



CLAN ROSS

Association of Canada,
Inc.
Founded 1960

David C. Ross of Ross, Chief

FALL ISSUE
NOVEMBER, 2010

An Cirean Ceann Cinnidh



Clan Ross Canada, 65th Fergus Scottish Festival,
Fergus, Ontario, August 14, 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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, FALL NEWSLETTER, 2010

Happy birthday Clan Ross!

Soon after reading this newsletter, our Association will celebrate its 50th Anniversary on December 1st! Hundreds of events and members later, we continue to be one of the largest and more active Clan Associations in the country. In fact, when you look at the actual age of our group, our Association first met in 1910 as a gathering of American and Canadian Rosses. Thus, we also celebrate 100 years since our first meeting on this continent! So please, on December 1st, wear some Ross tartan and make a toast to the Clan and to the success of those of Scottish descent who helped build Canada into one of the most admired countries in the world!

What a summer of celebration! After the success of our national gathering in July, we topped off our events with a phenomenal turnout at the Fergus Scottish Festival. Over 75 Rosses visited the tent! 43 Rosses marched in the parade. We were given the title of honoured clan and led the parade into the stadium with thousands of people cheering us on! That moment was a life highlight - holding the hands of my wife and two daughters, accompanied by my brother and his family, and so many clans-people. I will share more insights from that weekend in a future article.

Thank you for your tremendous response to our newsletter being available as a beautiful PDF file attached as an email! Thirty-four of our 143 Canadian memberships have made the switch. If this is of interest to you, just email me in order to be added to our newsletter email list. If we do not hear from you, you will continue to get our high quality production from Patricia Ross via the mail.

I was reflecting on what joining the Clan, and specifically, becoming an executive of the Clan Association, have done for me and the life of my family. At first, it makes me smile as I remember the wonderful laughs, great food, and interesting experiences that I have had by attending three National Gatherings, the world-wide Gathering in Scotland, and the unveiling of the plaque to Dr. A.M. Ross last year in Chatham. I reflect on all of the interesting conversations that I have had with Rosses at our Clan tent. I so enjoy sharing a bit of our Ross history with a person and having them say, "Wow, I did not know that about my family history!"

This summer truly brought another blessing of the clan when my family dealt with the passing of my father at age 67 after a six week battle with lung cancer. My parents attended both our 2006 and 2010 National Ross gatherings, as well as the Dr. Ross plaque unveiling. They so enjoyed meeting a number of you, often commenting that the reason they attended more than one event was because they enjoyed the humour and conversation of everyone they met. My father's last email to me before the sudden appearance of his illness was in reference to our Niagara Falls' gathering. He wrote, quote "We had a real good time in Niagara Falls . All your hard work paid off with many good activities to entertain us." As I look back on that weekend, I am so glad that I had that wonderful weekend with my family. Life can feel so short at times, but, it slows down as I recall the laughs my parents, my family and I shared as we toured the Niagara sites with our Ross friends. I see my dad holding my daughter's hand as we walked through Old Fort Erie. I see my parents laughing as they talked with other Rosses as they ate dinner at the magic show that night. I recall the room full of music and laughter as my in-laws folk group entertained us all on the Friday night. I am so happy my father was able to attend.

With his sudden illness and passing, condolences via email and phone calls poured in from my Clan. From Chief David in Scotland to our Clan executive from BC to New Brunswick , my Clan made an effort to connect and offer sympathy. Now, two months since his death on September 11th, I recall how much that helped in the healing.

Thank you.

Andrew Ross Thibodeau

CLAN ROSS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

18TH Annual General Meeting Since Incorporation MINUTES

Sunday July 18th, 2010
10:10 am Eastern
Fallsview Inn, Niagara Falls, Ontario

CALL TO ORDER

President Andrew Ross Thibodeau called the meeting to order, welcoming approximately 15 members. He mentioned the significance of the meeting this year, it being our 50th anniversary, and thanked everyone for coming.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A/Secretary Donald Fraser Ross mentioned that the starting time of the meeting on the agenda should have read 10:00 am.

MOTION: Doug Ross / Wendy Ross that the agenda as distributed be approved.

CARRIED

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

A/Secretary Donald Fraser Ross reviewed the minutes of the 2008 AGM.

MOTION: Barb Fletcher / Andy Thibodeau to adopt the minutes from the 2008 AGM.

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

MOTION: Doug Ross / Wendy Ross that the minutes of this year's meeting reflect a formal appreciation on behalf of the entire membership to Clan President Andy Thibodeau for his efforts in arranging the tent for the Clan Ross of Canada Association at 'The Gathering' in Edinburgh in 2009.

CARRIED

FINANCIAL STATEMENT & AUDITOR'S REPORT

Clan President Andy Thibodeau read the Treasurer's report on behalf of Lizz Thibodeau who was unable to attend due to family commitments. The Bank balance as at 31 December 2009 was shown as \$646.96. Discussion was held concerning a couple of items that appeared to be Provincial expenses rather than National, namely the cost of the Fergus Games and the CASSOC Membership for 2008 and 2009. Andy also made everyone aware that the report had not yet been audited, but assured that it would be. He recently was given a lead as to a possible person to perform the audit at a reasonable fee.

MOTION: Donald Fraser Ross/Denis Fletcher that the Financial report be accepted on the conditions that: 1 – the provincial expenses are reversed; and 2 - the report subsequently passes an independent auditor review.

CARRIED

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A/Membership Chair Andy Thibodeau read the Membership report. As of 1 July 2010 we have 149 memberships in our database. There have been 13 new members in 2009 and 2010 (to date). A significant number (40) have not paid for 2010. Members were asked to send in their renewals in a timely manner, and to keep up their efforts to seek other persons interested in becoming new members. Some discussion occurred about our need to protect personal information provided to us when persons sign-up at Clan tents during highland games, fairs, etc. Andy mentioned that he would send out an updated membership report by December, and provide a revised 'sign-up' sheet suitable for such use with a statement on it clearly stating that Clan Ross of Canada does not sell e-mail addresses to third parties.

MOTION: Donald Fraser Ross /Pat Ross that the Membership report be accepted.

CARRIED

OFFICER'S REPORTS

BC

Dorothy mentioned activities she participated in during the last year. She had a tent set up at the Highland games in Victoria. She mentioned there is a shortage of members on the island. There was a discussion on the need for a Clan Ross banner or flag, and the pros and cons of the various styles in use by others. Denis and Shirley mentioned that they would get a quote on the cost of a large banner (canvas) equipped with grommets for ease of attachment. Bill Goble, Montreal, generously provided a \$100 contribution to Clan Ross Association of Canada on behalf of Tinamou Technical Services Inc. towards the purchase of a new banner.

Ont

Wendy mentioned that she attended the CASSOC Annual General Meeting in the fall. She mentioned that her personal plans were interrupted unexpectedly this spring by a medical challenge. In spite of that, she was able to attend the Embro-Zorra township games, always held on Canada Day. They have been ongoing for about 100 years now, and are getting bigger every year. She mentioned that the Clan Ross tent was the largest. She was able to get pages of passers-by to sign-up. She stated that she is planning on attending both the Maxville games and Montreal games in the upcoming weeks. She mentioned that she will get a quote on more Clan Ross pins. President Andy Thibodeau recognized her unflinching efforts to Clan Ross, and her impressive recovery and spirit. Andy said he would e-mail the information on the pins to see what interest there is within the membership.

Man

Barb, President of the Manitoba Chapter, provided some information to the membership in Christine's absence. The Manitoba group remained very active again this year. In the latter part of last year, members attended events at Assiniboine Downs, and a pot-luck Xmas party with 28 attendees. In January there were nearly a hundred who attended the Robert Burns Supper, again held at the historic Fort Garry Hotel in downtown Winnipeg. In February, they attended the Winterfest in Brandon. That was followed by the two-week Folkklarama in Winnipeg, where there were 40 pavilions this year.

NS

Chris Rayworth was not available this year. Andy mentioned that he and his family have relocated to Fredericton.

Webmaster

Doug provided the membership with a handsomely presented written report complete with graphs. He mentioned that in the past year the website has been migrated successfully to a new server. He mentioned that our web page remains very popular, with a large percentage of 'hits' by persons living out of the country, indeed all around the world. Doug also gave some advice to our members to please take advantage of the offering by Clan Ross friend Alastair MacIntyre on his Electric Scotland website where he has recognized our clan as deserving special recognition. Doug has worked closely with Alastair in several areas and has fostered a professional friendship with Alastair to our mutual benefit. Doug cautioned our membership that in regards to the Electric Scotland website 'if we don't use it, we will lose it' as there are other Clans who may want this same privilege on the popular Electric Scotland site.

Newsletter

Patricia asked attendees to refer to her typed report which she provided to everyone. She has provided a copy of our Newsletters to Doug for inclusion on our website. Newsletters have also been provided to Alastair MacIntyre for his Electric Scotland site, as well as the University of Guelph, which has archival copies of all Clan Ross Association of Canada newsletters. Eight issues of our Newsletter were published since our 2008 AGM. She thanked Barb Fletcher for her tremendous support proofreading, printing, and mailing copies of the newsletters up to and including the Fall of 2008 issue. There was discussion about the use of colour or not on our newsletter, and the costs associated with each format. She also mentioned about the size of the newsletter, in both length (number of pages) and paper size, which can have significant impact. Total costs for our Newsletters were \$2,044.52. She thanked the members that contributed over the year, and advised that she will happily do the newsletter for 2 more years, but after that we will need to find a replacement for her. Andy thanked her and Doug both for their excellent efforts and attention to detail which help our clan so much. Andy mentioned that we need new members to step forward to carry on these important communication efforts.

NEW BUSINESS

Communication

Doug said that he was prepared to make a motion about the need for a committee to be struck to improve communication amongst the membership. There was considerable discussion on this topic. Andy mentioned that almost all members now have an e-mail address and this has proven to be an efficient means of communicating information. More persons are getting their information using mobile devices like cell phones and PDAs (e.g. Blackberries), use instant messaging, and social networking sites to stay in touch with others. Debra Barry, Montreal, stated she could open a Clan Ross Association of Canada Facebook page to see what level of interest there may be in that format. After various points on the topic were made, the need for the committee was not considered necessary at this time, however, Andy agreed to speak with Wendy and any others that don't regularly use, or reply to e-mails, to ensure that both their and the Clan's needs continue to be met.

Museum Project

Denis Fletcher gave a detailed explanation of some of the ground covered to date by members of the Manitoba Chapter with regards to the new Human Rights Museum being built in Winnipeg by the Federal government. Denis mentioned that he and Ian Ross along with two members of the St. Andrew's Society in Winnipeg recently met with the Museum Directors to better understand the project and to explain our interest. Ian Ross had forwarded a word document for our AGM with some helpful information about the project, as follows:

Background:

- The new National Human Rights Museum is under construction in Winnipeg, due to open in 2012.
- It will be operated by the Government of Canada as part of this country's collection of national museums ... the first to be located outside Ottawa/Hull.
- A significant portion of the development funds required (sufficient to move the museum from concept to reality) has been raised through private individual and corporate donations, rather than through government tax revenues.
- This new museum is being designed to draw visitors ... especially students ... not only from all parts of Canada, but from throughout the world.
- In January, 2010, Past National Presidents Denis Fletcher and Ian Ross attended the Winnipeg session of a national forum seeking public input on the museum's content. Representing the Manitoba Chapter, Denis and Ian outlined the need for a display on the Highland Clearances of 1785-1850.
- The full content of this paper was printed in the May, 2010 newsletter.

What Were the Highland Clearances?

- In 1747, after the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Highlanders at Culloden, the London-based government removed the traditional governing authority of the Highland Clan Chiefs and outlawed tartan, kilt and weapons (including bagpipes) among the Highlanders of Scotland. The clans were broken.
- The larger clan chiefs had become absentee landlords ... no longer the stewards of common clan lands on behalf of their fellow clansmen and women.
- With a hardy new breed of Cheviot sheep which could survive in the Highlands, the chiefs found they could make more money from wool than rents from their tenant crofters. Many began to systematically evict the crofters and clear the land for sheep runs ... using fire and club-wielding bailiffs if required.
- With traditional rural work denied them, the crofters fled to the crowded tenements of the cities ... but the invention of large factory machines (such as the steam-powered loom which replaced hundreds of craft labourers) denied them work in the cities as well.
- The Highlanders were starving. It was systematic cultural genocide.
- To survive, tens of thousands took ship to the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Specific Rationale for a Motion:

A) Why should the history of the Highland Clearances be in any human rights museum?

- Much emigration from Europe to the New World had nothing specifically to do with violations of human rights ... but resulted from inevitable human progress or the quirks of nature. For example: much Irish emigration resulted from the Potato Famine. Thousands of other European immigrants were displaced by the Industrial Revolution ... cottage labourers replaced by more efficient factories, and farm hand labourers replaced by mechanized agriculture.
- The Clearances had a difference. A whole class of people, the Highland crofters, had their traditional clan social order removed by law ... and were purposely and forcefully deprived of their livelihood and the roof over their heads by other people, in favour of profits from sheep. Those are violations of basic human rights.

B) Why should this especially be in a Canadian human rights museum?

- The Scottish immigrants of the 18th and 19th centuries formed the country of Canada. They developed our military, commerce, banking, transportation, universities and politics.

- Perhaps the best example is the Canadian Pacific Railroad, which made Canada a dominion from sea to sea. It was surveyed by Scots, engineered by Scots, financed by Scots and driven by the political will of Canada's first Prime Minister, a Scot named John A. MacDonald.

C) Why should Clan Ross-Canada help fund such an exhibit?

- The funding which has led to the existence of this new museum has come from the private sector. We cannot rely on government tax dollars.
- The Highland Clearances led to great streams of pioneers settling throughout most of Canada ... in particular the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba ... making this a natural National Project for Clan Ross.
- Although the Chiefs of Clan Ross did not participate in the Clearances, by the 18th and 19th centuries the family name of Ross was spread widely throughout Scotland. Many clan members were directly affected by the Clearances, as seen by the many pioneers bearing the name of Ross and clan septs. The Clearances are therefore part of our clan history. One of the objectives in our Constitution is the preservation and communication of Clan Ross history.

MOTION: Denis Fletcher / Wendy Ross 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 ... and, if this motion is approved, that the National Executive immediately advise the Museum's administration of the conditional availability of this donation.

CARRIED

Andy mentioned that he will prepare a letter on proper letterhead informing the Museum's administration of the conditional availability of our donation. Wendy mentioned that she will take this information to the next CASSOC meeting so that CASSOC are made aware that Clan Ross Association of Canada is in support of this important project (with the proviso that it covers the Scottish Highland Clearances). She mentioned that once other member clans are aware of it, that they may also wish to support it. Denis mentioned that there is an electronic address for Museum information at:

info@humanrightsmuseum.ca

ELECTIONS and APPOINTMENTS

Denis Ross announced that his term as First Vice-President has ended and will not seek the Presidency. Andy stated that he will remain President for another term.

MOTION: Denis Fletcher/ Andy Thibodeau that Donald Fraser Ross move to First Vice-President.

CARRIED

Second Vice-President position is now open. There were no candidates identified.

Secretary position is still open (Donald Fraser Ross remains Acting).

Treasurer position and Membership Chair positions are still open. (Andy Ross Thibodeau has agreed to perform the duties of both Treasurer and Membership until members willing to fill these positions are found). It was mentioned that there is a need for members to consider stepping forward to fill some of these vacant positions.

LOCATION OF NEXT AGM

The Human Rights Museum is scheduled to open in Winnipeg in 2012. That also is an anniversary of the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers in Manitoba.

MOTION: Barb Fletcher / Donald Fraser Ross that Winnipeg be the site of the next AGM of Clan Ross Association of Canada in 2012.

CARRIED

Interest was also expressed in perhaps having an upcoming AGM sometime in Montreal.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1215.

Submitted by Donald Fraser Ross
Treasurer
Clan Ross Canada, Inc.



THREE GENERATIONS

Submitted by Chief David Ross



This photograph of myself, my infant son, Hugh, and my father, Charles, was taken at a Garden Party at Lauriston Castle in Edinburgh in September 1962 when Hugh was a year and a day old.



14th ANNUAL CLAN ROSS-MANITOBA BURNS DINNER

Submitted by Ian M. Ross

On Saturday, Jan. 15th, 2011 the Manitoba Chapter of Clan Ross will once again hold its Burns Dinner at Winnipeg's Fort Garry Hotel. As previous attendees well know, our dinner maintains all the traditions but dispenses with any stuffiness or excess formality. In short, it retains all the wit, warmth and humour of the poet himself. Last year's event was a sell-out.

We will include the Address to a Haggis by P/M Robyn McCombe (*enhanced this year by adding a Bottle Bearer to the "haggis parade"*), a Salute to the Atholl Brose by Ian Ross and the Toast to the Lassies and Response by Ron and Betty McFarlane. (*Ron was a hit at our 2010 soiree in his debut with the Immortal Memory.*) This year's Immortal Memory will be given by the St. Andrew's Society's Bob Darling ... who also had a most successful debut in this role at the Sons of Scotland Burns Dinner earlier this year. There will be entertainment by the Gaelyn McGregor School of Highland Dance, and Scottish songs by Winnipeg Music Festival winners Colleen Furlan and Meaghan Fletcher. Duty Piper will be P/M Emeritus Ian Conn.

The event will be held in the Fort Garry's intimate lower level Club Room. Cocktails commence at 6:00, followed by a fine meal from the hotel's gourmet kitchen. (*Roast loin of pork with all the trimmings this year!*) Kilted Highland formal dress or tuxedo is preferred, but appearing in regular jacket and tie will not result in being put out as bait for unsuspecting Viking raiders.

Tickets remain an affordable \$57.00 (*including great lashings of Atholl Brose*) and will be available at the December Clan Ross-Manitoba Christmas Party ... or by contacting Denis Fletcher at (204) 257-7511. Christine Turnbull (*originator of this event and now back on the committee*) will coordinate our Silent Auction. All Clan members are encouraged to rustle up good items to donate and contact Christine at (204) 633-5888. We hope to have a "better-than-ever" silent auction table this year!

VISIT TO THE 2010 HECTOR FESTIVAL

By Jack Ross

After reading the book by Donald Mackay named *Farewell To Scotland* – the story of the arrival of the first Scottish settlers in Canada – I determined that one day I would visit Pictou, climb aboard the Hector and partake in The Hector Festival. Last spring I decided 2010 would be the year I should do it



Expecting large numbers to attend, we made early bookings for hotels and events. Although I knew that the ship Hector had been closed for a while, I expected it would be open for The Hector Festival. Sadly it was not, and on arrival we found that the Hector museum was also closed and that the reenactment of the landing had been cancelled because the longboat would not be available to bring the settlers ashore.

Undaunted, the good people of Pictou pressed on with The Hector Festival and what a festival it was. The weatherman really cooperated and we enjoyed listening to several musical groups playing down by the quay in the afternoons. In the evenings, at the lovely De Coste Entertainment Centre, we attended two great sellout concerts, one by The Alexander Brothers over from Scotland

and the other, a rip-roaring Ceilidh by local musicians and artists. The festival closed Sunday afternoon with massed pipe bands and lots of highland dancers down by the waterfront park. We were well and truly entertained

We found Pictou a delightful little town brimful of friendly and helpful people, lots of quaint stores to browse in, and good restaurants, many serving delicious lobster rolls. We stayed at the lovely moderately priced Braeside Inn situated on a hill overlooking the bay and a ten minute walk from the Hector Quay. The rooms were comfortable, the food excellent, and hosts Anne and Mike did all they could to ensure our vacation was a pleasant experience – it certainly was.

A new group of enthusiastic Townspeople have now assumed responsibility for operating the Hector and I predict that next year's The Hector Festival will be a rip-roaring Gala event as they celebrate the reopening. If I can, I plan to attend but this time hopefully in the company of many friends from Clan Ross. Please think it over – I am sure you would enjoy The Hector Festival and that the good folks down there would welcome and appreciate your attendance.



CEUD MILE FAILTE

A hundred thousand welcomes to our new members

Don Ross & Berthe Gunn, Nominigüe , QC
John & Angela Taggart, Tonawanda , NY

MANITOBA'S SELKIRK SETTLERS PARADE

By Ian M. Ross

Thomas Douglas, fifth Earl of Selkirk, had compassion for Highland tenant crofters turned out of their homes by landlords in favor of sheep runs, and for Lowland farm laborers rendered jobless by mechanized agriculture in the late 18th - early 19th centuries. He formed relocation settlements in PEI and in Ontario. But he was also a businessman. He had bought into the Hudson's Bay Company and saw the advantage of an agricultural base in the Red River valley which would be:

- a food supply for the voyageur canoes thrusting westward into the Athabaskan fur country ... outdoing the competing Northwest Company out of Montreal.
- a source of country-bred men as voyageurs.
- a place for retired HBC men to stay (*keeping their wealth in the country, if they had been successful ... and avoiding the need to support them if they were poor!*).
- a base for civilizing and Christianizing the Indian population.

It would be a refuge for dispossessed Scots, but that was not its main or only purpose.

In 1811 he purchased Assiniboia from the HBC for only 10 shillings ... being all the watershed of rivers flowing into Lake Winnipeg. Nobody really knew how large an area this was, but it turned out to be huge. It extended from what is now eastern Saskatchewan across Manitoba almost to Lake Superior, and southward into what is now North Dakota and Minnesota. A true Scots bargain!

On August 30, 1812, an advance crew of Scotch and Irish laborers under Selkirk's Governor of Assiniboia, Miles Macdonell, arrived at The Forks ... the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers. They had left Stornoway in July of 1811, wintering near York Factory on Hudson Bay. On Sept. 4 they held a *formal "ceremony and seizin' of the land"*, in sight of their rival Northwest Company's Fort Gibraltar, commanded by Miles' cousin, Alexander Macdonell. You see, Highland Scots controlled BOTH sides of Canada's great fur-trade rivalry.

It being too late in the season for crops, Macdonell's party moved south to the junction of the Red and Pembina rivers, on the fringe of the buffalo wintering grounds. In October they were followed by a group of settlers from Sutherlandshire who had travelled from Hudson Bay up the Nelson River and across Lake Winnipeg to the Red. Have you seen the History Channel's documentary "Quest for the Bay?" Try doing that, but upstream. They suffered through the winter in a collection of makeshift huts which they called Fort Daer, buying what provisions they could from the Métis buffalo hunters and helped by Chief Peguis of the local Saulteaux (*Ojibway*) peoples.

The following spring they returned to The Forks, establishing Fort Douglas nearby. They were, for the first time, free men with their own land. They were not the first of European extraction living in the area. That distinction goes to the semi-nomadic French Canadian fur traders and Métis (*mixed French and First Nations*) buffalo hunters. However, they were the first organized settlers to establish a permanent agricultural settlement.

Their difficulties are horrific: worse floods than Manitoba's 1997 "Flood of the Century", crop failures, grasshopper plagues, prairie fires ... all the while being harassed and shot at by Métis horsemen turned against them by the Northwest Company, including the 1816 Massacre of Seven Oaks. But they persisted. Gradually, the Métis saw the colony was to their advantage as well ... a place to trade their buffalo hides, and where they could homestead when too old for the hunt or voyageur canoe.

Eventually, the colony succeeded. By 1870, through efforts of the French, Métis and Scots settlers ... and especially due to Louis Riel and his Provisional Government (*formed in the vacuum left by the withdrawal of the Hudson's Bay Company, and in response to the threat of annexation of Métis lands by Ontario or the United States*) ... a new Province called Manitoba (*where the Great Spirit whispers*) came into being.

Each September for the last few years, instigated by the St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg, a parade has been held in Winnipeg to commemorate the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers and formation of the Red River Colony. Although it has several pipe bands and uniformed groups, this is not a formal parade. It is an opportunity for those of Scottish heritage to take their pride "to the streets" in a sociable stroll ... whether as individuals or as members of a Scottish group complete with banner.



Clan Ross - Manitoba Chapter helps celebrate the anniversary of the Selkirk Settlers (*behind banner l-r*) Denis Fletcher, Jacquie Ross, Dorothy Hollins, Barb Fletcher, Ian M. Ross (*next row l-r*) Jim Turnbull, a small portion of Christine Turnbull

This year's parade, held September 11, was the best yet. It started off at Upper Fort Garry, for many years the HBC's commercial and governing centre of Winnipeg, and wended through The Forks tourist development ... past the sites of the original fur trade Fort Rouge and Fort Gibraltar ... along Waterfront Drive, past the Selkirk Settlers Monument, to the site of the original Fort Douglas. Clan Ross was proud to be represented by its Manitoba Chapter, as the Ross surname was among the original Selkirk Settlers, Alexander Ross was a first Sheriff and Magistrate of Assiniboia, and his son William was a first Postmaster of "Red River, British North America".

Clan Ross looks forward to participating in the bicentenary celebrations of the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers, now being planned for 2012.



WHO WAS THE FIRST EARL OF ROSS?

By J. Douglas Ross

Among the summaries of Clan Ross history, there are many inconsistencies in its origins. William Forbes Skene (1809-1892), for example, believed that all Highland clans were of Pictish origin and declared Malcolm MacBeth to be a myth. As with many origin myths, one source is quoted by the next until even the most recent texts begin to quote each other's inaccuracies. Most Clan Ross histories, however, try to refrain from repeating that Fearchar Mac an t'Sagairt, "son of the priest", (or Farquhar MacTaggart), was the first Earl of Ross.

It is true that Fearchar was made a feudal knight in 1215 "on the seventeenth day before the Kalends of July" for slaying Donald Ban and Kenneth "MacHeth", enemies of King Alexander II, by cutting off their heads, but it is an unfortunate choice of words to claim that he was the first Earl of Ross. He was, in fact, of the *O'Beolan* line in Western Scotland, and most likely earned his right to the lapsed title of Earl in 1234 through his mother (in the old tradition of tanistry which was similar to the even older mode of Pictish inheritance).

On page 43 of an article about "Clan Ross" in the March 1970 issue of *SCOTLAND'S MAGAZINE* one reads: "The first recorded chief appeared about the time of Malcolm the Fourth's reign and evidence of his power and influence in the land is amply reflected by the fact that he was one of the 'seven Maister Men' of Scotland. By the time of completion of the *REGISTER OF DUNFERMLINE*, the ruling Earl of Ross was known as Malcolm, allegedly a spokesman of substance." [Note: The seven Maister Men validated the selection of a king.]

On page 155 of *THE SCOTTISH HISTORICAL REVIEW*, Vol. XVII & XVIII, 1920-1921 you may read that "Malcolm is referred to as 'the son of Macbeth' in J. Stevenson's translation of the *CHRONICLE OF MELROSE* beneath the date 1134." This interpretation is highly suspect unless it refers to one of the MacBeths other than the king, either a Sheriff or a Thane of Falkland, named in charters to the Culdees. It is quite possible that Malcolm's surname of Macbeth was adopted during the time frame prior to his appointment as Earl of Ross.

The Earldom of Moray was forfeited to the crown after a rebellion in 1134. After further uprisings in 1153-54, Malcolm and his son Donald were imprisoned in Roxburgh dungeon until other troublesome Morays were relocated to Southern Scotland. In the abbreviated edition of the *CHRONICLE OF HOLYROOD* under the date 1157 one finds "Malcolm Machet (sic) cum rege Scottorum pacificus est" or (translated) Malcolm Macbeth is at peace with the King of Scotland. This would coincide with establishing the territory of Ross in 1160 as a separate Earldom under Malcolm Macbeth. In Bouterwek's edition of the same extended chronicle, we are informed that Malcolm Macbeth died as Earl of Ross in 1168.

But what other evidence is there about this the first Earl of Ross ... neglected by some historians of our clan except, perhaps, as a "shadowy predecessor" acknowledged by Donald MacKinnon in his history *The Clan Ross* in 1957? This outline was dedicated to Charles Campbell Ross, Esq., Q.C., of Shandwick, father of Chief David Ross of Ross and Balnagowan. Donald MacKinnon, to give credit where it is due, found that many of Skene's sources were of a dubious nature. Dr. John Robert Ross was assisted by the Chief Designate of Clan Ross, Sir Charles Campbell Ross, when he prepared his book *The Great Clan Ross*, which has become the definitive reference for the history of the Clan; on page 43 of the 3rd Edition, he wrote, "A previous Earl of Ross is recognized with much justification by some authorities, namely Malcolm MacAedth, who held the Earldom from 1153 to 1168. This abbot was placed in charge of the Monks of Dunfermline and created Earl of Ross by a royal mandate from Malcolm King of Scots in 1153 but very little is known of him other than this. He is said to have married a sister of King Somerled of the Isles."

Even a casual scholar may find over a dozen variations of the surname MacAedth in a land where similarly shaped letters "b" and "h" were aspirate and there were no formal spelling rules. The debate may continue on about MacBeth, MacHeth, Macbeth, Macheth or M'Aoidh, MacAedth, MacAed for many years to come. There is no dispute about the year 1160 when Clan Ross was raised in status from the paired district of Moray and Ross. There are few who dispute that the successor of Malcolm was the second Earl of Ross. It is, however, most significant that the *FRASER CHRONICLES* (and others) recorded his full name as Malcolm Macbeth.

FAMILY HISTORY CORNER

Looking for a James Ross, b. c. 1818, who apparently married in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada, a Catherine MacDonald, 1831, daughter of Morrison MacDonald, b. 1792 and a Christy Anderson, b. 1804. The wedding announcement was in Baddeck, Cape Breton, 1869, and described James Ross as a merchant and widower, age 51 (i.e. if accurate, this would make him born about 1818). Family info suggests this James went to Erie County, Buffalo, New York. He is believed to be a merchant (milk peddler) living on Puffer Street, Buffalo, in the 1880 US Census. James was the son of my pioneers, Alexander Ross (b.c. 1789) and Mary (McKay) Ross, who settled at Little Narrows, Cape Breton. I have most of the information about the rest of this Ross family (James' siblings) but have almost nothing on this James and Catherine. His parents, Alexander Ross and Mary (MacKay) Ross, are believed to have come to Cape Breton from Stornoway, Lewis. At least several of their children were born in Stornoway. The Little Narrows area of Cape Breton is settled mostly with settlers from the Parish of Uig, Lewis. If anyone has a James Ross born early 1800s with connections to Cape Breton, I'd be interested to hear from you at donaldross@eastlink.ca.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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 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.**

January 1, 2011: MEMBERSHIP DUES (\$15) (or US\$21 to cover US postage) FOR THE CLAN ROSS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA ARE NOW DUE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN YOUR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP STATUS. DONATIONS FOR NATIONAL PROJECTS MAY ALSO BE INCLUDED. THE WEBMASTER WOULD BE PLEASED TO ENDORSE YOUR APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION.

January 15, 2011: Winnipeg, MB. 14th Annual Burns Dinner. Fort Garry Hotel in the intimate lower level Club Room. Cocktails commence at 6:00. Dress: Highland Formal, tuxedo, or jacket and tie. Tickets are \$57.00. Contact Denis Fletcher (204-257-7511). A FANTASTIC PROGRAMME!

January 29, 2011: Victoria, B.C. Robbie Burns Supper. Officers' Mess, The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's), Bay Street Armoury, 715 Bay Street. [Email](mailto:info@clanross.org) OR Telephone: 250-598-0120.

March 16 - 20, 2011: Vancouver, BC. 7th CeltFest Vancouver. Website: <http://www.celticfestvancouver.com/>



FERGUS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND HIGHLAND GAMES, AUGUST 13, 2010



Clan Ross lining up for the opening ceremony parade

PDR



PDR

Dr. Valerie-Dawn Girhini, Clan Ross Canada Guest of Honour, addressing the audience during the opening ceremony



**At the Ross tent
(L-R) Joanne Ross-Zuj, Mayor, Township of Centre Wellington, her daughter, Kathryn Ross-Zuj, Patricia Ross (Newsletter Editor), and J. Douglas Ross (Web Master)**