



An Cirean Ceann Cinnidh

# CLAN ROSS

Association of Canada,  
Inc.  
Founded 1960

David C. Ross of Ross, Chief

SPRING ISSUE  
MAY, 2011



PDR

Salisbury Crag, Edinburgh

# 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, SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2011**

### **FROM THE CLAN ROSS HOME OFFICE**

I have really enjoyed having the "head office" of Clan Ross in my home over the past two years. As I have the email address and phone number that many use to connect with the Clan, it has introduced me to new and interesting people. I wanted to share a few of the more unique connections I have made.

### **American Scottish Walking sticks**

At the Fergus Festival last year, I carried a beautiful walking stick with the Clan Ross crest and name. I was asked about it several times. Incredibly enough, it was given to me two years earlier by its creator at American Scottish Walking Sticks to promote his handiwork. I only recently found the gentleman's card and you can find Douglas, based in Michigan, at [www.aswsticks.com](http://www.aswsticks.com). It was very kind of him to give me such a unique gift.

### **Relatives of Sir George Ross**

Last year we ran several pieces on Sir George Ross, who was Premier of Ontario (1899-1905) and the first president of Clan Ross in America in 1911. His great X 3 granddaughter, Dr. Valerie Dawn Ruddell-Girhiny, was our guest of honour at the Fergus Scottish festival. Her brief speech to the opening ceremonies of the games can be found on our Youtube Channel: ClanRossCanada. Thanks to this coverage, three distant cousins of Valerie Dawn, and descendants of Sir George Ross, contacted me! One man just joined our clan prior to Christmas and lives in BC; one, a member for a longer time, lives in Owen Sound; and the third, who lives in Texas, just contacted me a few weeks ago! He found our articles in a Google search when he investigated his family tree. Valerie Dawn was thrilled to have distant cousins reach out to her.

### **Finding Family**

It is so encouraging to hear that, thanks to our association, people have discovered important parts of their family tree. I got a nice email last year from new Clan member Jack Rumsden of Three Hills, Alberta. He wrote:

*I have been working on my family history for the past couple of years and seemed to come to a dead end with my Great Grandfather Benjamin Ross. I was able to find birth information on my Grandmother and her three Ross sisters, but was unable to get beyond Benjamin. Then out of the blue I received a communication on the Ancestries Website from a long lost cousin named Suzanne Whyte, thanking me for posting pictures of my Grandparents (John Ewart Ramsden & Verina Ross Ramsden) and my Father (John Ross Ramsden). In a few short email exchanges I was exposed to a wealth of information about my Great Grandfather's family taking me all the way back to Scotland. Suddenly I belonged to a massive family. Of course Suzanne also sent me a link to the CLAN ROSS and to the more specific family website that Doug Ross has created. I learned that I am directly related to Alexander Ross through Donald Ross to my Great Grandfather Benjamin and that in Doug Ross's terminology I am actually D6A1B! Wow what a lot to take in at one time!!*

Thank you for joining our association Jack! Congratulations on expanding the family tree!

### **The Ship, "Clan Ross"**

Over Christmas, I received an interesting email from Gary Wright from Australia. It was in regard to the Ship "Clan Ross" built by the Clan Line Shipping Company.

The Clan Line Shipping Company was first founded in Liverpool before transferring to Glasgow. By the 1930's they were the largest shipping company in the world. Their tradition was to name ships after the Clans and they built 3 ships named the Clan Ross! They were:

*SS Clan Ross (1) built 1894. 1914 sold to Adelaide Steamship Company, renamed Cantara. 2,604 tons.*

*SS Clan Ross (2) built 1914. 1938 transferred to Houston Line, 1942 torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine west of Bombay, with the loss of 11 lives. 5,897 tons.*

*SS Clan Ross (3) built 1956. 1960 transferred to Houston Line, 1961 transferred to Safmarine, renamed South African Scientist, 1962 transferred to Union-Castle Line, renamed Kinnaird Castle. 7,698 tons.*

Gary owns a model of the ship sunk during WW2. He writes:

*I am seeking any information on the Clan line Shipping Co. that built the Ship named "Clan Ross" in 1914, You see, I am the owner of one of the only two models made of the ship and was hoping to get in touch with anyone interested in this wonderful model.*

*The model's hull built up from the solid in lifts in 1/4 in.=1 ft. scale, painted with a red bottom, black and white topsides, timber rudder, and a brass propeller. The decks of laid veneer, the foredeck, forward and aft work decks are painted a cream color with the deck plating drawn in, the upper decks are in veneer with the deck planking and details drawn in India ink. Fitted with numerous gold plated details including: anchors, anchor chain, anchor windlass, chocks, bollards, ventilators, mahogany capped railings, cargo hatches with green covers, masts with standing and running rigging for cargo booms, cargo winches, covered double bridge with bridge wings and canopy frames, semaphore post, ship's wheel, binnacle, funnel painted black with a red band, (6) lifeboats with davits, canopy frames on the after deck, engine telegraph, flagstaff, and other details. Displayed on six baluster turned pedestals on a raised plinth, and displayed within a mahogany framed glass case and cabinet underneath. The overall length of the cabinet is 3.330 meters long.*



As you can see, this is a huge model in stunning detail!

If you want to contact Gary about his model ship, please email me and I will share his contact details with you.

### **Clan Ross Kilt and Bagpipe for Sale**

A former piper based in Nova Scotia is selling his size 36-38 Red Ross Kilt and contacted me about it. He is also selling his bagpipe that also features our red Tartan. Contact me for his information.

### **Clan Ross at the Scottish Festivals**

As of today, we know that there will be Ross tents at the Festivals in Embro, Orillia, Maxville, Montreal and Fergus. Winnipeg's Folkarama always has a Clan Ross display. If you know of any other gatherings that will feature our Clan, please contact me so I can share it with our membership.

Enjoy your summer and I hope you can get out to at least one Scottish Festival!

**Andrew Ross Thibodeau, President, Clan Ross Canada**



## TAM O' SHANTER - FACT OR FICTION?

By Jack Ross

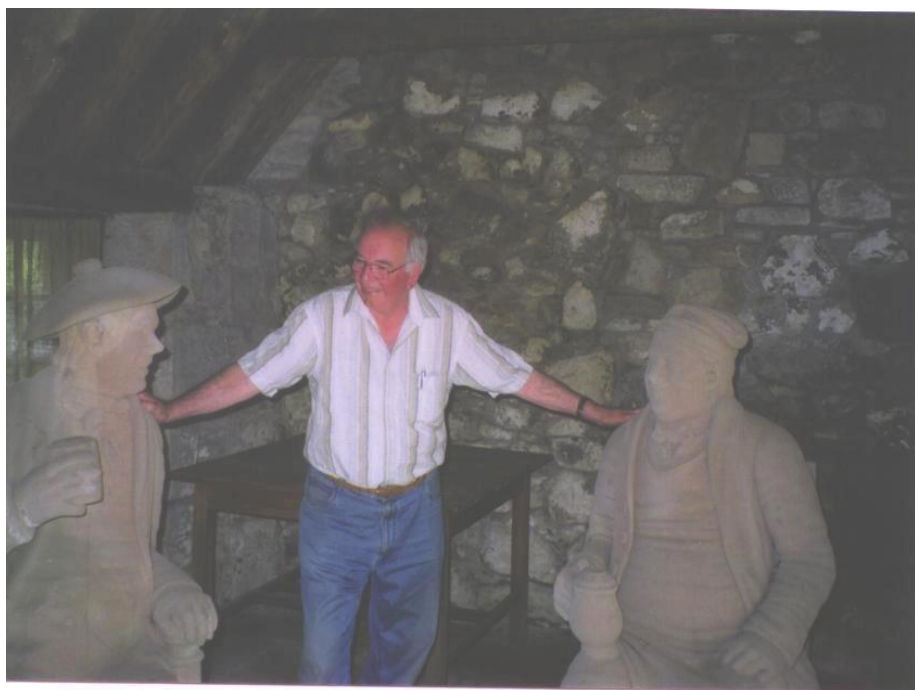
"I think a wee bit of both", says long-time Clan member Jack Ross of Mississauga who recently gave an audio & visual presentation on the Burns poem "Tam O Shanter" at the Scottish Studies OOR Club luncheon in Toronto. In the presentation, the narration was synchronized with 40 artist drawn slides depicting scenes from the tale. This made the story easier to follow for those unfamiliar with the Ayrshire dialect.

Jack then shared his research by identifying the most likely people that Burns used as prototypes for all the characters in the poem (except for Auld Nick). He gave their names, their connection with Burns, and showed on a map the localities of the farms and places where they had lived and the graveyards where they now lie buried.

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Here are some extra tidbits that Jack thought the audience might find interesting:

- 1. I spent much of my youth in the village of Crosshill about seven miles from Kirkoswald, the village near which most of the Shanter characters lived. As a teenager I cycled all over that territory and was familiar with all the places.*
- 2. Since my schooldays I have been intrigued by who the people in the poem were. Not until the Internet came along did that information become easier to dig for.*
- 3. Because many of the sites, e.g. Ardlochan Mill, have long since disappeared, tracing them involved long searches through old maps and documents.*
- 4. I bought the 35 mm colour slides in Ayr about 40 years ago before coming home from a trip. They were very expensive, but I knew I might never have another opportunity. I was right.*
- 5. My first presentations required me to recite the poem and simultaneously yank the lever on my projector to and fro. By 1975 I had made a tape recording with pulses which advanced a Kodak Carousel projector. As technology advanced, so did I, and now have it run automatically on a DVD*



*This is a photo of me taken talking with Tam O' Shanter and Souter Johnnie at the Alehouse at Souter Johnnie's cottage in Kirkoswald taken in 2009 This photo may be seen better at the following website: <http://www.maybole.org/community/crosshill/crosshill.htm> where it is bracketed by views I took of the village of Crosshill.*



**Le** tartan représente un clan, une famille et une communauté, en plus d'être un symbole durable de l'Écosse cher aux Canadiens d'origine écossaise. Souligné dans plusieurs provinces canadiennes et dans d'autres pays, le Jour du tartan est maintenant reconnu officiellement par le gouvernement du Canada. Pendant cette journée, les Canadiens ont l'occasion de découvrir et célébrer la culture, les traditions et le patrimoine écossais ainsi que leur apport remarquable à la société canadienne. Des festivals, des défilés de corps de cornemuses, des spectacles de danse, des rencontres sportives et d'autres activités écossaises traditionnelles sont organisés, au plaisir des petits et des grands.

**Je** suis ravi d'annoncer qu'à partir de maintenant, le Jour du tartan se célébrera chaque année le 6 avril, date anniversaire de la Déclaration d'Arbroath, la déclaration d'indépendance écossaise.

**Au** nom du premier ministre Stephen Harper et du gouvernement du Canada, j'invite les gens de partout au pays à profiter de cette journée pour célébrer l'apport des millions de Canadiens d'origine écossaise à l'édification de notre pays.

**A** tartan represents a clan, a family, and a community, and is an enduring symbol of Scotland that is cherished by Canadians of Scottish ancestry. Many Canadian provinces and other countries already celebrate Tartan Day, which is now officially recognized by the Government of Canada. On this day, all Canadians will have the opportunity to celebrate and learn about Scottish culture, traditions, and heritage, as well as their contribution to Canadian society. Festivals, parades of pipe bands, dancing, sports, and other traditional Scottish activities and events will take place and be enjoyed by people of all ages.

**I** am pleased to announce that from this day forward, Tartan Day will be celebrated each year on April 6, the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish declaration of independence.

**On** behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Government of Canada, I encourage people all across the country to celebrate on that date the contributions of millions of Canadians of Scottish ancestry in building our country.

L'honorable / The Honourable James Moore

## ATHOLL BROSE PRESENTATION, CLAN ROSS BURNS DINNER, Jan. 15, 2011

By Ian Ross

You all know the story of the Earl of Ross ... leading his wild Ross Clan out of the mountainous Highlands in rebellion against the King and assaulting the Castle of Blair Atholl, residence of the Earl of Atholl, Chief of Clan Murray. The Murray, worried that his stores of oats, honey, cream and whisky ... ESPECIALLY the whisky ... would fall into Ross hands, dumped the lot down his well. The day being unseasonably warm for a battle, The Ross drank deeply of the resulting elixir from the well, passed out and was taken prisoner.

Last year I told this story by flagrantly plagiarizing a poem about an American folk-hero, Casey at the Bat. But there is another American folk-hero named Casey who has his own poem ... a song in fact ... *The Ballad of Casey Jones, the Brave Engineer*. You will recall the first verse:

*Come all you rounders if you want to hear, the story of a brave engineer  
Casey Jones was the rounder's name, on the "six-eight" wheeler, boys, he won his fame.  
The caller called Casey at half past four. He kissed his wife at the station door.  
He mounted to the cabin with the orders in his hand, and he took his farewell trip to that Promised Land.*

And, of course, this verse is followed by a chorus, which goes:

*Casey Jones--mounted to his cabin  
Casey Jones--with his orders in his hand  
Casey Jones--mounted to his cabin  
And he took his farewell trip to that Promised Land*

The Chorus is important. That's where you folks come in. Yes, this year we've gone interactive. In tonight's version, entitled *The Ballad of the Earl of Ross, our Brave Mountaineer*, you will holler out our hero's name whenever it appears in the chorus. So, in a line like "*Casey Jones ... mounted to his cabin*", instead of hollering CASEY JONES, you will holler **EARL-OF-ROSS**.

But ... without a copy of the poem before you, how will you know when? That's easy, when I raise my left hand ... like this. One last wrinkle. This poem has four choruses. For the first three ... at the sign of my left hand you holler **EARL-OF-ROSS**. But in the last chorus, Lady Ross makes a most revealing announcement. In that chorus I will raise my right hand and you will holler **LAY-DEE ROSS**. Let's try it.

I think you've got it! Here goes.

### The Ballad of the Earl of Ross, our Brave Mountaineer

*(Based on The Ballad of Casey Jones, the Brave Engineer)*

Come all you clansmen if you want to hear, the story of Earl John, our brave mountaineer:  
The Earl of Ross was our Clan Chief's name and at Blair Atholl Castle, boys, he won his fame.  
His piper called John at half past eight. He kissed Lady Ross at his castle gate.  
He mounted up his stallion, took his sword in his hand and he took his farewell trip to that Blair Atholl Land.

Chorus: Earl of Ross ... mounted up his stallion  
Earl of Ross ... took his sword in his hand  
Earl of Ross ... mounted up his stallion  
And he took his farewell trip to that Blair Atholl Land

Now Clan Murray's Chief was scared of Earl Ross, and knew if attacked his treasures were lost.  
On his whisky, oats, honey and cream he did dwell, till he gathered them up and threw them down his well.  
He said to his henchman, "My treasure's secure, and snug in Blair Atholl, any siege we'll endure.  
He'll never find my treasure though he looks high and low ... 'cause hidden down the well is the last place he'll go."

Chorus: Earl of Ross ... he'll never find the treasure!  
Earl of Ross ... though he looks high and low  
Earl of Ross ... he'll never find the treasure!  
'Cause hidden down the well is the last place he'll go.

When Earl John's army marched up Atholl's hill, his pipers played a war cry ... long and shrill.  
The Murray Chief knew by the bagpipe's skirl that the leader of this army was The Ross, our Earl.  
The blazing sun stared John in the face. "I need a cool drink before attacking this place.  
I think I'll take a drink from out of this well." And before you could whistle he was drunker'n hell!

Chorus: Earl of Ross ... said "I'll take a drink"  
Earl of Ross ... from out of this well  
Earl of Ross ... a really big drink!  
And before you could whistle he was drunker'n hell!

Earl John said just before he passed out, "There's a name for that drink ... I have no doubt."  
His clansmen said, "What name can it be?" "The Atholl's brose, it's quite clear to me."  
Lady Ross sat in her bed distraught; to hear the news that Earl John was caught.  
She said, "Hush up children, quit cryin' don't you ken ...  
You've got another poppa who lives just down the glen."

Chorus: Lady Ross ... said "Hush up children"  
Lady Ross ... "Quit cryin' don't you ken ..."  
Lady Ross ... said "Hush up children ...  
You've got another poppa who lives just down the glen."

LADIES & GENTLEMEN ... please join me in a toast to Lady Ross ... and the Atholl Brose.



## **UPDATE RE THE SHIP HECTOR**

**By Jack Ross**

The Pictou Advocate newspaper has indicated that the Hector Quay Society (The new owners of the ship Hector ) plan to have a special celebration to reopen the Hector Quay to the public on the Victoria Day weekend and to have it remain open until Thanksgiving. Hopefully by the May weekend the ship Hector will be back in its customary berth beside the Quay. In December it was towed across the bay into a nearby dry dock for a hull inspection and whatever repairs might be deemed necessary.

The members of the Hector Quay Society and the townsfolk of Pictou have worked hard over the winter to revitalize this iconic asset to their tourism industry. A volunteer workforce of more than seventy townspeople has been assembled to work on the project

## **CEUD MILE FAILTE**

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

Edwina Billyk, Green Valley, ON  
Deborah Keenan, Hamburg, NY  
Jean & Norm Verner, Squamish, BC

## **FLOWERS OF THE FOREST**

**Madelyn Ella Ruddell**, gr X 2 grand daughter of Sir George Ross, on Oct. 16, 2010

**Grant MacGregor Ross** of Halifax on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. He was the father of Shelaigh Rayworth (former Newsletter Editor), the grandfather of Chris Rayworth (Maritime Commissioner), and a long standing member of Clan Ross Canada.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

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

**May 28 - 30, 2011:** Perth-Andover, NB. Gathering of the Scots Festival at Baird's Memorial Campground. (506)273-6710. Website: <http://www.gatheringofthescots.com/>

**June 11, 2011:** Georgetown, ON. 36th Georgetown Highland Games at the Fairgrounds. (905)584-5440. Website: [http://www.georgetownhighlandgames.com/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://www.georgetownhighlandgames.com/index.php?title=Main_Page)

**June 11, 2011:** Grande Prairie, AB. 25th Grande Prairie Highland Games at Macklin Field. Website: <http://www.gphighlandgames.com/>

**June 17-19, 2011:** Ladysmith, Vancouver Island, BC. BC Legion Highland Gathering. For further information visit Website: <http://www.highlandgathering.ca/>

**June 18, 2011:** Jackson's Point, ON. Georgina Highland Gathering. Website: <http://www.georginahighlandgathering.com/>

**June 24 - 26, 2011:** Summerside, PE. Summerside Highland Gathering & Celtic Festival. College of Piping. (902)436-5377. Website: <http://www.collegeofpiping.com/gathering.php>

**June 24 - July 24, 2011:** across Nova Scotia. 9th International Gathering of the Clans. [Website](#) of Scottish Culture of Nova Scotia: Website: <http://www.igc2011.ca/>

**June 25, 2011:** Cobourg, ON. 46th Annual Cobourg Highland Games Festival. Donegan Park, D'Arcy Street South. Website: <http://www.cobourghighlandgames.ca/>

**June 25, 2011:** Red Deer, AB. 64th Annual Red Deer Highland Games. Westerner Exposition Park. (403)343-6418. Website: <http://reddeerhighlandgames.ca/>

**June 25, 2011:** Coquitlam, BC. 80th British Columbia Highland Games and Scottish Festival. Percy Perry Stadium (formerly Coquitlam Town Centre Stadium). Held on last Saturday every June. Phone: 604-263-9111. Website: <http://www.bchighlandgames.com/>

**June 25 - 26, 2011:** Hamilton, ON. 20th Annual International Military Tattoo 7:30 PM & 2:30 PM respectively at Copps Coliseum (905)523-1753. Website: <http://www.canadianmilitarytattoo.ca/>

**2011:** Nova Scotia. International Gathering of the Clans & Celts. See The Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia website: <http://www.scotsns.ca/> Note information about this event below.

**July 1, 2011:** Embro, ON (near Woodstock). Zorra Caledonia Highland Games. Community Centre. Website: [www.embrohighlandgames.ca](http://www.embrohighlandgames.ca)

**July 1 - 3, 2011:** Kincardine, ON. 10th annual Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games. Victoria Park. Toll Free: 888-232-7952. Website: <http://kincardinescottishfestival.ca/>

**July 1 - 8, 2011:** Halifax, NS. The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo. Halifax Metro Centre. Tickets: Phone 902-451-1221. Website: <http://www.nstatattoo.ca/>

**July 8 - 10, 2011:** Almonte, ON. 15th annual Almonte Celtfest. Website: <http://almonteceltfest.com/>

**July 9, 2011:** Haliburton Village, ON. 23rd Annual Haliburton Highland Games at Head Lake Park (705)457-3543. Website: <http://www.haliburtonhighlandgames.com/>

**July 16, 2011:** Cambridge, ON. 36th Annual Cambridge Highland Games at Churchill Park. Phone: 519-241-4906. Website: <http://www.cambridgehighlandgames.org/>

**July 22 - 24, 2011:** Fredericton, NB. 30th Annual New Brunswick Highland Games and Scottish Festival. Old Government House. Website: <http://www.highlandgames.ca/hg/news.html>

**July 23 - 24, 2011:** Uxbridge, ON. 17th Annual Highlands of Durham Games. Elgin Park in Uxbridge. (905)852-0112. Website: <http://www.highlandsofdurhamgames.com/>

**July 29 - 30, 2011:** Maxville, ON. Glengarry Highland Games. Agricultural Grounds. 1-888-298-1666. Website: <http://www.glengarryhighlandgames.com/>

**July 30 - 31, 2011:** Montréal, QC. 34th Montréal Highland Games. George Springate Sports Centre. Phone: 514-332-5242. Website: <http://www.montrealhighlandgames.qc.ca/>

**July 31 - August 6, 2011:** Winnipeg, MB. Pavilion of Scotland . . . Folklorama. New Location: Glenwood Community Centre. Website: <http://www.pavilionofscotland.ca/>

**August 12 - 14, 2011:** Fergus, ON. 66th Fergus Scottish Festival and Premier North American Highland Games. Fergus Community Centre. The Scottish Studies Foundation will sponsor the highly successful Clan Passport "Treasure Hunt" for the youngsters once again. Website; <http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com>



**Doug Ross (Webmaster), Patricia Ross, (Newsletter Editor), and son, Robert, at Scottish Studies Society's Tartan Day Celebration, Granite Club, Toronto, April 5, 2011**