



CLAN ROSS

Association of Canada,
Inc.
Founded 1960

David C. Ross of Ross, Chief

SUMMER ISSUE
AUGUST, 2010

An Círean Ceann Cinnidh



Group photo, Clan Ross Canada Gathering,
Brock's Monument, Niagara Falls, ON, July 17, 2010

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	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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Facebook Page

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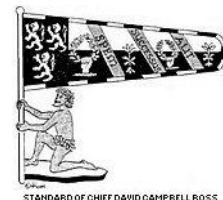
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, SUMMER NEWSLETTER, 2010

Hello Clan Ross:

With the glow from the recent successful National Gathering within me, I am pleased to announce the following major developments with the Clan:

Clan Ross Newsletter now available as an email attachment!

In an effort to save on printing and mailing costs, we are now making our newsletter available as a PDF file that can be emailed to you four times a year.

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter in this format, please email me directly at andyspeaks@rogers.com. We will remove your paper version from our mailing.

If we do not hear from you, we will continue to mail you the newsletter. We will never pressure you to take a particular format. We are just happy to provide the option.

I am also a member of Clan Hunter and my father in law is the editor of their newsletter. Currently they have 60% of their membership that receive their copy via email as a PDF file. If we were to reach similar numbers, it would allow us additional funds to be put towards national projects and covering expenses to attend Scottish festivals.

Please consider switching to an emailed newsletter! Thank you!

National Gathering Site Confirmed for the summer of 2012! Winnipeg!

Past President Denis Fletcher confirmed that he has struck a committee with Ian Ross, Barb Fletcher, and our Manitoba Clan chapter, to host our Gathering and AGM in 2012. We appreciate their commitment on this and we are excited to visit their great city. Hopefully, the new Museum of Human Rights will be opened by our weekend and we can visit it. Look for more information in late 2011! A huge thanks to our Manitoba Clan for taking on our next national project and the next Gathering! In addition, they always well represent Clan Ross at the annual Folkarama event in Winnipeg.

Speaking of representing the Clan, I need to note the following: A big thanks to Wendy Ross, her Brother Sandy, sister-in-law Gloria, and brother Derek, for representing the Clan again at the Embro Games here in Ontario. Thank you to Dorothy O'Donnell for operating our tent at the Victoria, BC Games. Thank you to Wendy, Debra Barry, and her son Eric, for representing us at the Montreal Games. We so appreciate clan members taking a day to promote the Clan at these Scottish festivals! For Dorothy, Debra, and Eric, it was their first time. Please consider representing Clan Ross at a Scottish Festival in your area in the future. You do NOT have to be an executive member or have any experience. Contact me for details. Enjoy the final weeks of summer!

Andrew Ross Thibodeau



The Family of Wendy Ross (L – R): brother Derek, sister-in-law Gloria, Wendy Ross (Ontario Commissioner), and brother Sandy.

Attending the Embro Games has been a tradition for this family for decades.

CLAN ROSS CANADA'S NEXT NATIONAL PROJECT

Submitted by Barb Fletcher

At the Clan Ross Association of Canada national annual general meeting in Niagara Falls, Ontario, on Sunday, July 18, 2010, the following motions were 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."

"That the National Executive immediately advise the Museum's administration of the conditional availability of this donation."

Clan Ross Canada members are asked to support this national project by sending donations, made out to **Clan Ross Association of Canada**, to Andrew Thibodeau, President, Clan Ross Association of Canada, 910 Dearness Drive, London, ON, N6E 1N5.

For information on the Human Rights Museum, visit the website at <http://humanrightsmuseum.ca>

NATIONAL GATHERING 2010 CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF CLAN ROSS CANADA!

By Andrew Ross Thibodeau

It was Niagara Falls in July. Twenty-five Clan Ross members came together to celebrate 50 years of our association. The small group represented five provinces, from long time members like Jack Ross (and his friend Ursula) of Mississauga, to new members, like Gregg and Sharron Ross, also of Mississauga. Veteran participants included the Fletchers of Winnipeg, my family, past president Don Ross of Orillia, VP Donald Ross and his wife Caroline of Nova Scotia, former VP Denis and Shirley Ross of Kincardine, and Ontario Commissioner Wendy Ross of St. Catharines. Dorothy O'Donnell of BC brought her daughter Gail of Pickering, and Doug and Patricia Ross of Toronto came with their son, Rob, of Mississauga. It was the first Gathering for both Rob and Gail. Bill Goble and his wife Debra of Montreal also made their first appearance while it was the second Ross Gathering for my parents and my in-laws.

Our host hotel was the Best Western Fallsview. A fantastic dinner at a great price, with a special menu wishing the Clan "Happy Birthday!" on Friday night impressed everyone.



Our Friday evening Ceilidh featured the Folk Group "The Gaels" of London (Photo on left). They are my favourite group because I am married to their fiddle player! The Gaels were formed by my in-laws Tom and Christine Hunter (executives of Clan Hunter Canada), with their son Paul, daughter Lynn, and daughter and my wife (and Clan Ross Executive) Lizz. Lizz's family was born and raised in Scotland and came to Canada in the early 70's just before she was born. Their two sets of toe tapping folk songs had everyone smiling and singing along. Highlights included songs like "the Railway Porter", "The Wind" (a collection of Scottish street songs), "Flower of Scotland", and my new favourite tune, "Caledonia". This song was the official theme song of the 2009

World Wide Gathering in Scotland. Doug Ross posted an excellent clip of this on our website.

I opened Our Friday evening Ceilidh by reading a message from Chief David Ross:

"Dear Andy

First and foremost, may I wish the Clan Ross Association of Canada a very happy and successful AGM, expecting of course you will not forget to have lots of fun and joyful celebrations at the wonderful location of Niagara.

Lady Eileen and I wish we were with you, but will toast your next 50 years this weekend instead.

Your message reminds me that I am now in my 43rd year as Chief, though it does not seem that long ago that I succeeded as Chief at the age of 34.

With very best wishes to all members of the Clan Ross Association of Canada, and any guests that may be attending the meeting.

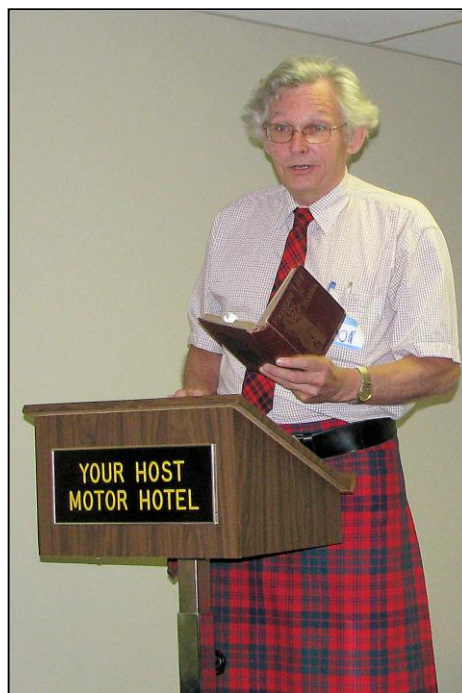
David Ross of Ross and Balnagowan"



I then shared my inspiration for my involvement in the clan. It was 10 years ago that I met Wendy Ross at the Montreal Games and joined the Clan. My participation progressed from being a member, to helping with the Ross tent at the Fergus festival every year, to running two National Gatherings, to becoming President. My inspiration started in 1991 when my parents came back from Scotland with a Ross book and a Ross tartan tie. This gave me my first glimpse into the history of my middle name and my Scottish past. Then, in 1995, I started dating Lizz Hunter. I swear that her Scottish-born father's first words to me were "Are you Scottish?" To which my reply was, "My middle name is Ross, so, I am part Scottish." "Close enough", was his reply. It was the Hunters that introduced me to the Clan Association network in Canada by taking me to my first Highland Games in 1997 and my watching them operate their Clan tent. That same year, they took me on my first trip to Scotland. I was blessed to experience Scotland first hand, partly as a tourist, and partly as a member of a Scottish family. I visited Edinburgh Castle and Glencoe, all the while living with my wife's cousins and visiting her extended family in the Edinburgh area. This first of six trips inspired a deep passion for Scotland that is second

only to my deep love for Canada. For me, Clan Ross Canada has been a wonderful way to share my enjoyment of people, history, stories, family, Canada, and Scotland, all in one unique venture.

Former president and long-time member of the Clan, Don Ross of Orillia, then shared his insights on the Clan's history. Don is the son of Dr. John Ross. Dr. Ross was a key person in the reformation of our Association in 1960, acting as a long-time President and is the author of the book, "The Great Clan Ross". Don himself followed in his father's footsteps, spending many years as President in the early 1980's. Don related how his father slowly built up the membership of the organization by writing letters to Rosses that he read about in the papers and through his work as a doctor at Toronto's Sick Kids Hospital. He shared books, albums, and old letterhead that told the story of our association. It got me thinking how proud Dr. John Ross would be to know that people still cared 50 years later. He would see the national projects that we have supported and see the good that can be measured by our involvement in the Clan.



Photos (L – R): Andrew Thibodeau and Don Ross

PDR



Cutting the cake at break: Upper left, Andrew Thibodeau, President; Upper right, Don Ross, guest speaker and a Past President; Front, Denis Fletcher, Past President.

Photo: PDR

SATURDAY BUS TOUR – THE NIAGARA FRONTIER IN THE WAR OF 1812

Old Fort Erie

Saturday dawned sunny and warm as we embarked on our bus tour. Our theme was the War of 1812. Our perfect first stop was Old Fort Erie. Located in Fort Erie, the fort overlooks the smallest of the Great Lakes with Buffalo in the distance. Daryl, a third year History student from Brock University, was our hilarious and informative guide. I pulled him aside at the end of the tour to compliment him on his energy and his funny historical anecdotes about the Fort, the War of 1812, and a soldier's life at that time.



This 200 year old fort was masterfully rebuilt in the 1930's and I highly recommend a visit. Daryl pointed out that for the first two years of the War of 1812 the British Army's biggest ally was the incompetence of the American Generals. It was Britain's experienced professional army vs. the inexperience of American troops led by politicians and not military tacticians. However, this area was the site of the first American success in the war. In July, 1814, the American victory at the nearby battle of Chippewa was the first defeat of a British Army since 1745. Fort Erie fell when its garrison of 140 surrendered to the US army of 3,000. The British later returned with more men to retake

the fort, but never succeeded. In November of that year, as the weather turned cold, the Americans blew the fort up and retreated. The end of the war soon came.

I learned that a soldier's favourite reward was a Hunting Pass that allowed him to shoot fresh meat as the army ration wasn't very good. Canadian based British officers used far less harsh discipline on the troops since defection was so easy. Across the border in the USA, people looked like you, talked like you, and often had similar names to you. Desertion was a common worry for British officers.

Children that lived in a fort had three choices when they turned 16: become a soldier, marry a soldier, or get out! Wives living in the fort made three to ten times more money than a soldier by cooking, cleaning, and sewing. If her soldier husband died, she had 48 hours to find a new husband or to "get out!" (Not a lot of time to grieve.) At a garrison in France, one wife went through 14 men this way during her life time. An officer at that location commented, "Madame, you are better at killing my men than the enemy!"

We spent an hour and 45 minutes at the Fort. Our lunch stop was at "Betty's", a famous restaurant in the town of Chippewa. Owned by Joe Misk and his family for over 4 decades, the pies and fish and chips are the stuff of legend. I loved my fish and didn't think I had room for pie. However, the pie was so good, the next thing I knew my pie was gone too! We learned that they cater and would be providing the buffet at the magic show that evening.

Brock's Monument



The final stop on our tour was Brock's Monument. Our guide, Phil, dressed in a full British Red Coat uniform was another Brock University student. For \$4 a person, Phil told us of the story of General Brock and the critical War of 1812 battle of Queenston Heights. The location of the monument was stunning as he told us the story, as we were located at the top of a cliff overlooking the Niagara Peninsula with Niagara-on-the-Lake in the distance. Sir Isaac Brock was our Governor General at the outbreak of the War. He was commissioned as a Major General and one of his first acts of brilliance was forming an alliance with First Nation's Mohawk leader Tecumseh. Brock's 49th army, with an average age of 35, was very experienced. His army, helped by their First Nations Allies, captured Fort Detroit across the river without even firing a shot. They did this by dressing the local militia in Red Coats, deceiving the Americans into thinking they were far outnumbered by experienced British soldiers.

At the time of the American invasion at Queenston Heights, Brock was 43 years old. It was the first major battle of the war when the Americans invaded on October 13th, 1812. At 5am, Col. Wool of the USA led 300 men in a surprise attack that

captured the Heights. At 7am, General Brock led the charge to recapture the heights. It was in leading this charge that the brave General died instantly when a sniper hit him in the chest from just 50 yards away. As the battle progressed, the British were able to repel the invasion with a loss of only 21 lives, while the Americans suffered 100 killed and over 800 captured. However, 100-150 First Nation allies died in the battle. A First Nations group had just been at the monument and had performed a ceremony to mark that sacrifice.

Many final words have been attributed to Brock as he lay on the field. In fact, the motto of Brock University is "Surgite", Latin for "Push on", which is attributed as his final sentence. Reality is that he died instantly. The stunning Brock Monument has been up for over 150 years and features 235 steps to the observation deck. Only one from our group, Bill from Quebec, made the trip up. Brock and his Canadian Aide-de-camp, John MacDonnell, are interred at its base.

We returned to the hotel with a couple of hours to relax before we all took cabs to see the Greg Frewin Magic Show. The buffet was fantastic and the show was simply incredible. The Hamilton-raised Greg Frewin is a world-class talent who was masterful at setting every trick up. You often felt like "Oh, I have seen this before," only to then see him "one up" the trick to make it better. For example, he puts a woman in a small cage, spins it, and she is gone. You think, "Wow, that's good, but, I have seen that." Then, he spins the cage again, and out pops a tiger! "Okay, I didn't see that coming!"

Sunday AGM

In our next newsletter, we will publish the minutes of the meeting to share with our members. Briefly, I am thrilled to continue for another two years as your National President, with Donald Ross of Nova Scotia as VP. My wife will continue to help behind the scenes as we share Treasurer and Membership duties, but I ask that correspondence to my home via email or phone calls be directed to me.

I was thrilled to accept a \$100 donation from Bill and Debra Goble of Quebec to purchase a Clan Ross flag. It arrived within the week and we were able to use it at the Montreal and Fergus Games. Thank you!



MONTREAL SCOTTISH FESTIVAL 2010 *A Great Success for the Great Clan Ross*

By Debra Barry

Montreal's annual Highland Games, this year called The Scottish Festival, was a great success for our clan. Following two years of torrential rains that created big money losses reported by the organizers and low sales by the vendors, this year the sun shone and the attendance increased. Our Clan Ross booth was a big hit with many visitors stopping by to tell us of their Ross connections. Eric Ross Goble, 20, son of Debra Barry and Bill Goble called out greetings to passersby to come over and chat. He used the Kith and Kin book to help visitors connect their family names to a clan and shared travel stories. Debra, Wendy Ross and Eric set up the Clan Ross tent between the Hunters and the Gunns, this year's featured clan. We were lucky to be right across from the music tent and were treated to wonderful fiddlers, singers and other musicians all day. Though the heavy games themselves were reduced this year, the big disappointment for everyone was the absence of the pipe competition due to the lack of funds for judges. Eric and Debra agree that it was an honour to listen to the amazing historical facts and anecdotes supplied by Wendy Ross, our Ontario Commissioner. Her map of Scotland, featuring the Clan Ross lands, in Latin, was a popular attraction. Organizers are hoping for good weather next year to insure a long life for the Montreal games.



Photo: Eric Goble



Photo: Debra Barry

Wendy Ross with Debra Barry, Quebec Commissioner (Left) and Debra's son, Eric (Right).

CEUD MILE FAILTE

A hundred thousand welcomes to our new members

Murdock & Judy Ross, Niagara Falls, ON
Steven & Irene Ross, Brantford, ON
Gord & Lisa Ross, Woodstock, ON
Jack Ramsden, Three Hills, AB
Bill Ross Goble, Saskatoon, SK
Belle Stephanson, Portage La Prairie, MB
Patricia Nostbakken, Saskatoon, SK
Pamela Goble-Ng, Beaumont, AB
Eric Ross Goble, Pierrefonds, QC
Eugene & Margaret Ross, Embro, ON

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Clan Ross Association of Canada welcomes Debra Barry of Pierrefonds, Quebec, as our new Quebec Commissioner. Debra and her husband, Bill Goble, who were introduced on page 13 of the last newsletter, are enthusiastic members of Clan Ross Canada. Debra has set up our exciting new Facebook page and has sent us the following message:

"Clan Ross Canada now has a Facebook page! Please join us at "Clan Ross Association of Canada" to get news and to view pictures of recent trips and events posted by our members. It is a great way to build our community and to stay in touch as a Clan. Join our discussions, post a comment or start a topic you think would interest other Rosses. It is obvious from the huge response so far that Clan Ross Facebook is welcoming, friendly and a fun place to be. Hope to see you there."

Debra Barry"

Clan Ross Canada has had an exciting summer participating in Scottish games and festivals. Many thanks to members who have e-mailed photographs of these events to Doug Ross, our Webmaster. Photographs and accounts of these events are posted on our website: <http://www.greatclanross.org>. Thanks also to members who have posted or published links to their photograph albums on our successful new Facebook page. These postings allow us to see many more photographs than we have room for in the newsletter.

The minutes of the AGM and accounts of our Clan's participation as the Clan of Honour at the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games will be published in the next newsletter. The deadline for submissions is October, 29, 2010.

FAMILY HISTORY CORNER

1) Searching for information on Walter Ross born approx 1900 in Inverness. Homesteaded in Olds Alberta and had a daughter named Margaret. I believe Walter also lived in British Columbia. I was told he won prizes for his gardening. Have found a large grouping of Rosses from Inverness in Olds Alberta as well as a couple of Walters with sons also named Walter. Another Ross descendant has stated that their Walter Ross won awards for his gardening but died in early 1900's. Mine was alive in 1979 when his great grandson (my son) was born in Calgary where Walter's daughter Margaret lived and died. Margaret first married a Cooper in Edmonton where her son Ken was born. They have all passed away now and I lost track of them when I divorced Ken and moved back east. There was a Walter Ross who is listed in the Alberta Homesteaders Archives who had a large spread and died in 1912. I have found ship records and immigration records but again I have not been able to connect anyone as Margaret had married another two times when she died around 1982 and I cannot remember her last name at that time so have not been able to backtrack. Does anyone have any info on why this large grouping of Ross would be in Olds Alberta? Thanks.

Alannah Ryane
alannahryane@yahoo.ca; Phone: 705-323-5705

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

September 10 - 17, 2010: Quebec, QC. 5th Quebec City Celtic Festival.
Website: <http://festivalceltique.morrin.org/en/home.php>

September 4, 2010: Calgary, AB. Calgary Highland Games. Foothills Athletic Park. (403)280-9670. Website: <http://www.calgaryhighlandgames.org/>

September 5, 2010: Canmore, AB. 20th Annual Canmore Highland Games. Centennial Park. (403)678-9454.
Website: <http://www.canmorehighlandgames.ca/>

September 5, 2010: Toronto, ON. 19th Annual Scottish Cruise aboard the Sailing Ship "Empire Sandy". Times: 11:30 AM and 2:00 PM from pier 27 at Queen's Quay West Harbourfront. Celebrate the voyage of the Ship Hector. Further information at the Scottish Studies Society. [see Website for details.](#)

October 8-16, 2010: Cape Breton Island, NS. 13th Celtic Colours International Festival in various communities throughout Cape Breton. Phone: 1-877-285-2321. Website: <http://www.celtic-colours.com/>

November 27, 2010: Toronto, ON. St. Andrew's Ball, co-sponsored by the 48th Highlanders and the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto. Held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Tickets: \$125. Reception begins at 6:00 PM. Phone: (416)449-8070 or Website: <http://www.standrews-society.ca/ball.cfm>

November 29, 2009: Toronto, ON. CASSOC Assembly Meeting. 1:30 PM North York Central Library. 5120 Yonge Street. Phone: (905)989-6381 or Website: <http://www.cassoc.ca/>

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

December 1, 2010: The 50th Anniversary of The CLAN ROSS ASSOCIATION Of CANADA in terms of its continuous existence since the meeting of "revitalized founders" in Montreal on December 1, 1960, the day after St. Andrew's Day. **Help us to celebrate our 49th Anniversary by encouraging someone within the names and families of Clan Ross to become a member.**



Gathering - Fort Erie

PDR



Gathering - Friday night ceilidh

PDR