

2 0 1 2 S U M M E R E D I T I O N



An Cìrean Ceann Cinnidh

CLAN ROSS

**Association of
Canada, Inc.
Founded 1960**

David C. Ross of Ross, Chief

**SUMMER ISSUE
SEPTEMBER, 2012**



2012 AGM - McBeth House, Winnipeg MB

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 and Kin/Chief of Clan Ross)

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

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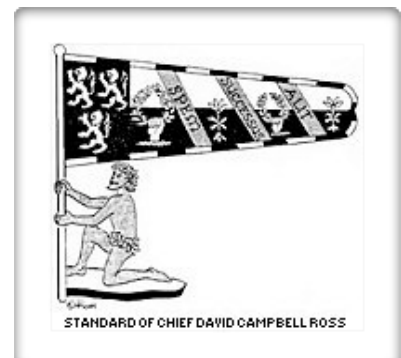
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WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

Donald Fraser Ross



Donald & Caroline Ross

Hi everyone! Just back from a wonderful Clan Ross of Canada weekend in friendly Manitoba including our Annual General Meeting. I am honoured to be your new National President after serving on your Executive as both 1st and 2nd Vice-President, as well as Interim/Secretary since 2008. Other changes on your National Executive include:

- Andrew Ross Thibodeau becomes Past President and continues to serve as Membership Chair and Treasurer.
- Rob Ross is our new Newsletter Editor replacing Patricia Ross who served in that capacity with distinction since 2006. Rob has been active in Clan Ross for the past few years, and comes to the position well qualified as he is son of Patricia & Doug, our webmaster! John Ross of Edmonton will be helping mail printed copies of our newsletter.
- Jim Turnbull has agreed to fill one of the vacant VP positions. His wife Christine (Ross) Turnbull has agreed to be Secretary. Both Jim & Christine have been active with Clan Ross for decades. Jim and Christine are involved in the Executive of the Manitoba Chapter. Christine is a Past National President and has been our Manitoba national commissioner for some time. This is Jim's first time on the National Executive. He is from the Glasgow area and came to Canada when he was 10.



Andrew and Donald thank Patricia

The new team has members from Nova Scotia to Alberta, so they will bring viewpoints from right across Canada. And with Andy and Jim's strong ties to Scotland, along with many others, we are well positioned for the future. I am very grateful to each and everyone who has served, or who has agreed to serve, our Clan. Thank-you!

For those that don't know me, my full name is Donald Fraser Ross. My parents were Garnet Allison Ross and Annie May Ferguson. I was born and raised in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, as were all my Canadian ancestors. On my paternal side, my grandparents names were Thomas John Ross and Catherine Mary McCaskill. On my maternal side, my grandparents names were Duncan Rory Ferguson and Margaret MacLeod. And so it goes. My mother was a member of the Cape Breton Gaelic Choir, an association she took much delight in. All my known ancestry is of Scottish descent, mostly from the Outer Hebrides.

My wife is Caroline Marie Boudreau, whose parents are of Acadian, Irish, and English descent with grandparent surnames of Boudreau, Gaudet, Snow, and Smithwick. Her Acadian roots go back to the early 1600s to Port

Royal, Nova Scotia! We have three beautiful children, Donna, Allison and Kendall, and five grandchildren, Bradyn, Mitchell, Connor, Kaitlyn and Emily. We live in West Chezzetcook, N.S. near Halifax and have a summer home in the West Bay area of Cape Breton, N.S.

As a result of my work, we have lived in six provinces of Canada and have worked in most of the others. We have driven Canada from coast to coast. We are blessed to now have many friends right across Canada. I look forward to serving you as your President, and Caroline and I welcome receiving your ideas to keep Clan Ross relevant to you and your family.



CLAN ROSS DONATES \$1,000.00 FOR EMERGENCY STABILIZATION OF HISTORIC OLD KILDONAN CHURCH IN WINNIPEG

Ian Ross - Past National President



The Kildonan Church Today
Historic Alexander Ross family headstones in foreground.

Two years ago, at the July 18, 2010 AGM, the following motion was passed:

That the Clan Ross Association of Canada, as its next National Project, make a financial donation of \$1,000.00 to the new National Human Rights Museum, on the condition that the Museum includes a display explaining Scotland's Highland Clearances.

In the fall of 2010 I advised officials of the new museum, then just starting construction in Winnipeg, that Clan Ross-Canada would like to make this conditional donation, with \$250 more from its Manitoba Chapter. I included my paper (*originally presented at the museum's January 2010 public forum*) on the importance of the Scottish Highland Clearances in any human rights museum,

but especially one located in Canada's Red River Valley. Our country of Canada was largely formed by the many waves of Scottish immigrants who fled the cultural genocide of the Clearances in the latter 1700s and early 1800s ... when Highland nobles forced their tenant farmers off the land by brute force in favour of running sheep. The Red River Valley is where a wave of settlers sponsored by the humanitarian Lord Selkirk, including several named Ross, arrived 200 years ago in search of freedom and the right to own property. (*Selkirk sponsored settlements in PEI and Ontario as well.*) After many hardships, they established the first permanent agricultural settlement in the area. It became the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba.

Museum staff promptly informed me that the museum could not accept conditional donations, and that the actual display content was not even close to being finalized.

In January, 2011, reacting to the museum's release of an overview of their intended twelve permanent content zones, I provided their Chief Knowledge Officer with further rationale for displays on the Highland Clearances as being a "good fit". I kept in touch with museum officials over the subsequent months. The specific content of these twelve zones remained a mystery. It was not until last July, in response to an ultimatum letter I had sent, that I received a call from Susan Graham, Interim CEO of The Friends of The Canadian Museum for Human Rights (*their main fundraising arm*).

Susan told me they now had specifics on the displays for the museum's 2014 opening. They would NOT include a display on Scotland's Highland Clearances nor the waves of Scottish immigration to Canada, nor were such displays scheduled for their first routine "refresh" 18 months after the opening. Something might be in place at the second "refresh" in 2017 ... as several other Scottish groups and potential donors had expressed a similar interest.

I reluctantly told her that I now had no choice but to recommend to the August 5th Clan Ross AGM that our planned donation be cancelled. The 2017 "possibility" was too remote. And, although the Human Rights Museum is a worthy cause with or without a display on the Clearances, our Clan Ross Constitution's stated Objectives require us to support projects which preserve the traditions and historical materials of Clan Ross, and of the Celtic races of Scotland. However, as this money had already been ear-marked for a national project, it was appropriate to suggest an alternative use for it.

Earlier that day the AGM bus tour had visited Historic Old Kildonan Church, the first Scottish Presbyterian church built in Canada's west. Its cemetery includes headstones of many notable Rosses, including Alexander Ross (*instrumental in bringing in the Selkirk Settlers' first Presbyterian minister*) and William Ross (*first*



1



2



3

Postmaster in what is now Manitoba). This is the only original Selkirk Settlers structure still standing in Winnipeg.

Modeled after the Kildonan Church near the town of Helmsdale in Sutherland, from which many of the settlers came, and built by Orkney stonemason Duncan McRae, the church was opened for worship in January, 1854. The Scots settlers no longer needed to use the Anglican churches for their spiritual needs. In the words of Alexander Ross, who was there, "*no less than 300 Presbyterians left the English church in one day*" and "*though small, it is considered the neatest and most complete church in the colony ... it is pleasing to add that, when finished, there was not a shilling due on either church or manse.*"

This essential piece of Canada's history is now in imminent danger of collapse due to the effects of weather over the last 150 years. A \$50K fund-raising program has been started for its emergency stabilization, to which the Manitoba Chapter has already donated \$500. I suggested to the AGM that if we were to simply divert our pledged \$1,000.00 from the Human Rights Museum to the emergency restoration of Old Kildonan Church, we would be fulfilling a Clan Ross Objective and, at least indirectly, preserving one of the monuments related to the Highland Clearances.

The AGM attendees unanimously agreed that Clan Ross-Canada donate the \$1,000.00 originally intended for the Human Rights Museum to the emergency stabilization of Historic Old Kildonan Presbyterian Church.

Photos

- 1) Manitoba Chapter members (from left) Barb Fletcher, Jacquie Ross and Denis Fletcher with the Ross headstones, restored as part of a previous National Project
- 2) Historic Old Kildonan Church, as it appeared in 1882 on the "bald prairie"
- 3) The church with emergency roof repair underway. AGM attendees in foreground.



Tom & Joanne Carrothers at the Orillia, Ontario, games for a 2nd year in a row. Tom's mother was a Ross.



Andrew Thibodeau with Doug and Patricia Ross at the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games



“All Roads Lead to Winnipeg”* National Gathering 2012

(*Taken from an ad promoting Winnipeg 100 years ago. It can still be found on a plaque in New Orleans.)

Andrew Ross Thibodeau - Past National President

Part adventure, part family reunion, part food tour, part time-travel, the 2012 National Gathering hosted by Clan Ross Manitoba had it all! Over 25 Clan members from five provinces and one state came together for three days to celebrate, meet and enjoy a unique corner of our country.

My mom Judith joined me on this trip. I am a Ross off my mom's father's mother's side of the family. My Ross middle name was mom's dad's first name. It was how my great grandmother honoured her clan and maiden name by giving it as a first name to her son. I never knew Ross Kemp, as he passed in St. Mary's, Ontario, my mother's hometown, eight years before my birth. After working as an Air Traffic controller in Gander during World War 2, Ross had four children and a variety of jobs, including driving trucks for the salt mines of Goderich. My mom and dad participated in the 2006 and 2010 Gatherings and really enjoyed themselves. With dad now gone, it was special to share this gathering with her.

We arrived a day early to take advantage of the perfect location of our host hotel, the Norwood, on the outskirts of the city's core. We had great walks exploring the Forks area with its market, stores, artwork, bridges, and hilarious and interesting “Weird but True” mini-museum about Canada.



Ian Ross recites Robert Burns' “Address to a Haggis”

It was amazing to see the progress of the building of the National Human Rights Museum at the Forks. The skyline has now been dramatically altered and improved by its unique design. It is set to open in 2014. We also explored the historic Exchange District and walked the French quarter of St. Boniface to see the gravesite of Louis Riel.

The Gathering opened on the Saturday evening with a reception in the Norwood. Food, drink, and live fiddle music complimented the conversation for all three hours. Ian Ross gave his famous Robbie Burns “Address to a Haggis”, complete with sword, scotch, and laughs. Since “auld Scots” can be hard to understand, we are blessed that Ian is so dramatic in his performance that you can follow his tribute to the “Great Chieftain of the Puddin-Race.” Very little of the huge Haggis was left by the night's conclusion.

It's the people that make these gatherings so special. Everyone has unique stories and backgrounds that bind our common heritage of Canada and Scotland. Hugh Ross was driving from Grande Prairie, Alberta, to Toronto and stopped for the weekend en route to a family reunion in Ontario. Sisters Nancy and Susan came together in Winnipeg, with Susan living in Massachusetts and Nancy in Saskatoon. Rev. Don Ross had just returned from a trip in the UK with his adult children, and then took time to explore France. Jim and Christine Turnbull had us laughing about their lost luggage, which took over a week to reach them during their 2010 UK trip.

Merle lives in Winnipeg and was joined by her daughter Cynthia, from Calgary. Roger & Mary, Eldon & Carol, Barb & Dennis, Ian & Jacquie, Len, Dorothy, Alex & Patricia, were all part of the Winnipeg based clan members. Clan Ross Manitoba is such an impressive organization! We learned of the success of their fundraising and special events, such as their annual Burns Dinner each January. Doug & Patricia from Toronto were joined by their son, Rob. Rob announced his intention to take over from his mother as our newsletter editor. Don, our new president, came in from Halifax and carried the most amazing and detailed family tree on his laptop with him. Don has Thibodeaus in his family line, so we may be distant cousins on both our Scottish and Acadian sides!

A bus picked us up on Sunday morning for a series of brief stops to take in the Scottish heritage of Winnipeg. First, the Settlers Monument, located in a beautiful area of river parks, gardens and new condos. The sculpture of a highland family walking, with the mother looking back in sadness at the homeland she will never see again, is a twin to a sculpture in Helmsdale, Scotland. It was built to honour the people of the Highland Clearances. It was the clearances that led 96 Scots to arrive in 1812 to this area, helped by Lord Selkirk. "From that modest beginning has grown the city of Winnipeg. This is their legacy" reads the nearby plaque.



The Scots Monument

Next stop was the Scots Monument, with a beautiful view over the Red River. It was erected in 1993 thanks in part to a donation from our Clan Association. It depicts a huge stylized Scots thistle and honours Thomas Douglas, Fifth Earl of Selkirk, who arranged the settlement of this area. The thistle is surrounded by a stone wall which features a stone from each of the Scottish counties.

Next, was the Ross House Museum, western Canada's first post office, established in the 1850's by William Ross. He set it up in his front room! William, his father Alexander, and the entire Ross family were important in the building of the Red River Colony. It was Alexander who finally convinced the governor to bring in a Presbyterian minister. This minister married Alexander's daughter and they built the Kildonan church, which was our next stop.

The Old Kildonan Church was founded in 1852 and is now in the early stages of restoration after many years of not being in use. As the oldest Presbyterian Church west of Ontario and one of the oldest buildings in the west, a drive has begun to save it. As Ian Ross notes in another article, it is the focus of our current national project. We were given a rare inside look at the church from Frank and John, who oversee the church, the graveyard, and the restoration.

This fall, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of Winnipeg, the current Lord Selkirk will come from Scotland to join Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the festivities. The Kildonan Church organization is thrilled that Lord Selkirk will pay a visit to the church and graveyard. The graves include many Ross graves, restored thanks to a Clan Ross National Project from a decade ago. The oldest stone dates from 1854.

Our AGM and BBQ Lunch was at the Macbeth House. Sausages and homemade burgers were cooked by our Manitoba Clan members. Entertainment was provided by a first ever appearance of the Clan Ross Pipes and Drums, featuring Ian & Jacquie on



Andrew hands the Chair over to Donald Ross

percussion, with Jim & Christine on the pipes. They had only taken up piping within the past two years! As 50 something parents of teenagers, Jim and Christine took up a completely new instrument and show us all that you can learn and get good at a totally new passion.

At 5:30pm we were on the steps of the Manitoba Legislature for our 90 minute tour of this incredible building. The tour was so surprising, fun, and full of interesting insights that I will wait for a future newsletter to share a more in depth article on it. Most considered the tour the highlight of the weekend. In the meantime, if you are in Winnipeg, take the “Hermetic Code Tour” of the Legislature. I really do mean this ... it was the BEST historical tour I have EVER taken, and trust me, I have been on many.

Sunday evening we ate family-style German food at Gasthaus Gutenberger.

Monday the bus departed at 8am on another gorgeous day to drive 75 minutes north to the town of Gimli. Founded in the late 1800's by Icelandic immigrants, it celebrates its Iceland heritage every August long weekend with the five day festival called the Islendigadagurinn (Icelandic Festival).



Army, Navy, Air Force Vets Unit 303 Pipe Band including Ian & Jacquie Ross

Our early arrival gave us perfect seats for the hour long parade that started at 10am. The parade was led by Army, Navy, Air Force Vets Unit 303 Pipe band, including our own Ian & Jacquie Ross. Following the parade and a stroll through town, we ate a Pickerel Lunch at a wonderful restaurant at the nearby town of Sandy Hook. It was pickerel freshly caught in Lake Winnipeg, visible through the windows of Jane & Walter's Restaurant. Who knew that Manitoba, with its prairies and forests, also had a thriving fishery?

That afternoon we returned to Gimli for a little Viking battle! Men and women from across North America who specialize in battle re-enactments arrived on the Wednesday and set up a camp. These men, women and children truly live the life of a Viking: cooking in the same way, eating their food, making

jewelry, and living in similar tents and circumstances. Monday was their final day of their “living art performance.” For about 45 minutes we were entertained by phenomenal “faux fighting” with a great dose of humour, bravery and skill. We then had an hour to visit the camp, ask questions, and laugh with the Vikings. There was not one helmet with horns to be found. The horned helmet is a creation of Wagner for his Flight of the Valkyries opera and has been an incorrect image of Vikings ever since.

The day ended at “Bad Ass Jacks”, a former volunteer fire fighter hall now designed as a rental hall for gatherings. To say it was “full” of antiques would be a massive understatement. There were conversation pieces in every room, with rooms full of metal toy trucks, old chainsaws,



Cynthia and Merle McTaggart outside Bad Ass Jacks



Outside Bad Ass Jacks - From left to right:
Jacquie Ross, Dorothy Hollins, Ian Ross, Denis
and Barb Fletcher, Christine and Jim Turnbull

and even a collection of antique fire equipment. It gave us all something to explore. The owners cooked us an amazing pulled pork sandwich meal before championship fiddler Alex Lamoureux ended our evening with foot stomping fun.

Our Manitoba Clan Ross team put together a perfect mix of food, fun, and interest that made for a perfect weekend. I feel blessed to have participated and on behalf of the clan I thank them for their time and energy. Please go to our website or facebook page for amazing pictures chronicling this unique weekend.



Please visit the **members only** section on **<http://www.greatclanross.org>** for the **AGM Minutes and Reports.**

Clan Ross Association of Canada, Inc.

Financial Statement as at December 31, 2011

Bank Balance as at December 31, 2010		\$2299.58
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Income

Memberships	875.67	
Donations (Next National Project)	35	
Clothing Sales	1058.28	
TOTAL INCOME		<u>1968.95</u>

Expenses

Newsletter, including mailing, winter	182.09
Spring	195.15
Summer and fall	<u>412.01</u>
Total Newsletter printing & mailing:	789.25
Corporation Fee – Federal	30.00
Fergus Festival	74.00
Clan Ross Clothing, Anywear Print	1062.77
Clan Ross Clothing, Anywear Print	223.23
Website Annual Fee, 2010 & 2011(\$100 annual)	200.00
Postage (\$66.67 + \$19.15)	85.82
Copies	15.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$2480.07</u>
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ANNUAL PROFIT	- 512.13
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Bank Balance as at December 31, 2011	(1788.46)	<u>\$1802.19</u>
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NOTES:

Why a loss for 2011? Three reasons:

1. \$745 of 2011 membership deposited in December 2010 and \$75 of 2011 membership deposited in 2012, for a total of \$820 of 2011 membership not deposited in the 2011 year. Including those memberships it would be a \$308 profit.
2. Clothing will be break even once a \$400 order is completed in September 2012. The new clothing line had initial set up and sample expenses that will not occur again.
3. Two years of web hosting was paid in one year, which also will not happen again.

Newsletter cost \$225 less in 2011 vs. 2010.

New Members Welcome!

Anna & Charlie Charron, Brechin, ON
Fiona Watts, Newmarket, ON
Susan Dierks, Amherst, Mass. USA
Kirsten & Chris MacTaggart, Waterloo, ON



Clan Ross Association of Canada bestows Wendy F. S. Ross with the status of Honorary Member

Family History Corner:

Ross Orville Lyttle, a grandson of Sir George William Ross 1841-1914 who was a founder of Clan Ross in North America, is compiling a genealogical chart of his Ross family. Everyone who has contacts or information about that family that may help Orville complete that chart is encouraged to get a hold of our Webmaster, Doug.

Please contact J. Douglas Ross
jdr@greatclanross.org

Looking for information about Alex(ander?) K. Ross born sept 15, 1857 married to Mary Ann Moss born Aug 15, 1856. They lived in the Toronto area. They had 3 children: Garnett born aug 27, 1883, Moss Allan born Feb 5, 1884 and Lorna Kathleen born Dec 26 1892 or 1889 (conflicting info). Moss was born in Toronto according to the 1901 census. The other two children were likely born in Toronto as well.

Please contact Janet Ross
hmunoz@sympatico.ca



Upcoming Events

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

September 1, 2012: Calgary, AB. Calgary Highland Games. Foothills Athletic Park. (403)280-9670.
<http://www.calgaryhighlandgames.org/>

September 2, 2012: Canmore, AB. 21st Annual Canmore Highland Games. Centennial Park. (403)678-9454.
<http://www.canmorehighlandgames.ca/>

September 2, 2012: Toronto, ON. 20th Annual Scottish Cruise aboard the Sailing Ship "Empire Sandy". Times: 11:30 AM and 2:00 PM from pier 27 at the Spadina Pier harbourfront. Celebrate the voyage of the Ship Hector. Further information at the Scottish Studies Society
<http://www.scottishstudies.com/940empiresandy.htm>

September 4, 2012: Winnipeg, Manitoba. Selkirk Settler Bicentenary celebration of "THE ARRIVAL CEREMONY" at La Verendrye Park. Times: 11:30 am to 6:00 pm.
<http://www.manitobalivinghistory.com/>

September 7 - 8, 2012: Trenton, ON. Scottish/Irish Festival at Centennial Park, Quinte West. Information: 613-392-2841.
<http://www.trentonscottishirish.com/>

September 8 & 9, 2012: Toronto, ON. The 9th Beach Celtic Festival at Kew Gardens. Phone Toll Free: 1-888-699-1549
<http://www.thecelticfestival.com/>

September 15, 2012: Barrie, ON. Innisfil Celtic Festival.
<http://www.innisfilcelticfestival.ca/>

September 29, 2012: Truro, NS. 7th Annual Provincial Scottish Dinner & Dance with the support of the Scottish Society of Colchester and the St Andrew's Society of Pictou. Best Western Glengarry Convention Centre, 150 Willow Street. Tickets \$25. Children under 10, \$10.
<http://www.scotsns.ca/>

November 24, 2012: Toronto, ON. St. Andrew's Ball, co-sponsored by the 48th Highlanders and the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto. Held at the Moss Park Armoury. Tickets: \$125. Reception begins at 6:00 PM.
<http://www.standrews-society.ca/ball.cfm>