



CLAN ROSS

Association of Canada,
Inc.
Founded 1960

David C. Ross of Ross, Chief

SUMMER ISSUE
AUGUST, 2011

An Cirean Ceann Cinnidh



Donnottar Castle, near Stonehaven

ART

In 1651, a small Garrison here held off Cromwell's army for 8 months and saved the Crown Jewels of Scotland.

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, SUMMER NEWSLETTER, 2011

I hope you are enjoying your summer!

I just returned from Scotland after spending 3 weeks there in July. I am so blessed that my wife's strong family connections to Scotland bring us back every other year to visit her aunts, uncles, and cousins. Sight-seeing highlights included Donnottar Castle, a treasure hunt that had us exploring Old City Edinburgh, and climbing Arthur's seat on a beautiful day to look down on the capital. A special highlight was when my family enjoyed a wonderful lunch with Chief David and Lady Eileen.



On average, the temperature in London, Ontario, was 13°C higher than what we had in Scotland! When London, Ontario, set a temperature record of 37°C on the 21st of July, I was walking in Edinburgh on a 15°C sunny day.

By the time you read this, our Clan will have been well represented at Folkarama in Winnipeg (thank you Manitoba Clan Ross!), the Maxville and Montreal Highland Games (thank you Barry family and Wendy!), and Fergus (my annual tradition, with Patricia and Doug Ross ... thank you!). A huge thank you to Tom & Joanne Carrothers of Burlington who offered to operate a tent at the Orillia Games this year. We so appreciate when members offer to assist in promoting the clan! If you ever think you can be of help at a local Scottish festival, please contact me!

As you will read, we have set the dates for our 2012 National Gathering in Winnipeg. Please put August 4-6, 2012, on your calendar! I have not been to Manitoba for work or pleasure since 2000 so I am excited to take in our Manitoba clan's famous hospitality and wonderfully organized events.

I am blessed that my involvement with the Clan and my marriage to Lizz, whose Scottish-born parents are active in Clan Hunter, have given me so many unique opportunities. A highlight of those experiences has been meeting the interesting, intelligent, and kind people that are Chief David and Lady Eileen of Ross and Balnagowan. They are truly reflective of the Clan spirit! A clan is not just a castle, a coat of arms, or a detailed and ancient family tree. It is the people and the kindness, generosity, and spirit of giving that they share with others that truly shows that you are part of "a clan".

Our Clan is made of so many unique connections to the name. Whether your last name is Ross and you were born in Scotland, like long time member Jack Ross, whether your last name is Ross and your family has been in Canada for over 100 years, like our VP Don Ross, whether you are like me and the Ross connection is one of several families and nationalities that makes me unique, or, whether you are married to a Ross, like past President Denis Fletcher and current Quebec Commissioner Debra Barry, being in a clan in this century is not just about a family connection and a last name. It is about making a family contribution. So I appreciate you, our members, for making your contribution to this organization we call the Clan Ross Association of Canada.

THE NAME "ROSS"

As the parent of a five year old who is voracious in her desire to learn, I have found myself learning new things about germs, dinosaurs, and outer space, as I read to her. Reading a children's encyclopedia to her set in motion this research project that became this article. What are the most common surnames in Canada and Scotland? How does the name "Ross" measure up to other common names?

The ten most common surnames in Canada, according to Canada 411, based on listings in the phone book, show the diversity of our great country. The top 10 surnames are: 1) Lee/Li [Asian origin, but can also be British] (apparently they count as the same, because they are pronounced the same); 2) Smith [British]; 3) Lam [southeast Asian]; 4) Martin [British and/or French]; 5) Brown [British]; 6) Roy [French]; 7) Tremblay [French]; 8) McGraw [Irish and Scottish]; 9) Gagnon [French]; and 10) Wilson [British].

The top 20 surnames in Scotland show many names shared with the English and French in their origins. These (with the percentage of the population with that name in brackets) are: 1) Smith (1.28%); 2) Brown (0.94%); 3) Wilson (0.89%); 4) Robertson (0.78%); 5) Thomson (0.78%); 6) Campbell (0.77%); 7) Stewart (0.73%); 8) Anderson (0.70%); 9) Scott (0.55%); 10) Murray (0.53%); 11) MacDonald (0.52%); 12) Reid (0.52%); 13) Taylor (0.49%); 14) Clark (0.47%); 15) Ross (0.43%); 16) Young (0.42%); 17) Mitchell (0.41%); 18) Watson (0.41%); 19) Paterson (0.40%); and 20) Morrison (0.40%).

Brown, for example, came from the French De Brun, while Taylor came from the French word "tailleur" which means "to cut", as a tailor was originally a cutter of cloth.

I was pleasantly surprised that the name Ross was number 15. I knew from my reading that 500 years ago it was the most common surname in the Highlands. When you see the 14 names ahead of it you note that several did not have any Highland links. Some Campbells and some Andersons lived in the Highlands 500 years ago. The Robertsons, Murrays, and MacDonalds, are Highlanders. Thus, in Scotland, among Highland clans with no lowland associations at all, Ross is still one of the top four surnames. I was surprised to learn that there are tartans and clan societies for Smith, Brown, and Taylor. Wilson is one of 78 surnames associated with Clan Gunn and Clan Innes! An obvious creation from "William's son", this surname is huge in the English speaking world. It is the 10th most common name in both Canada and the USA. The name Robertson is associated with Perthshire in the lower reaches of the Highlands while Thomson is a Border clan.

It's interesting to see that Anderson is ranked number 8 because it is considered a family associated with our clan. I met the Chief of Clan Anderson at the Worldwide Gathering in Scotland in 2009. He told me that he never understood why the surname Anderson is associated with Clan Ross as it has a chief, it has a tartan, and it has an Association in the UK. He asked me to tell those whose name was Anderson to join his organization in the UK, which I have since started doing when we meet at Highland festivals. I took this following quote on their family origin from their Clan website:

"Anderson means 'Son of Andrew'. Typically, the intent was to denote 'servant of Andrew', Andrew being the patron saint of Scotland. The Gaelic form of the name is Gillanders. The Andersons are a diverse group, with no specific place from which the name is derived. Most likely, the name cropped up all over the country over a period of time, with one group of Andersons not necessarily related to another group of Andersons."

At the Gathering in 2009, we learned that "MacDonald" is the most common Scottish clan surname worldwide and is thus the largest Clan. However, if you were to visit the northeast of Scotland around Tain, as I have, you would feel that Ross was the most common name out there!

Andrew Ross Thibodeau, President, Clan Ross Canada

Let Loose your Inner Viking!
Celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Selkirk Settlers!
2012 Annual General Meeting Weekend in Winnipeg
- by Ian Ross

The Manitoba Chapter of Clan Ross heartily invites you to mark your calendars NOW, to join us at the 2012 Annual General Meeting weekend, August 4-6 inclusive.

There is a Clan Ross-Canada business meeting every year, run by your National Executive... but in even years it is also accompanied by a whole weekend of interesting activities. Members across Canada (*we often get a few from Clan Ross – USA as well*) are encouraged to attend and make their summer vacation a "Clan Ross vacation". These AGM weekends shift from west coast locations to central Canada to east coast, and back again. The 2012 AGM weekend is slated for Winnipeg, and the committee is pulling out all the stops to make it a memorable one. Here's what we have in mind:

Saturday, August 4, 2012

Attendees arrive in Winnipeg during the course of the day.

Saturday evening ... registration and informal reception at the Norwood Hotel, on the edge of our historical "French Quarter", featuring:

- * cash bar and snack foods
- * meet & greet
- * semi-pro fiddle group playing lively Scottish and "old-time" music
- * drawing & quartering of a Wild Western Haggis

Sunday, August 5

Optional continental breakfast buffet at the Norwood hotel

Group transportation to McBeth House, an authentic late 19th century farm house built by descendants of Lord Selkirk's Highland settlers of the Red River Colony (which led to the creation of Manitoba) ... with stops along the way to view the almost-complete National Human Rights Museum and the recently erected Scottish Pioneer Monument, one of only 10 in the world.

11:00-12:30 AGM business meeting at McBeth House, conducted by the executive

12:30-2:30 Wild West BBQ on the grounds of McBeth House. Jeans recommended.

Group transportation back to the Norwood Hotel.

Dinner at local ethnic restaurant, followed by "Ghostwalk", "Death & Debauchery" or "Ancient Mysteries of the Legislative Buildings" tours exploring Winnipeg's colourful past.

Monday, August 6

One of six major ethnic groups which intermingled to form what are now the Scots was the Gallwegians (Vikings). To explore our Viking roots, we intend to spend a full day at the Islendigadagurinn (Icelandic Festival) in the town of Gimli, heart of the New Iceland settlement on the shores of Lake Winnipeg ... about 100 km north of Winnipeg, including:

7:30 continental breakfast at the Norwood Hotel

8:00 group transportation to Gimli

10:00 watch the big parade (Vikings, pipe bands and Shriners on motorcycles)

Noonish: informal fresh Lake Winnipeg pickerel fry ... followed by free time in the vendor's market and the unique old Torgeson's country general store

2:00 tour the authentic Viking village on the lakeshore, complete with re-enactors who literally camp there on a hilltop for the weekend festival

3:00 Viking attack and mass warfare re-enactment (raping and pillaging optional)

5:00 Group transportation to Petersfield (Metis community) area for Western dinner, museum and entertainment

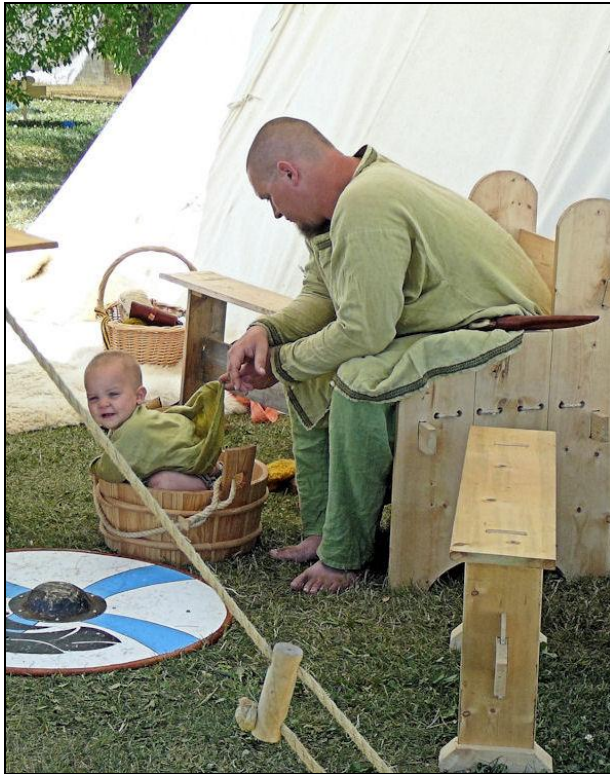
Back to the Norwood Hotel by 9 pm or so

Attendees should plan their departure from Winnipeg no earlier than Tuesday, August 7.

Mark your calendars now and start planning to attend. Detailed registration forms and finalized agendas will start to appear in the next Clan Ross newsletter. **See you there!**

ISLENDIGADAGURINN (ICELANDIC FESTIVAL)

Submitted by Ian Ross



2011 Islendigadagurinn weekend in Gimli, Manitoba



Viking re-enactment

SUMMER EVENTS

34TH ORILLIA SCOTTISH FESTIVAL - JULY 16, 2011

From: <http://www.greatclanross.org/2011Orillia.html>

Ed Swinton and Eldred Cook (former members of the Clan Ross Canada executive) were in Orillia to celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary and attend the festival. They were just setting up their chairs to watch the parade, when Ed saw the Clan Ross tent which had been put up by Tom and Jo-Ann Carrothers. Eldred remarked that it was a successful gathering.



Tom and Jo-Ann Carrothers in front of the Ross tent



Tom Carruthers, Eldred Cook, and Ed Swinton

GLENNGARRY AND MONTREAL HIGHLAND GAMES

A note from our Quebec Commissioner, Debra Barry

Please check our Facebook page for pictures of the Glengarry and Montreal Highland Games of 2011. We had 47 people who were Rosses or Ross-related sign our guestbook. We took a photo of every family and sent our visitors a copy. Many joined us in the Clan parades and were excited to be invited to do so. They are beginning to join our Facebook page. It would be nice if our administrators and commissioners posted their comments and events on our Facebook page which gets over 1000 views a week. If you don't have a Facebook page, please e-mail me your comments, ideas and events for posting. I can't tell you enough what a great tool this is for reaching possible members. Hope you are all having a great summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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/>

September 4, 2011: Canmore, AB. 21st Annual Canmore Highland Games. Centennial Park. (403)678-9454. Website: <http://www.canmorehighlandgames.ca/>

September 4, 2011: Toronto, ON. 20th Annual Scottish Cruise aboard the Sailing Ship "Empire Sandy". Times: 11:30 AM and 2:00 PM from pier 27 at the Spadina Pier, Harbourfront. Celebrate the voyage of the Ship Hector. Further information at the Scottish Studies Society. Website: <http://www.scottishstudies.com/940empiresandy.htm>

September 9 - 10, 2011: Trenton, ON. Scottish/Irish Festival. Information: 613-392-2841. Website: <http://trentonscottishirish.com/v2/>

September 10 & 11, 2011: Toronto, ON. The 8th Beach Celtic Festival at Kew Gardens. Phone Toll Free: 1-888-699-1549 Website: <http://thecelticfestival.com/>

September 10 - 17, 2011: Quebec, QC. 6th Quebec City Celtic Festival. Website: <http://festivalceltique.com/en/>

October 1, 2011: Truro, NS. 6th Annual Provincial Scottish Dinner & Dance with the support of the Scottish Society of Colchester and the St Andrew's Society of Pictou. Best Western Glengarry Convention Centre, 150 Willow Street. Tickets \$25. **Children under 10, \$10.** RSVP no later than September 30th. Website of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia: <http://www.scotsns.ca/>

October 7 -15, 2011: Sydney, NS. 14th Celtic Colours International Festival in various communities throughout Cape Breton. Phone: 1-877-285-2321. Website: <http://www.celtic-colours.com/>

November 26, 2011: Toronto, ON. St. Andrew's Ball, co-sponsored by the 48th Highlanders and the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto. Held at the Moss Park Armoury. Tickets: \$125. Reception begins at 6:00 PM. 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.

NEW CLAN ROSS CLOTHING FOR SALE

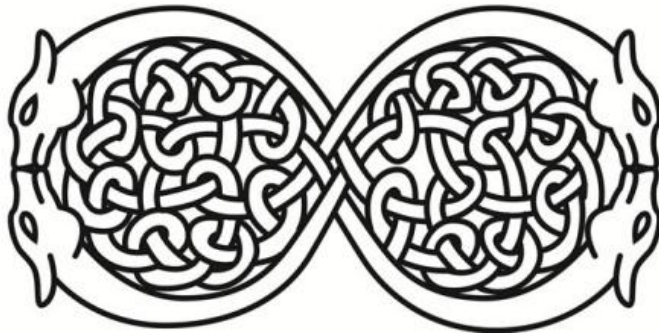
We have created two new Clan Ross designs for clothing. Please go to the clothing website at: www.andyspresentations.com/klan_ross/klan_gear.htm

or, email me directly at andyspeaks@rogers.com for an order form. I will do one large order prior to Christmas, and it will be in early October. So, if you want a unique gift for yourself or your clan, please get your order to me by late September.

CLAN ROSS CANADA, CLOTHING LOGO OPTIONS

OPTION 1: Shandwick Stone Celtic Knot Dragon

CLAN ROSS



Located in Easter Ross Scotland, the Shandwick Stone is a stunning work of Pictish art that has stood for over 1200 years. This design honours our clan's Celtic & Pict heritage and is taken directly from one of the many images on this 9 foot high standing stone. Our current Chief of Clan Ross is from the Shandwick branch of his ancient Clan Chief family.

This logo is only available in a small embroidered version for sweatshirts and collared shirts.

OPTION 2: Rampant Lion

CLAN ROSS



For over 600 years, the coat of arms of the Chiefs of Clan Ross has been 3 rampant lions. This logo honours our Clan Ross link to this symbol of Scotland. A maple leaf has been added to show our pride in our Canadian Association and to make it different from other rampant lion designs.

This logo is available in a small embroidered version for hats, sweats & collared shirts. It is also available as a large screen print on t-shirts and sweat shirts. For t-shirts, it is also available in large with the logo on the lower left.

SAMPLE GARMENTS



See www.andyspresentations.com/clan_ross/clan_gear.htm for more details.

CEUD MILE FAILTE

A hundred thousand welcomes to our new members

Lorraine Blackwood, Burlington, Ontario
David & Betty Ross, St. Bruno, Quebec
Keith Wooten, Thunder Bay, Ontario
William & Beverley Ross, Guelph, Ontario
Marjorie Skea, Courtice, Ontario

CLAN ROSS MEMBERSHIP FEES

If you have not paid for 2010, this will be your last newsletter. We so appreciate your membership! To keep your membership active, please send your cheque for \$30 to the office of Andrew Ross Thibodeau. If you have not paid for 2011, please send your \$15 cheque as soon as possible. Thank you!