



An Cìrean Ceann Cinnidh

# CLAN ROSS

Association of Canada,  
Inc.  
Founded 1960

David C. Ross of Ross, Chief

WINTER ISSUE  
FEBRUARY, 2009



PDR

Tobermory, Isle of Mull

# 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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello fellow Ross Clansmen & women:

I want to open by welcoming my wife, Lizz, as our new membership chair and treasurer. It will be very helpful to have her organizational skills with the Clan books and membership in the same home as the Clan President!

If you have not sent in your membership dues yet, please note the new address for the Membership Chair. We look forward to getting your information sent to us.

I have been enjoying my first 100 days+ as your new Clan President and I look forward to reaching out to all of you in the coming years via the newsletters and email.

Speaking of email, thank you for updating us on your email addresses. If you have not already done so, than please email me and we will add your name to our Clan Ross email list. Rest assured you will not be receiving Spam from the Clan. However, we do see email as a great way to complement our newsletters (perhaps 2 or 3 times a year) with events and interesting news and to garner the opinions of the Clan membership. Look for my first email in February.

My family will be attending the Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh this July 25-26. Is anyone else out there planning to attend? If so, please contact me so we can share with you some of the unique Clan Ross plans that we have in place.

Looking ahead to 2010, we have begun planning our Bi-annual National Gathering for July in Niagara Falls. We will have details by the summer so you can make you plans to attend. Contact me if you wish to participate or if you have ideas!

Great news! To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Clan Ross Association of Canada in 1960, Clan Ross has been chosen as one of the Honoured Clans at Canada's largest Scottish Festival, the Fergus Highland Games, just north of Guelph, Ontario. Put it on your calendar now ... August 13-15, 2010. We would love to have a large Ross contingent in the glorious Parade that they have every year!

As I type this letter from a hotel room in Cleveland Ohio, I am struck by the wave of bad news, both in the media and in my daily life in my home of London. Even though I am a motivational speaker (who specializes in assemblies and leadership workshops for youth from grades 6 into post-secondary), I too have felt a slight sense of depression over events that I have no control over. Today, I really want to thank you for your participation in the Clan because, for me and for so many others, it's just a fun, low cost, inspiring thing to be a part of. I hope that your membership in this association reminds you of the power of family, of shared history, and of overcoming hardships to create a better future. The more I learn about Scotland and Canadian history, the trials of our ancestors, and how they built both nations, I draw inspiration for my work today.

With that thought, if you have fun, interesting, or inspiring stories from your past and/or your family, please share them with us so we can include them in the newsletter! Please brag ... please be fun ... we would love to be a source of good news for you and your family.

Thank you!

Andrew Ross Thibodeau, Association President.

## **INTRODUCING... OUR NEW CLAN ROSS MEMBERSHIP CHAIR & TREASURER**

### **LIZZ HUNTER THIBODEAU,**

I was born in London, Ontario in 1976, a few years after my parents and oldest brother and sister emigrated here from Edinburgh Scotland. I grew up being very close with my family who still remains in Scotland and I continue to visit them every couple of years. I graduated in 1998 from the University of Western Ontario, Brescia College, with an Honours Degree in English and French. I then married Andrew Ross Thibodeau and went on to complete my Bachelor of Education in 1999. I immediately started teaching at Woodstock Collegiate Institute in the English department, but the following year became Head of the French Department. I held that position until we had our first daughter, Torry, in June 2005. I then left teaching to stay at home full time. Our second daughter, Isla, was born this past July, 2008. I am now delighted to be able to watch them both grow day by day. Some of my interests include singing (both Scottish Folk and Gospel), playing violin, travelling, gardening (not that I'm very good at it!) and research. I am the Genealogist for the Hunter Clan of Canada, working closely with my father who is the Clan Officer of Canada.

I look forward to being the Membership Chair & Treasurer for Clan Ross, working alongside my husband and Clan President, Andrew. Please email me at [lizzt@rogers.com](mailto:lizzt@rogers.com) with your membership questions! Thank you!



Clockwise from top: Lizz, Torry, Isla, and Andrew Thibodeau

# "SETTLERS' MONUMENT" DEDICATION IN WINNIPEG

- by Ian M. Ross,  
Photos by Manitoba Chapter President, Patricia Ross

Scotland's greatest export is its people. Scottish pioneer settlers ... forced to leave Scotland by: the crushing of the Highland Clan System by the English after Culloden, the Highland Clearances, and by industrialization ... have been a prime force in developing new nations around the world. Canada is perhaps the best example.

A prime departure point for dispossessed Highland Scots was Helmsdale, the harbour town in Sutherland where the Strath of Kildonan meets the North Sea. A few years ago, Scottish entrepreneur Dennis MacLeod was driving force behind a statue in Helmsdale depicting a symbolic emigrant family. Mr. MacLeod's objective is to have 10 replica statues erected around the world where the impact of Scots settlers has been the greatest. The first such location is Winnipeg.

Starting in 1812, Thomas Douglas, the fifth Lord Selkirk, brought boatloads of Scots settlers (including many of Clan Ross) to his Red River Colony at the Forks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. *(He had previously established similar settlements in Prince Edward Island and in Ontario.)* The area already had some French-speaking Metis families and French pioneers from Quebec, but their presence can be described as semi-nomadic ... ebbing and flowing with the fur trade and the annual buffalo hunt. The Selkirk Settlers were the first true settlers. After surviving great natural hardships, and violent persecution instigated by the NorthWest Company fur traders, they developed the area's first permanent agricultural-based settlement. Under Louis Riel's political leadership it became the Province of Manitoba.



On September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, a parade of Scottish organizations and pipe bands made its way from Winnipeg's City Hall to the new "Settler's Monument" for dedication ceremonies. The statue is on the banks of the Red River, not far from the spot where the first group of Scots settlers landed. The photo shows Hon. Michael Russell, Environment Minister for the Scottish Parliament at the podium. The Hon. John Harvard, Lt.-Governor of Manitoba is to his immediate left and the current Lord Selkirk, accompanied by Lady Selkirk, at his right. Look closely at the statue and you can see the father (*wearing the traditional great kilt*) looking determinedly towards an uncertain future while the son (*in modern short kilt*) looks ahead in happy anticipation. The mother, with babe in arms, looks sorrowfully back at the land they are leaving.



Clan Ross was ably represented by its Manitoba Chapter. In the photo, carrying the Clan Ross banner, are (l. to r.): Past National President Ian Ross, National Treasurer Barb Fletcher, Past Manitoba Chapter President Jacquie Ross and immediate Past National President Denis Fletcher. Taking the picture was current Manitoba Chapter President, Patricia Ross. The parade included a contingent of over 100 "civilian" marchers from a myriad of local Scottish organizations. Ian and Denis skillfully inserted the sole banner ... that of Clan Ross ... at the head of this contingent, giving the impression that it was entirely Clan Ross members. Appearance is everything!

## The Pickling of Sam McGee

(With apologies to Robert Service's "The Cremation of Sam McGee")  
- Ian Ross, November 29, 2008, Clan Ross – Manitoba Christmas Party

Now what in the world is Atholl Brose? Made of whisky mixed with oat water, honey and cream, it is sheer nectar of the gods. And it has a legend ... centering on Clan Ross.

It seems that John, Earl of Ross, was laying siege to Blair Atholl, the great castle of the Duke of Atholl, chief of Clan Murray. The Ross was having the best of it and Lord Murray, not wanting his household goods to fall into the hands of The Ross, dumped his prize stores of oats, whisky, honey and cream straight down his well. The Earl of Ross drank deeply from this well, got royally pissed and passed out. The Duke seized upon this unexpected turn of events, and took the comatose Earl prisoner.

Now that story has never rung true for me. Even on an off day, an average Ross can easily manage a well-full! So I did my own research. I discovered that this John, 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ross and 4<sup>th</sup> Lord of the Isles, was in fact a most unruly troublemaker... a typical Ross. In 1462 he and his wild northern clansmen led a rebellion against King James II, captured the royal castle at Inverness, then Urquhart castle and, according to my highly reliable sources, successfully stormed Blair Atholl, dragging the then Earl and Countess of Atholl off to Islay as his prisoners.

Last year I described this event in a bit of doggerel plagiarizing Robert Service's "The Shooting of Dan McGrew". Instead of: "A bunch of the boys were whooping it up in the Malamute Saloon" my version started: "The Murray Clan was whooping it up in their Atholl castle keep." Well I discovered a few admirers of Robert Service who thought that effort was not too bad, but wondered what I could do with "The Cremation of Sam McGee". So here goes:

*There are strange things done in the midnight sun by the men who whiskies make;  
The Highland trails have their secret tales that would make you shiver and quake;  
The Northern Lights have seen queer sights, but the queerest they ever did see  
Was that night on the edge of a Grampian ledge when I pickled Sam McGee.*

Now Sam McGee was from Ayr, you see ... a Lowlander through and through.  
But he left his home in the South to roam in the Highlands, where whiskies brew.  
He was always cold, but that land of gold-en whisky held him in thrall;  
He'd always shout, "No claret or stout ... for me, just whisky, that's all!"

On a Christmas Day we were making our way through the snows to our whisky still.  
Talk of your cold! Through my kilt's brief fold it stabbed like an icicle's chill.  
Regimentally dressed, onwards Sam pressed, up the trail to the mountain's pass;  
But the wind whistled low and froze him below, like a monkey made out of brass.

Sam turned to me, and "Cap," says he, "I'll cash in this trip, I guess;  
And if I do, I'm asking that you won't refuse my last request.  
It's the cursed cold, and it's got right hold ... but it's not being dead that pains.  
I fear being laid in an icy grave - so pickle my last remains."

A pal's last need is a thing to heed, so I swore there would be no forbearing;  
If Sam should die from the cold then I would preserve him ... just like kippered herring.  
So we started on at the streak of dawn; but God! How he groaned pitifully,  
And before nightfall a corpse was all that was left of Sam McGee.

Now a promise made is a debt unpaid, and the Scots have their own stern code.  
So I hoisted him on to my back like a pack ... my God, what a heavy load!  
His head by my ear seemed to whisper and jeer: "You may tax your brawn and brains,  
But you promised true, and it's up to you to pickle my last remains."

The trail was bad, and I felt half mad, but I swore I would not give in;  
Till I came to the edge of that Grampian ledge, where our still has always been.  
And I looked at it, and I thought a bit, of my side-kick's frozen status;  
Then "Here," said I, with a sudden cry, "is my pickling ap-pa-ra-tus."

Some gorse I ripped from the mountain tip, and I lit the boiler fire;  
Some peat I found that was lying around, and I heaped the fuel on higher;  
The flames just soared and the still's coils roared ... with the whisky flowing free;  
And I filled a vat in no time flat ... and I dumped in Sam McGee.

Then I made a hike, for I didn't like to see him marinating;  
And the stars came out and they danced about ere I grew tired of waiting.  
I was sick with dread, but I bravely said: "I'll open the barrel and look.  
I guess he's preserved, but it's time I observed", so I peered in ... and fairly  
shook.

For Sam wore a smile you could see a mile, as he sat on the keg's empty floor.  
"Thanks for the drink!", he said with a wink. "But please, could I have some more?  
It's whisky for me, a full barrel you see, that keeps out the cold and the storm.  
And since I left Ayr in the Lowlands, I swear, it's the first time I've been warm."

*There are strange things done in the midnight sun by the men who whiskies make;  
The Highland trails have their secret tales that would make you shiver and quake;  
The Northern Lights have seen queer sights, but the queerest they ever did see  
Was that night on the edge of a Grampian ledge when I pickled Sam McGee.*



## **CEUD MILE FAILTE**

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

Rev. Dr. Valerie-Dawn Ruddell Girhiny & Rt. Rev. Dr. John Girhiny, Burlington, ON  
Gary & Jo Ann Ross, Orleans, ON  
Terry Ross, Winnipeg, MB  
Janette Rosslyn Veal, Stratford, ON

## SCOTTISH HUMOUR

A man in Scotland calls his son in London the day before Christmas Eve and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough."

"Dad, what are you talking about?" the son screams.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer,' the father says. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Leeds and tell her."

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouts, 'I'll take care of this!"

She calls Scotland immediately, and screams at her father, "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. 'Okay,' he says, 'they're coming for Christmas - and they're paying their own way.'

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 21, 2009:** Winnipeg, MB. Winnipeg Scottish Festival. Convention Centre.  
<http://www.winnipegscottishfestival.org>

**March 11 - 15, 2009:** Vancouver, BC. CeltFest Vancouver.  
<http://www.celticfestvancouver.com>

**April 6, 2009:** Canada celebrates TARTAN DAY on the anniversary of the *Declaration of Arbroath* (April 6th, 1320) to honour the contributions of its Scottish descendants.

**April 7, 2009: Scottish Studies Foundation 17th Annual Tartan Day and Scott of the Year Award celebration** has been scheduled for April 7, 2009. More information will be available soon: <http://www.scottishstudies.com>

**May 16th, 2009:** Courtenay, BC. 14th Annual Comox Valley Highland Games at Lewis Park. Info: (250)338-0363. <http://www.cvhg.org>

**May 16 - 17, 2009:** Victoria, BC. 72nd Annual Victoria Highland Games, Bullen Park in Esquimalt (250)598-1531 evenings and (250)598-8961 daytime.  
<http://www.victoriahighlandgames.com>

**July 25 & 26, 2009:** Scotland's International Clan Gathering. . . Check about events and clan tents at Holyrood Park . . . the Parade Along the Royal Mile to the Clan Pageant at Edinburgh Castle. A Clan Ross tent has been confirmed. [On April 20, the Clan Ross - Canada executive approved \$250 towards a joint effort.] Be a witness to one of the largest clan gatherings in history. Be a PARTICIPANT in that history. For more information see: <http://www.clangathering.org>

## FROM THE EDITOR

There are some exciting Scottish events to look forward to this year. We hope that you can participate in many of them. Clan Ross USA has arranged a tour to correspond to the Clan Gathering in Edinburgh in July (see below).

The deadline for submissions to the Spring Newsletter is April 24, 2009.



### **Come "home" to Scotland with Clan Ross USA in 2009**

**Submitted by Clan Ross USA**

Join us July 24 to August 8, 2009  
for an unforgettable tour of Scotland!

#### **Five days in Edinburgh**

including participation in Scotland's gala  
Homecoming 2009 event, followed by

#### **Nine days in the Highlands**

visiting sites of interest  
to all peoples of Ross ancestry.

#### **Sites to be visited include:**

Royal Yacht Britannia, Rosslyn Chapel, Scottish Parliament, Stirling Castle, town of Dornoch, Dunrobin Castle, Clynelish Distillery, Croick Church, Culloden Battlefield & Fort George, Cawdor Castle & Clava Cairns, Private boat charter for a cruise on Loch Ness with Urquhart Castle and lunch included, Moniack Castle winery, Balnagown Castle, a day trip to Orkney to see the World Heritage Site including Stromness, Skara Brae & the Ring of Brodgar, a private tour of Foulis Castle by the Chief of Clan Munro, and visits to Nigg Church, Fearn Abbey & Tarbat Discovery Centre, all sites important in Ross history, and finally to Glencoe.

#### **Hotels:**

5 nights at the Parliament House Hotel in Edinburgh, centrally located within walking distance of most major sites

9 nights at the Morangie House Hotel in Tain, the "hometown" of Clan Ross

1 night at the Stirling Highland Hotel [before delivery to our airport(s)]

Cost: Approximately US\$4,200.00\*

\*Tour price includes all hotels, all breakfasts, all dinners, all transportation within Scotland, plus admission to all of the sites visited. **Price does not include some lunches, drinks, souvenirs or airfare to and from Scotland.**

#### **For questions, contact:**

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