clan Ross?



What great questions those are ... especially as I had never thought of asking them myself! They led to some most interesting research that I will now outline, and I'll address my seemingly outrageous sub-title (that there are no such things) later on.

I first looked through my trusty copy of *The Great Clan Ross* by Clan Ross-Canada cofounder the late Dr. John R. Ross. It told me that the shield of three silver lions rampant on red was first recorded as the shield of William, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Ross, who died in 1322. I then GUESSED that his shield reflected the fact he was a great supporter (on average!) of the kings of Scotland in the Wars of Independence against Edward of England. His shield might therefore be a purposeful variant of the Scottish Royal Standard's single red lion rampant on a field of yellow, which dates back to King William the Lion, 1165-1214.

The book also told me that the supporters on the Ross achievement of arms, two naked savages added in 1370, represent the original prehistoric Pictish inhabitants of Scotland. Again, I GUESSED this was specifically intended to symbolize the fact that the original Earls of Ross, and subsequent Chiefs of Clan, are descendants of the ancient celtic O'Beolain family line. (This contrasts with much of the

later Scottish nobility, like Robert the Bruce and the Stewart royal line, who were of Norman French descent.) They can be traced as far back as one Aindreis O'Beolain in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, ancestor of the hereditary lay abbots of the Monastery of Applecross.

I then went to Clan Ross-Canada Webmaster and general repository of knowledge, Doug Ross. He felt that my guesses on the lions and the savages made sense. He observed that his book, *A Complete Guide to Heraldry*, by A. C. Fox-Davies, states that lions became popular during the last half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and that wild savages were favoured in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. “Lions, bears, leopards, goats or high trees [were used to represent] leaders of armies, conquerors, and leaders of empires.” I felt this would certainly apply to the Earls of Ross, who originally won the Earldom in battle and ultimately controlled virtually all the north of Scotland and the Isles. Doug also pointed out that the laurel chaplet or wreath is commonly associated with Olympic champions.

I also separately contacted Clan Ross-USA Historian Gloria Ross. Like Doug, she felt that my suppositions were pretty good. She noted that the lion was used extensively by sovereigns and nobles of high rank, and that Clan Ross was historically one of the largest and most powerful clans. She thinks that William, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl, was able to use the lion as he had led his clan into England during the Wars of Independence under the banner of Scottish King John Balliol. Her guess is that the contrasting red field was used to distinguish the Rosses in the thick of battle. She also stated that the crest of a hand holding a laurel wreath is certainly clearly saying THE WINNER, and has been used as such since ancient Greece held their games (as Doug had outlined).

This was good information ... but I still hoped it might be possible to definitively link the components of the Ross arms to specific persons and events, so I decided to go to the man who would know the most. I wrote to Chief David, and he was kind enough to give me a detailed and thoughtful reply.

He first ran through several interesting aspects of heraldry. He noted that it sprang from the work of the mediaeval Herald, who was originally a messenger between sovereigns. The Herald also superintended tournaments and public ceremonies, just as the Lord Lyon King of Arms in Scotland does today. This involved the need for distinguishing badges and identifiers ... including the tartans and badges of the Scottish clans. This need for identifying marks became crucial about the time of the Third Crusade when the cylindrical helmet was adopted. It covered the whole of the face, such that a man could no longer be recognized when he wore such armour ... so his distinguishing sign was painted on his shield. This sign, mark or "Arms" was also sewn on the surcoat that was worn over the armour to protect it from the weather, hence the term "Coat of Arms".

Then he got down to specifics on the whys and wherefores of the design of the Ross coat of arms by honestly pointing out "... I do not know, nor I imagine would most modern chiefs know the origin of theirs." I understand his point. How can we possibly know the specific thoughts of an ancestor approximately 800 years ago?

He followed by saying "The O'Beolain Earls of Ross were among the 10 most powerful men in Scotland for 200 years, so it would not be surprising if their heraldic achievement included the lion as a symbol of their power, and so I am agreeing with your first three points." *[These were three points in the letter I had written to Chief David, including my two "guesses" outlined earlier as to the reason for the lions on the Ross shield and the significance of the savages ... and the point that the lion traditionally represented powerful leaders.]*

Then Chief David raised a point in his letter about the so-called "Ross crest" which led to this article's seemingly outrageous sub-title ... that **there are no such things as the Clan Ross or Ross Family coat of arms, crest or motto**. It's true. To explain this, I will now proceed with a compilation from Chief David's current and previous letters, plus my own research.

By the laws of heraldry as administered by Scotland's Court of the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Coats of Arms belong only to the individuals to whom they are awarded (through a process called Matriculation of Arms). The "Ross Coat of Arms" is therefore the legal coat of arms, crest and motto of only one individual ... the Chief of Clan Ross, Baron David Ross of Ross and Balnagowan. Although it is possible for an association to apply for and receive a coat-of-arms, to my knowledge no Clan Ross group (and certainly not Clan Ross-Canada) has ever done so. I doubt that ANY Scottish clan group has ever done so. A very important point, then, is that the "Ross Coat of Arms" is NOT a Clan Ross association coat of arms and it is certainly NOT your family's personal coat of arms. It is not even Chief David's family's coat-of-arms. Interestingly, both of Chief David's daughters, Fiona and Alison, have matriculated their own personal coats of arms.

Yes, I know that you can go into any shopping mall or to any number of Highland Gatherings and find shops or booths selling family coat of arms plaques, scrolls, glasses, keychains ... whatever you want. Under the family name Ross what you will find is, in fact, the personal arms and motto of Chief David. Some of us may even have this full coat of arms on our walls or on our personal stationary. This is not right. Whether you are aware of it or not, this is simple theft of the use of someone else's personal property ... similar to a violation of copyright or patent law.

If you are displaying Chief David's full coat of arms in your home, it is perhaps unlikely that he will come across the Atlantic with drawn claidhmhor and take you to task ... but don't count on it! In 2001, with the support of Clan Ross groups around the world, he successfully sued Mohamed al Fayed (billionaire owner of Harrod's) for displaying his Ross coat of arms on the new gateway to the Balnagowan castle and grounds. (This former stronghold of many Chiefs of Clan Ross has been owned since 1973 by al Fayed.)

Fortunately, under the rules of heraldry there is a way that we can properly use a portion of Chief David's coat of arms to display our personal pride in our Ross heritage. To understand this, let me outline exactly what a coat of arms is:

What is properly called an “Achievement of Arms” consists of four parts:

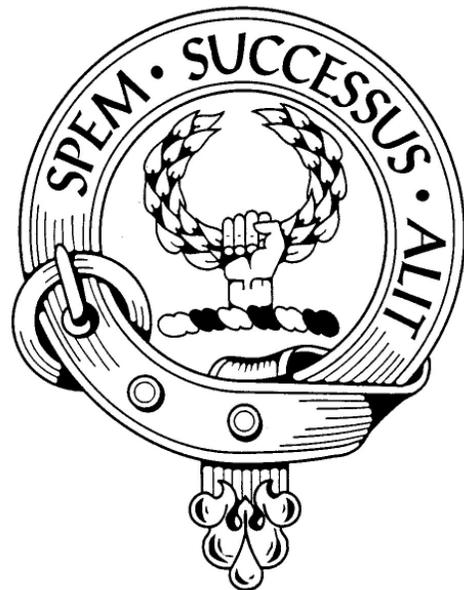
1. **Shield** (or escutcheon). The Ross shield bears three silver lions rampant (rearing up on hind legs), with blue claws and tongues, on a red field (background).
2. **Helmet and Crest.** Above the shield is a helmet, styled to reflect the correct rank. It is topped by a crest ... originally an actual large ornament worn on the helmet of a suit of armour to identify the wearer. (For royalty, the helmet and crest is usually replaced with an appropriate rank crown.) The Ross crest is a hand holding a garland of juniper.

These first two elements form a coat of arms. However, peers, barons (such as Chief David) and the higher grades of knighthood would expand on this, forming a full achievement of arms by adding:

3. **Supporters and Compartment.** On either side of the shield would be shown some sort of supporter, typically a person or animal, standing on some sort of pedestal or “compartment”. The Ross shield is supported by two savages clothed only in leaves of oak and juniper, one holding a club and the other a branch. They stand on a compartment embellished with juniper plants.
4. **Other Devices.** Full achievements could also add mottoes, armorial cloaks, weapons and the like. The Ross achievement, on a ribbon above the crest, bears the motto *Spem Successus Alit*, which is Latin for Success Nourishes Hope.

The Chief’s Crest is the only part that other Ross family members or adherents are allowed to use ... **and then only if the crest is surrounded by a belt with buckle and strap hanging down.** This signifies that the user does not represent the crest as being their personal device. Rather, it is the crest of the Chief to whom they traditionally owe allegiance. This, then, is the Clansman’s Badge ... typically of a silver coloured metal and worn on the clansman’s bonnet. It is also entirely proper to display a wall plaque with the crest, buckle and strap in your home.

Clan Societies and Officials who have reason to use the badge on stationery should add appropriate wording, such as the Gaelic phrase “An Cirean Ceann Cinnidh” (the crest of the Chief of the Clan), to make it absolutely clear that the Chief’s Crest is not being misappropriated. We do that on the front of our newsletter. It is absolutely improper, even illegal, to otherwise use the Chief’s crest on your personal property ... be it a personal letterhead, ring, silverware, etc., let alone use his full coat of arms.



Chief David then noted in his letter that in his Matriculation of Arms in April 1985 the (supporter) savage on the right is holding a “a sprig of juniper fructed” (fructed or berried), which also applies to the garland of the badge. This change from the traditional laurel of other Ross families was a personal preference to differentiate his Shandwick (and now additionally Balnagowan) branch. In any case, he believes that we are correct about the historical use of a garland as a mark of success.

Finally, Chief David believes that the traditional Latin motto, “*Spem Successus Alit*”, is from the writings of the Roman poet Virgil, adopted at a time when chiefly families were becoming “gentrified” in the late 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. He notes that when he matriculated he added a second motto, “*Nobilis Est Ira Leonis*” (noble is the wrath of the lion), which a number of Ross families had used for over 250 years. Personally, he much prefers this second motto, as he feels that it reflects the thrust of the whole message emanating from the rest of the matriculation of arms. However, at the time he was persuaded that some continuity was desirable.

In addition to the information on the Ross arms, Chief David also provided a number of facts to clear up any possible misconceptions about requirements of being a Chief of Clan:

- He has encountered some that believe that he only became Chief when he matriculated in 1985 ... or not until he was recognized as Ross of Balnagowan in 1999. In fact, matriculation of arms is not a requirement. In his case, Chief David felt that too much time had elapsed since a Ross Chief had matriculated arms. In any case, he wanted his arms to reflect his family genealogy and distinction [Author's Note: with the transition of the position of Chief from Ross of Pitcalnie to Ross of Shandwick]. Accordingly, Chief David's son Hugh, younger of Ross, who has been designated Tanister (heir presumptive to the position of Chief of Clan) does not require matriculation of arms.
- The existence of Balnagown Castle is wholly irrelevant to the rights of chiefship. It was Chief David's idea to change the spelling of "Balnagown" to "Balnagowan" for the chiefly family, but the association with the 18<sup>th</sup> century family of this name is the same.

And there you have it ... a most interesting array of facts and logical assumptions as to the origins of the Chief of Clan's arms, and some guidelines on usage to which we should all adhere. Thanks to Dot From for asking the questions that led to this. Thanks to Doug Ross and Gloria Ross for providing information, and special thanks to Chief David . Of course, any errors in the foregoing are my own.



## SCOTTISH RECIPES

### SCOTCH EGGS - Traditional Scottish Cookery

5 eggs	breadcrumbs
1 lb. sausage-meat	dripping

Boil four of the eggs until hard and beat the other. Shell cooked eggs, dip in the beaten egg, and cover with the sausage-meat. Dip in beaten egg again, then in breadcrumbs. Fry in deep fat for 10 minutes. Drain on absorbent paper.

Serve hot with chip potatoes and green peas, or, if served cold, halve crosswise and serve with salad. Serves 4.

### SCOTCH SHORTBREAD -Traditional Scottish Cookery

4 oz. sieved plain flour	2 oz. rice flour or ground rice
2 oz. castor sugar	4 oz. butter

Combine flour and sugar in a mixing bowl. Work in butter until the dough is the consistency of shortcrust. Sprinkle board with rice flour. Turn dough on to board and knead till smooth. Cut into portions and shape into rounds. This amount will make four small rounds. Place on greaseproof paper in a baking tin. Prick with a fork. Put in oven at 350 F. When the cakes begin to colour (from 20 to 30 minutes), lower the heat. Allow to cool in the tin.

### CALEDONIAN CREAM - Christine Turnbull

1 lb. cottage cheese	2 Tbsp. Dundee marmalade
2 Tbsp. white sugar	2 Tbsp. malt whiskey
1 Tbsp. lemon juice	

Combine all ingredients and beat with whisk. Pour into a dish and freeze until firm.

With permission, from: *Favourite Scottish Recipes*, Clan Ross Association, Pavilion of Scotland, Folklorama, 2003. Submitted by Barb Fletcher.

## THE IMMORTAL MEMORY (PART II)

Address by Ian Ross at Burns Dinner

January 20, 2007 (Clan Ross, Winnipeg)

Burns was a romantic man and a romantic poet. By this I don't mean that he was some limp-wristed, lace-collared English dandy, mooning over daffodils like Wordsworth, or groaning about unrequited love like Shelley. He was a son of the soil: a romantic lover who was also a poet. He didn't just write about loving the lassies, he did love them ----- often ----- and in great quantity. He fathered 15 children, 6 out of wedlock, with a goodly number of partners. But he also loved the lassies well .... for although there were complaints from outraged fathers and husbands, I find no record of complaint from the ladies themselves. His poetry constantly proclaimed his admiration for the lassies, and their priority in his life. Here's just one example:

There's nought but care on ev'ry han' in every hour that passes,  
What signifies the life o' man, an't were nae for the lasses.

The war'ly race may riches chase, an' riches still may fly them,  
An' tho' at last they catch them fast, their hearts can ne'er enjoy them.

But gie me a cannie hour at e'en, my arms about my dearie,  
An' war'ly cares an' war'ly men may a' gae tapsalteerie.  
For you sae douce, ye sneer at this; ye're nought but senseless asses,  
The wisest man the war' e'er saw, he dearly lov'd the lasses.

Auld Nature swears, the lovely dears her noblest work she classes,

Her prentice han' she try'd on man, ..... an' then she made the lasses.

Now you can't live the life of a fornicator without consequences ----- and in 1785 Burns had an illegitimate daughter by his mother's servant-girl Betty Paton. Did he hide this fact for fear of disgrace? Not Burns! He proceeded to love them both ..... enough to write and publish this poem:

Welcome, my bonie, sweet, wee dochter! Tho' ye come here a wee unsought for,  
An' tho' your coming I hae fought for baith kirk and queir;  
Yet, by my faith, ye're no unwrought for – that I shall swear!

And if thou be what I wad hae thee, an, tak the counsel I shall gie thee,  
I'll never rue my trouble wi' thee – the cost nor shame o't –  
But be a loving father to thee, and brag the name o't.

At the same time, Burns met Jean Armour, who became his choice. The feelings were obviously mutual, for Miss Armour presented Burns with a fine set of twins. As no wedding had occurred, her father and the local church were outraged. This explains Burns' sudden plans for emigration to Jamaica ... to be accompanied by yet another lady with whom he was dallying ... one Mary Campbell, his "sweet Highland Mary".

But a very strange thing happened to preclude this emigration ... certainly strange for a small farmer. He had published an edition of his poems to raise money for the voyage and it became an overnight success. This ... plus the fact that the unfortunate Mary had expired before the ship could sail ... persuaded him to stay in Scotland. He journeyed to Edinburgh to bask in the adulation of the literary crowd. There he commenced a relationship with one Nancy MacLehose ... but soon had to break it off, as she was Mrs. MacLehose. This breakup produced these lines from Burns' finest sad romantic poem:

Ae fond kiss, and then we sever! Ae farewell, and then forever!

I'll ne'er blame my partial fancy: naething could resist my Nancy!  
But to see her was to love her, love but her, and love forever.  
Had we never lov'd sae kindly, had we never lov'd sae blindly,  
Never met – or never parted – we had ne'er been broken-hearted.

He returned to Ayrshire in 1778 to marry his beloved Jean, who was again expecting twins by Burns, and this time her father was threatening to throw her out of the house!

Despite his new state of matrimony, many an affair followed with many a local lass, as Burns was often out riding through the countryside in his new position as an exciseman. In 1789 he had an illegitimate daughter with Anne Park ... and I suspect there were many others. When members of the Burns Society proudly declare that we are all descendants of Burns .... they may be closer to the truth than they think!

Despite his roving, Burns was true to Jean Armour, in his way ... and with her he stayed until his untimely death in 1796 at the age of 37. He died of rheumatic fever, aggravated by a life of hard outdoor work. But he had kept his ardent spirit and powers almost to the end, for, on the day of his funeral, Jean gave birth to Burns' last son, Maxwell!

We should remember this charming rogue, this educated ploughman, this patriot, this celebrator of the common man, this best of romantic poets, this lover of the lassies ..... with his most joyful romantic poem, written for his beloved Jean:

O, my luvie is like a red, red rose, that's newly sprung in June.  
O, my luvie is like the melodie, that's sweetly play'd in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonie lass, so deep in love am I,  
And I will luvie thee still, my dear, till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear, and the rocks melt wi' the sun!  
And I will luvie thee still, my dear, while the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only luvie, and fare thee weel a while!  
And I will come again, my luvie, tho' it were ten thousand mile!

Ladies and Gentlemen, fill your glasses ..... please rise .... and join me in a toast:

To the immortal memory of Robert Burns!



### **NORTH STAR**

- by Fran Handman (submitted by Andrew Thibodeau)

I am working on a musical entitled "North Star" based on a particular period in the life of Dr. Alexander Milton Ross.

I first came upon Alexander Milton Ross in a book by Barbara Smucker, entitled "Underground to Canada." I was living in Toronto at the time, one of the many periods I've spent in Canada, alternating with my residence in the United States. Born in Toronto and bred in Windsor, Ontario, my first stay in the U.S. was when I won a scholarship to the Dramatic Workshop in New York City. Since then it's been back and forth. My latest period in Canada was as an actress/writer, including performances at Rainbow Stage, dinner theatres in Regina and Edmonton and as a scriptwriter for Polka Dot Door for TV-Ontario.

Getting back to Dr. Ross, I was interested in his work as a Canadian abolitionist. Though information on him wasn't easy to come by, the more I found out the more involved I became. This was a universal man, not only a medical doctor, but an ornithologist and naturalist, winning many citations around the world for his work in both fields.- and an abolitionist! And then I discovered his autobiography in the archives of the University of Toronto library, that revealed additional insights into Milton Alexander Ross, the man.

Not to diminish the sincerity of his intentions and the importance of his accomplishments, I began to suspect that his altruism went hand in hand with a sense of adventure that warmed to the challenge of the

fight. Playing the double role of undercover agent as he accepted the hospitality of his southern plantation hosts under the pretext of studying southern birds, he risked his life distributing abolitionist material to their slaves, helping establish stations along the underground railroad, as well as personally helping many slaves escape to Canada. And I was intrigued by the unabashed confidence of the man as he sallied out into the world, convinced of his mission to bring order to a world in which no man owned another man, a world of justice, and where, incidentally, there was to be no tolerance for the consumption of alcohol, tobacco, profanity and frivolous behavior such as dancing.

Here was a wealth of material that could be the subject of many documentaries and books.

But I write musicals and musicals are another matter altogether. Enhanced by the emotional impact of music, musicals explore the inner journey taken by a central character in a selected framework of his/her time and life. I am working in collaboration with a composer, Sheldon Gartner and we chose the early period in Ross's life when he was rescuing slaves under the very noses of his plantation hosts. The first scene is in the courtroom where he is saved from hanging only by the appearance of the slave he is accused of helping escape. As he is leaving town, we have fictionalized a meeting with a beautiful young woman who tries to pass herself off as a white woman, enlisting his aid in helping her escape from her "abusive husband," though she is actually a slave, escaping from a bordello. It is through their relationship and others he meets in the course of the dramatic events in the musical where we imagine Ross, in setting aside the roles of crusader and scientist and moralist, experiencing new depths of feeling and empathy for others.

And we believe that one of the attractions of this musical is its universality; the curiosity we all have about the human side of bigger-than-life people. Specifically, too, it would be gratifying to further familiarize Canadians with another one of their little-known historical heroes. .

Our goal is to see "North Star" and Dr. Ross have a musical theatre life.

Fran Handman  
Playwright and Author  
New York City  
[fanhan@aol.com](mailto:fanhan@aol.com)



## **CEUD MILE FAILTE**

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

Betty and Kenneth McIntosh of Black Diamond, AB



## **SCOTTISH HUMOUR**

One day an entire Roman legion marches north of Hadrian's Wall. At the top of the first hill a great, hairy kilted Scot appears and shouts, "Och ... ye be Romans, eh? Send up ten of yer best!" Ten veteran legionnaires, fully armed, are dispatched over the ridge. There's a great commotion, then one beat-up survivor struggles back. A hundred soldiers are sent over the ridge. This time, none return! Risking all, the commander sends the entire legion. There are screams, crashes and the noise of a fearsome battle ... then a lone officer appears, running back over the skyline crying, "Sir, Sir, it was a trap! There are TWO of them!"

## Zorra Caledonian Society Games, Embro Ontario

Submitted by sandy and Gloria Ross

Canada Day July 1<sup>st</sup> was the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ontario's oldest Scottish games. They were planned to perpetuate the "spirit, music and games of Scotland." This area is the home of numerous Scottish families cleared from Sutherland shire in the 1830s. The games have grown yearly and are widely known as a friendly, family oriented entertainment. For over 25 years there has been a Clan Ross tent at Embro.



In the early years, the only other tent was one manned by two MacLeod sisters from Toronto. Enjoying the hospitality of the Ross tent, the Fergusons decided to have a tent of their own the next year. And so it has grown with six or more clans represented every year. At first held at Matheson Memorial Park in the village, the games have now outgrown that venue and have been moved to larger facilities just outside of town. The 1883 World Champion Tug of War team of Zorra is memorialized every year, attracting teams from all over Ontario, and occasionally from the States. Besides the athletic contests, Highland dancing and piping, the games are noted for the delicious home cooked beef dinners served by the local ladies. It's a fun day for all and you may meet a long lost relative. Come join us next year.

Photo: From left, Wendy Ross, Ontario Commissioner, Sandy Ross, Gloria Ross, and Margaret Montgomery

## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

### A TRIBUTE TO MARGARET MONTGOMERY (1921- 2006)

- by Gloria Ross

It is hard to think of only Margaret, as we first knew her as half of a delightful couple, Margaret Ross and Duncan Montgomery, early mainstays of Clan Ross Canada. Margaret was quiet, efficient and dedicated, while Duncan was easy going, fun loving and supportive

One of the first people to offer to help was Gertrude Tesky and then came her sister, Margaret Montgomery. Margaret was one of the Ross ladies who operated a calling committee for Commissioner Sandy Ross to keep the membership informed of all Scottish and Ross activities in the area. Then came a one-page notice letter and this grew into a newsletter. Moira Ross edited this beginning newsletter, and then, Margaret.

At games tents, parties, balls and picnics, Margaret and Duncan could always be counted on to be there and doing their part to make the event a success. The Orillia Games and parade were their own special project. Even after Duncan was gone, Margaret continued to man the tent. When Wendy Ross became Ontario Commissioner, Margaret became her strong supporter and the two of them did many things together. Without Margaret and Duncan's help through the years, Clan Ross Canada would never have developed in to the national organization it has become today. Farewell Margaret.



Photo: Orillia, 2004. From left: Don Ross, Minerva Teskey, Margaret Montgomery, Gertrude Tesky, Pat Ross, Wendy Ross, Eldred Cook, Blair Ashmore (behind) and Doug Ross

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 20, 2007:** Regina, SK. Regina Highland Games. at Campbell Collegiate [Also: Moose Jaw Games, May 19.]
- May 25 - 27, 2007:** Perth-Andover, NB. Gathering of the Scots Festival at Baird's Memorial Campground. Phone: (506) 273-6710.
- June 1 - 2, 2007:** Callander ON (near North Bay). Celtfest in Callander's Centennial Park.
- June 9, 2007:** Hamilton, ON. International Tattoo 7:30 PM & 2:30 PM respectively at Copps Coliseum. Phone: (905) 523-1753.
- June 9, 2007:** Georgetown, ON. Georgetown Highland Games at the Fairgrounds. (905) 584-5440.
- June 15 - 16, 2007:** Sarnia, ON. 24th Sarnia Supreme Highland Games. Hiawatha Horse Park.
- June 16, 2007:** Spencerville, ON. Veterans' Memorial Highland Games.
- June 22 - 23, 2007:** Ancaster, ON. Hamilton Highland Games & Scottish Festival.
- June 22 - 23, 2007:** Cobourg, ON. 44th Annual Cobourg Highland Games. Donegan Park, D'Arcy Street South.
- June 22 - 24, 2007:** Summerside, PE. Summerside Highland Gathering & Celtic Festival. College of Piping. (902) 436-5377.
- June 23, 2007:** Red Deer, AB. 60th Annual Red Deer Highland Games. Westerner Altaplex. Phone: (403) 343-6418.
- June 24, 2007:** Edmonton, AB. Scottish Society Highland Gathering at Grant McEwen Park. Phone: (780) 987-5261.
- June 30, 2007:** Coquitlam, BC. British Columbia Highland Games. Coquitlam Town Centre Stadium. Phone: 604-263 9111.
- July 1, 2007:** Pugwash, NS. International Gathering of the Clans. Main Street.
- July 1, 2007:** Embro, ON (near Woodstock). Zorra Caledonia Highland Games. Community Centre. Phone: (519) 475-4171.
- July 1 - 8, 2007:** Halifax, NS. The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo. Halifax Metro Centre. Tickets: Phone: 902-451-1221.
- July 6 - 8, 2007:** Kincardine, ON. Kincardine 8th Annual Scottish Festival & Highland Games. Victoria Park. Phone Toll Free: (888) 232-7952. The Clan of Honour is Clan Ross.
- July 7, 2007:** Halifax, NS. Halifax Highland Games and Highland Festival. 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Garrison Grounds at base of Citadel Hill. Admission: Adults \$10 Students & Seniors \$8.
- July 14, 2007:** Haliburton Village, ON. Haliburton Highland Games at Head Lake Park (705)457-3543.
- July 14, 2007:** Chatham, ON. 17th Annual Tartan Sertoma Chatham-Kent Supreme Highland Games. Downtown Techumseh Park. Admission \$8 per person (Children under 10 free). Contact: Ruth McNeil at (519) 352-8737 or Gary Dick at (519) 352-9550.
- July 20 - 21, 2007:** Cambridge, ON. 32nd Annual Cambridge Highland Games at Churchill Park. Phone: (519) 241-4906.
- July 20 - 21, 2007:** Orillia, ON. The 31st Annual Orillia Scottish Festival. Couchiching Beach Park. Friday night Ceilidh at the Legion. Saturday parade to the Park. Phone: (705) 325-8442.
- July 21, 2007:** Edmonton, AB. Fort Edmonton Highland Games. (403) 62-8476.
- July 21 - 22, 2007:** Uxbridge, ON. 12th Annual Highlands of Durham Games. Elgin Park in Uxbridge. Phone: (905) 52-0112.
- July 21 - 22, 2007:** Antigonish, NS. 145th Antigonish Highland Games. Columbus Field. Phone: (902) 863-4275
- July 27 - 29, 2007:** Fredericton, NB. 25th Annual New Brunswick Highland Games and Scottish Festival. Old Government House. Phone: (506) 452-9244.
- July 27 - 28, 2007:** Kingston, ON. Fort Henry Tattoo.

