



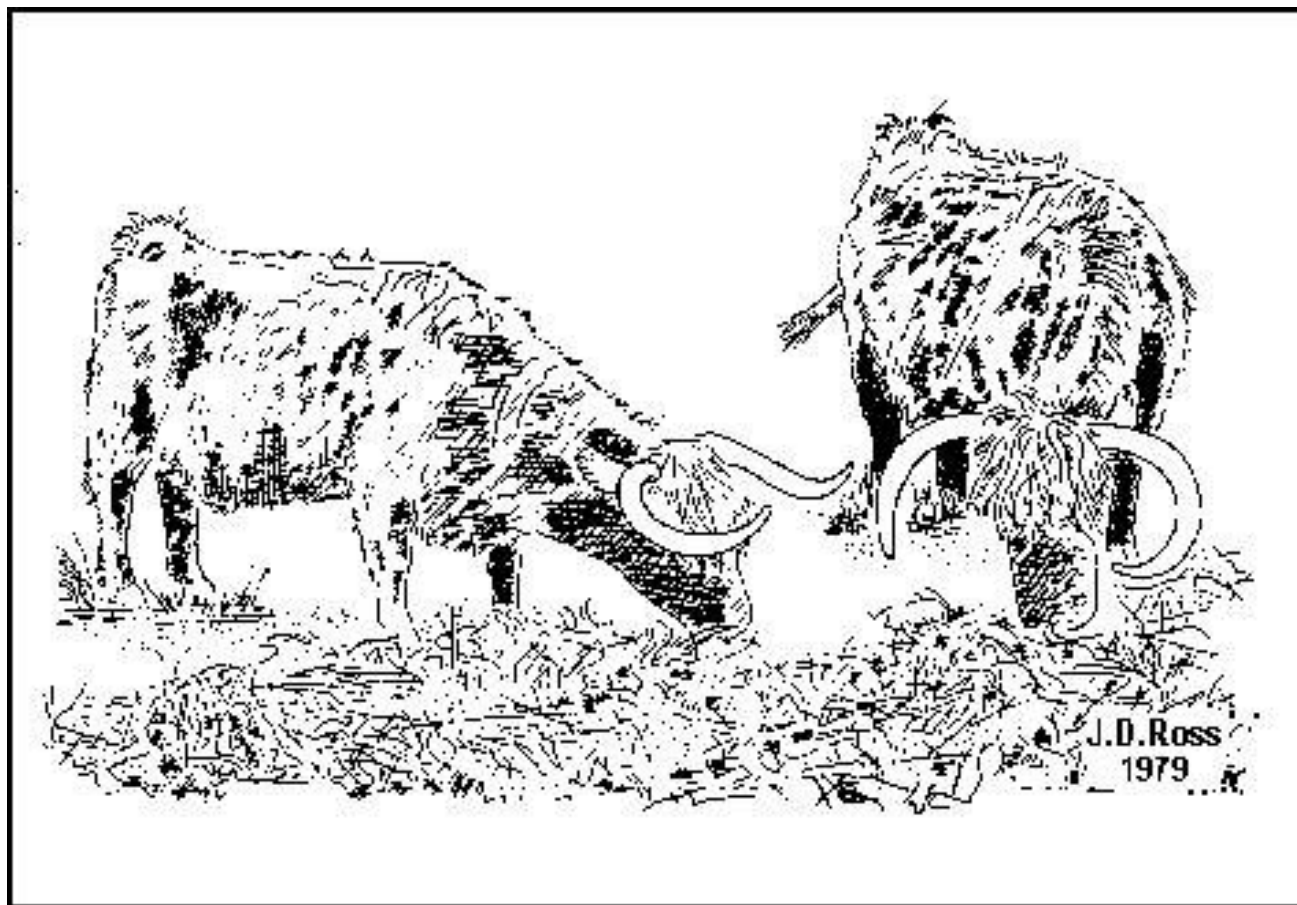
An Cirean Ceann Cinnidh

CLAN ROSS

Association of Canada,
Inc.
Founded 1960

David C. Ross of Ross, Chief

WINTER ISSUE
FEBRUARY, 2011



HIGHLAND CATTLE

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, WINTER NEWSLETTER, 2011

I hope your 2011 is off to a great start!

CLAN ROSS CANADA IS NOW ON YOUTUBE!

YouTube has become such an amazing way to share on the web, so, I have commissioned our own Clan channel on the site. Find and bookmark us at www.youtube.com/user/ClanRossCanada. I will post past event highlights and use it for future messages, event promotion, and to act as a wonderful memento of our activities together. Currently it features great footage from our 50th anniversary activities at the 2010 Fergus Scottish Festival. This year I plan on getting footage from our National Gatherings, the Dr. AM Ross Day and the great video from the world wide gathering of 2009. Please share this link with members of your family & clan in order to promote our activities and increase interest in family history. You can also join YouTube yourself as a free subscriber. Then, subscribe to our channel and when a new video is posted, you can be notified via email. If you have any Clan Ross related videos you want to post, please contact me!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

I am happy to say that as of the time of this printing, more than 60% of our members have paid their 2011 dues. Please take a moment to confirm that you have done so for this year.

We do not issue membership cards anymore as it is an additional expense of time and money that we cannot afford. We appreciate your understanding. I now send out an email to tell members that we have received their payment. We appreciate your membership in our association!

FERGUS FUN FOR OUR FIFTIETH

When you plan something three years in advance, you have it your mind's eye for so long that it's doubtful that it will perfectly match how you envisioned it. From logistical to weather hiccups, there are lots of opportunities for things to not quite go as expected.

I have been very blessed that, those expectations have been both met and exceeded with the five Clan Ross events that I have organized since 2006. The greatest factors in this success were the good humour and friendliness of the Clan Ross members who attended these activities. When people are fun, friendly, and appreciative, you are eager to plan other activities to bring them back together.

Thus, when 43 Rosses marched in the Parade at the 2010 Fergus Scottish Festival, and over 70 visited our tent, the 3 years of planning was made worthwhile.

The Fergus Festival, located just north of Guelph, is Canada's largest celebration of all things Scottish. It has been a tradition for my family and my in-laws to attend for 13 summers now. Twice, my in-laws' clan, Clan Hunter, was the honoured Clan at the Festival when their chief attended the weekend in 1998 and again in 2005. I have operated the Clan Ross tent at Fergus with Doug & Patricia Ross of Toronto and Wendy Ross of St. Catharines, since 2001. Thus, I have often thought about having Ross as the honoured clan and our 50th anniversary was the perfect time to apply for the designation.



Family of Lloyd & Shirley Ross

Chief David Ross of Ross was unable to attend the games. Thus, our association decided to seek a descendant of our organization's founder, Sir George Ross, to be our Clan's VIP at the festival. Clan Ross in America was founded in New York City in 1910 by a group of prominent Canadians and Americans. The first elected president was Senator Sir George William Ross, LL.D. He was born near Nairn, Middlesex County, Ontario, in

1841 to James Ross and Ellen McKinnon, who were natives of Easter Ross in Scotland. He was the Education Minister under Oliver Mowat in the late 1800's and helped found the school system that we know today. He was the Ontario premier from 1899-1905 and later named to the Federal Senate.

Sir George presided at two meetings of the Clan Ross Society before his death in 1914. With the outbreak of World War I, this incarnation of Clan Ross ended.

In 1960, Clan Ross Canada reformed, inspired in part by this great man. In celebration of our association's 50th anniversary, we celebrated Sir George Ross and his contributions to Ontario and Clan Ross.

To my knowledge, we have 3 descendants of Sir George Ross as members of our clan. One is longtime member Jim Lyttle (and his wife Ann) who live in Owen Sound. He is the great grandson of Sir George through George's daughter Margaret and her daughter, Marguerite. The second is his brother, Ross Lyttle (and wife Joy) of Burnaby who just joined last year. He shared with me their family tree. Both were unable to attend Fergus.

The third descendant is Dr. Valerie-Dawn Ruddel-Girhiny of Burlington. She is a greatX3 granddaughter of Sir George. She and her husband, retired Reverend John Girhiny, graciously accepted our invitation to be our Clan's guest of honour at the festival.



Stewart Cameron, Lizz & Andrew Thibodeau, and Andrew Campbell

Fergus starts on the Friday night with an impressive display of music and pipe bands in a tattoo. The highlight for me was when the evening concluded with a member of each clan parading onto the darkened field, candle in hand, to add to the fire of the clans and descendants. My wife and I, representing Clan Ross, were allowed on to the field to stand near the fire, watching the procession, with the Chieftain of the Games, Stuart Cameron. Stuart has presided at the games since 2005, taking over from his father, legendary Cape Breton folk performer John Allan Cameron. Stuart is a talented musician in his own right, playing regularly with groups such as the Matthew Good Band, members of the Crash Test Dummies, and his own band, the Heartbroken. Stuart and I share a bond of recently losing our fathers to cancer. At the end of the festivities, a lone piper plays Amazing Grace, with the massed bands soon joining in.

The power of the moment put tears in my eyes as the fireworks then blazed overhead. I looked over to see that Stuart had the same emotion on his face as we looked skyward at the lights and heard those mournful notes of one of the world's most famous and meaningful songs. Then Stuart leaned over and said to us "here comes my favourite part ...". The pipe bands on the field began their march out of the stadium, but not before they marched right towards us. Hundreds of pipers came within just a few metres of where we stood before they veered to our right to exit the area. To have that tremendous volume of pipes bear down on you row by row was difficult to describe. It was a real life highlight.

Video from this moment and other Fergus highlights (like the Rosses leading the parade) can be found on our Clan Ross YouTube channel, at www.youtube.com/user/ClanRossCanada.

Saturday was hot and muggy, but, it didn't stop crowds of Rosses from gathering at our tent. I had spent a great deal of time the previous two weeks completely redoing our Clan displays. I had a section on famous Rosses, with profiles on our Chief, his grandfather Sir Ronald Ross (who helped make the connection between mosquitoes and malaria), the Rosses behind both the Declaration of

Arbroath and the Declaration of Independence, and the Ross uncle & nephew connection that found both Antarctica and the North Magnetic Pole. I also created a great display on our different National Projects from the past 15 years. When they are put up as a display, it is quite impressive to see what we have accomplished over the years ... especially since we run everything on \$15 annual dues. It was a good idea to have bottles of water available for members because it was another key reason people came to visit ... a chance for a sit down in the shade.

Our webmaster, Doug Ross, is a member of the Scottish Studies Foundation and was instrumental in a new idea at the Festival. A "Passport" booklet was created with blank pages for the kids to go to each Clan Tent and collect the stamps of clan badges. What a phenomenal idea! Kids enjoyed going from tent to tent to collect the ink stamps, their parents tagged along and learned a little bit about each clan, and it gave all clans more people to speak with and share family history stories. Hopefully more Scottish festivals will implement this low cost and fun idea to pull new people into the Clan tent area. It was also just so cute to have kids gathering around Debra Barry or Doug Ross, waiting to get their passport stamped.

What everyone was really excited about was participating in leading the parade of the clans into the opening ceremonies. I had plenty of Ross flags for the kids, a couple of banners and placard on a pole to really show off our presence. Forty-three people were ready to march. (See the cover of the last newsletter to see a great picture of all of us before the parade started.) What touched my heart was the tremendous mix of ages ... children under 5, kids 5 to 20, adults of all ages, and senior citizens all excited to show their Ross pride. There were Lloyd & Shirley Ross of Fergus, with their daughters and granddaughters marching alongside David Ross, with his Ross crest tattoo, joined by his sons. There were Bill & Debra Barry who came all the way from Montreal with their son and his friend. Three different couples were there because they were part of the Doug Ross's family tree. Doug has worked hard for many years to connect all members of his family through his "Ross-ter" family website. Thanks to Doug, there were distant cousins meeting each other for the first time and getting to share in this amazing event. The only word I come up with is just how fun it was to lead the parade of clans while thousands of people waved and cheered us on. What a thrill! We looked great! You would have been proud.



David Ross, showing his Ross tattoo, with his son Tyler

Our Clan's VIP, Dr. Valerie-Dawn, was given a few minutes to speak at the ceremonies. I loved her remarks. She said that we are all connected by stories, and that we come together at events such as these Scottish Festivals to share those stories. One story she shared which related to her Scottish heritage went as follows: She worked as the Executive Assistant to two Ontario Deputy Ministers of Education in the 80's and 90's. In the Education area of Queens Park, the portrait of her great X 3 grandfather, Sir George Ross, was hung for many years. He worked with Liberal Premier Oliver Mowat in the 1880's as a minister of education. When the Liberal Party took over in the mid-1980's, she was surprised to find that the portrait was taken down. Redecorating is frequent when a new government takes power. What was surprising to her was that with Conservative dominance of politics in Ontario, Sir George Ross was one of the few Liberal ministers to be on the walls. Yet, he was taken down in redecorating by the new Liberal leaders! So, using her contacts with custodial staff at Queens Park, she was able to track down the portrait. She had it put up in her office in the education wing of the government buildings, complete with a touch of Ross tartan. For years it hung there, and she had many conversations with people in her office as they asked about the Ross portrait and tartan hanging there. That portrait allowed her to share her family story! Now, she had the honour to share it with thousands at Canada's largest festival.

That evening, about 20 Rosses gathered at the Holiday Inn in Guelph for dinner. We then joined my in-laws' clan, the Hunters, to hear their folk group, the Gaels, perform to a room of about 60. The comedy and talent of their performance was a perfect ending to a wonderful day.

2011 will be a quiet year for the Clan after the gathering of 2008, Dr. A.M. Ross day in 2009, and the International Gathering in Scotland, and the events in 2010. I hope the success of these 3 years of events get you thinking about coming to Fergus this summer or to our National Gathering in 2012 in Winnipeg!

CLAN ROSS – MANITOBA CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 4TH, 2010 AT HISTORIC MCBETH HOUSE

By Ian M. Ross, December, 2010

McBeth House, located on what was originally Lot 33 of Lord Selkirk's Red River Colony, was the setting for the Clan Ross-Manitoba Chapter Christmas Party this last December 4, 2010. There could be no more suitable location!

Alexander McBeath (*later McBeth*) came to the colony in 1815 with his wife Mary. Like the rest of that wave of settlers from the strath of Kildonan, he was fleeing the Highland Clearances and a life of feudal poverty in Scotland for a new life in the wilds of Rupertsland. Immediately, there were armed confrontations with the Métis supporters of the North West Company ... which was the bitter rival of the Hudson's Bay Company, who were reluctant sponsors of this first permanent agricultural settlement in the Red River Valley. This led to the 1816 Massacre of Seven Oaks and the settlers being driven back up Lake Winnipeg, until Lord Selkirk himself arrived with a military regiment the next year.

Upon their return, these pioneer families were then beset by years of natural hazards such as fierce blizzards, prairie fires, great floods and grasshopper plagues. But, like the rest of Selkirk's Highland settlers, Alexander was a tough man ... and he was motivated by the right to own his own farm, a freedom he could never enjoy in the old country. He persevered, and was ultimately successful. In 1852 the original settler's cabin was replaced by a large two-story log house on the family lot. This became the home for the third generation, grandson Robert McBeth Jr. and his wife, Helen Anderson (*a sept name of Clan Ross*). This homestead, and those of the rest of Selkirk's Settlers, became the main basis for what is now the Province of Manitoba.

Prospering as a farmer, merchant and builder, in 1912 Robert Jr. decided to erect a modern two-story home just a stone's throw away from the 1852 log house. His daughters, spinster school-teachers, ultimately willed the property to the City of Winnipeg. Fully restored to its 1912 appearance, McBeth House is an ideal location for groups to enjoy an elegantly traditional "country Christmas".

As the Clan Ross members arrived they were greeted in the wood-paneled foyer by Chapter President Barb Fletcher, and by Ian Ross playing traditional 18th century Scottish dance music on his fiddle. They all came bearing "Christmas cheer" and a variety of dishes for a potluck dinner. After socializing, dinner was announced with a grace delivered by Don Ross. And what a dinner! Turkey and haggis and all the trimmings ... all enjoyed at one long table.

Before everyone dug in, a toast was proposed to the 50th anniversary of Clan Ross-Canada. Ian Ross observed "What is Clan Ross? Why, it's us. So: *Here's tae us, wha's like us, damn few, an' they're all deid, mair's the pity.*"

An excellent variety of desserts followed the meal. And that was followed by Ian Ross performing his rhyming presentation of the Atholl Brose (*a wondrous elixir of oat water, Scotch, honey and cream*) ... assisted by Jacquie Ross, St. Columba's helper for the evening (*see poem*).

Once the dishes were cleared away, the Manitoba Chapter held its annual meeting. President Barb is pleased to report that the our 2011 activities, including: our Burns Dinner, booth at the Scottish Pavilion at Winterfest in Brandon, Tartan Day, booth at the Pavilion of Scotland at Winnipeg's Folklorama, participation in the Selkirk Settlers Commemoration Parade and the Clan Ross Night at the Races.

Special mention must be made of Bob & Evelyn Andrews who came in all the way from Brandon to attend the party, to Pat & Alex Ross who took the pictures and to Jacquie Ross who cooked the turkey.



Manitoba Chapter members arrayed on the formal front staircase at historic McBeth House.

Left: l. to r. front: Roger & Mary Ross, first step: Bob & Evelyn Andrews, next step: Alex Ross and Dot From, next step: Milt From and Christine Turnbull, top step: Jim Turnbull

Right: l. to r. bottom: Len Perry, Don Ross, Ian Ross, middle: Pat Ross, Dorothy Hollins, Jacquie Ross, top: Denis & Barb Fletcher



Left: Dorothy Hollins, Denis Fletcher, Barb Fletcher, Ian Ross, and Jacqui Ross



Right: Jacquie Ross acts as St. Columba's helper and delivers the Atholl Brose to eager Manitoba Chapter members

A Visit from St. Columba

(who brought the art of distillation to Scotland)

By Ian M. Ross, December, 2010,

with acknowledgement to Clement C. Moore, author of "A Visit from St. Nicholas"

'Twas three weeks before Christmas, and through McBeth House
the Ross Clan was gathered, to eat and carouse.
The meal had been gobbled up in no time flat,
as feasts before Christmas will not put on fat.
Dessert plates were stacked in the kitchen with care,
in hopes Saint Columba would soon arrive there.
Columba, that brave monk who from Ireland came
to Iona, then Scotland, conversion his game ...
to in-tro-duce pa-gan Scots to Christian ways
and the art of distilling, now that's cause for praise!

But back to the party: the Rosses, no slouches,
were nestled all snugly on chairs and on couches.
'Twas early still, certainly not time for bed ...
while visions of Atholl Brose danced in their heads.
When out in the kitchen there arose such a clatter
I looked at the door to see what was the matter.
When what did my wondering eyes soon disclose
but Columba's disciples ... carrying the brose.
And while those disciples delivered the same,
Columba's old ghost called the Ross Clan by name:



Ian Ross

Now Roger Ross, I know that you have been good,
but open your wallet, you know that you should!
And Mary, I hope you enjoyed the roast beast.
It's certainly part of a gluten-free feast.
On Dot and on Milton ... I wish to speak free;
just who is the needler, and who the needlee?
Now Dorothy, now Barbara, executive pair:
I wish you appointments for life so there!
Past-President Pat, and Alex so tall,
it's not far to come from home in East St. Paul.
We do miss Patricia ... and Roger's moustache
with its feeling of suavity, and urbane dash.
On Jim and on Christine, his spouse, I will dwell,
our Burns Dinner founder you all know so well.
Now Evelyn, now Bob, from Brandon they came ...
where they are the champ-i-ons of the Ross name.
On Len and on Don ... I haste to repeat,
if it weren't for their house there'd be **no** place to meet!
Now Ian's spouse Jacquie ... I must thank you, ma'am,
for putting up with that theatrical ham.
And last I will name a right jolly old elf:
Denis Fletcher, hard worker in spite of himself.

So those are the tidings from Columba's ghost:
A smidgen of praise ... and a soupcon of roast.
But I hear him exclaim, ere he goes out of view,
"Try the Atholl Brose, please ... it is **so** good for you!"



MANITOBA CHAPTER BURNS DINNER, 2011

By Roger Ross

The Manitoba Chapter of the Clan Ross Association of Canada held its 14th Annual Burns Dinner at the historic Fort Garry Hotel on January 15, 2011. Built in 1913, a stone's throw from the (still standing) north gatehouse of the Hudson Bay Company's Upper Fort Garry at the juncture of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, the hotel was for many years fondly referred to as "Winnipeg's only castle". A classic example of the North American railway hotel systems created at the turn of the previous century, it still retains its grand charm and gracious elegance. The hotel's Club Room was the perfect intimate setting for a record attendance of 100 members and guests.

Following Burns' "Grace Before Dinner" and the consumption of a salad by the assembled company, the Haggis Party was marshaled at the entrance to the room. As the lilting skirl by two lady Pipe Majors filled the room, the Party, consisting of Haggis Bearer, Sword Bearer, Bottle Bearer, and Speaker (Haggis Basher) Robyn McCombe, wound solemnly among the tables of standing, clapping diners to the centre ceremonial station. There the obligatory drams were quaffed. After a spirited and eloquent delivery of Burns' "Address to a Haggis", and again with piping escort, the Haggis Party paraded out as they had come to the accompaniment of diners as before, bearing the now fatally wounded Haggis. M.C. Jim Turnbull announced that an English translation of the address was available on an adjacent table.

Murmurs of restrained delight arose shortly thereafter, as each table of diners was provided with a large serving bowl of "mashed neeps" and a whole but smaller Haggis, offspring to the first, to be similarly divided amongst almost every person. The delicious main course was served next, during which the gathering was favoured with enjoyable entertainments.

First, a company of accomplished dancers of various ages from the Gaelyn McGregor Studio of Highland Dance presented a pleasing variety of dances, including some not usually attempted. Next, vocalists Meaghan Fletcher and Colleen Furlan, with accompanist Mel Koop, offered selections suitable to the occasion, their separate voices delightful and blending well together.

After dessert and coffee, Ian Ross presented the Atholl Brose, a tasty concoction with colourful legendary highland origins in the late medieval, which has survived to present day and become a welcome addition to Clan Ross occasions. Its main ingredient is scotch whiskey in variable ratio with honey, oatmeal, cream and nutmeg. Ample portions were provided to all present, with seconds for the asking. Its introduction at this time no doubt enhanced the continued sale of silent auction tickets in the intermission which followed, and the appreciation of dissertations which were still to come.

Gathered again after intermission, we settled in to enjoy the "Toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns", well prepared and delivered by Bob Darling. Ron McFarlane continued with a splendid "Toast to the Lassies", his wife Betty giving the able and witty "Response" to the toast.

Last but not least, it was time to draw the winners of the Silent Auction, which featured over a dozen tempting packages of donated prizes. The selection of winning ticket holders and distribution of loot was conducted in exciting fashion by Jim and Christine Turnbull and Roger Stagg.

The marvelous evening concluded 'on a high note' with Meaghan Fletcher leading us in a rousing rendition of Robbie Burns' historic legacy "Auld Lang Syne."



CEUD MILE FAILTE

A hundred thousand welcomes to our new members

Edwina Billyk, Green Valley, ON
Ross Orville Lyttle & Joy Lyttle, Burnaby, BC

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Kathleen E. (Katie) Ross died Saturday, November 27, 2010, at the age of 89 at Melville Lodge, Halifax NS., following an eight-year battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was the wife of Greg Ross, long-time Ross Clan Commissioner in Nova Scotia.

Katie was born November 14, 1921 in Grand Entrée on Iles de la Madeleine, moving soon after to Pictou, NS, where she grew up.

On September 12, 1942, Kathleen married the love of her life, 2nd Lieutenant, Royal Canadian Navy, Grant MacGregor (Greg) Ross. They moved to St. John's Newfoundland where their home became a centre of hospitality for sailors of many nationalities stationed there. Near the end of the war, Greg was transferred to Esquimalt BC and Katie often shared stories of her cross-Canada journey by train to join him there.

Following the war's end, they settled in Sackville NB. One of her greatest pleasures was caring for the altar, linens, sacramental vessels, and flowers of St. Paul's Anglican Church. In addition, she was Commissioner of Guides, Secretary of the Antiquarian Society, President of the VON Board, Sackville Music Festival and other community organizations and never missed a concert at Mount Allison University. Katie loved to read and learn and her encyclopaedia was the source of tremendous pleasure for her along with her large collection of books and magazines. Working together, she and Greg shared their love of gardening and created a delightful variety of gardens at each of the homes they owned. Later in life, indoor plants filled their smaller properties and were lovingly nurtured.

They moved to Dartmouth In 1970, and then moved to Halifax in 1985. Moving to Florida was their winter refuge for many happy years of retirement and they had a wonderful time in both homes with family and friends. For the past 4 years, Katie and Greg have delighted in participating in the social life of Melville Heights Residential Home.

Katie is survived by loving husband of 68 years, Grant Macgregor Ross; children Sheath (Walter) Rayworth of Amherst NS, Grant Macgregor Jr. (Jamie Germaine) Ross of Charlottetown PEI, and Andrew (Susan) Ross of Halifax NS.; sister Miriam (Bill) Franklin of Piston ON; grandchildren Christopher (Stephanie More) Rayworth, Kathleen Rayworth, Geoffrey and Iain Ross and Jenna and Paul Germaine, Lauren and Evan Ross; great granddaughter Alexandra Rayworth and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, sister Florence (Bea) Murphy and brother Clarke Aitkin.

Katie's love of music, dancing and her delightful smile have endeared her to many over the years and she will be greatly missed by all those who shared her life. A memorial service was held in Halifax, NS, on Monday, November 29, 2010. Interment will follow at a later date in Pictou, NS.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

February 19, 2011: WINNIPEG, MB. 17th Annual Winnipeg Scottish Festival. Convention Centre. Website: http://www.winnipegscottishfestival.org/forms/2011_wsf_brochure.pdf

April 6: TARTAN DAY. OTTAWA, ON. **October 21, 2010** – The Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, announced today that the Government of Canada will now officially recognize April 6 as **Tartan Day**. **Canada celebrates TARTAN DAY on the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath (April 6th, 1320) to honour the contributions of its Scottish descendants. For more information see www.canadianheritage.gc.ca**

May 21, 2011: COURTENAY, BC. 16th Annual Comox Valley Highland Games at Lewis Park. Info: (250)338-0363. Website: <http://www.cvhq.org/>

May 20 - 22, 2011: VICTORIA, BC. 148th Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Fest, Bullen Park in Esquimalt Website: <http://www.victoriahighlandgames.com/>