



CLAN ROSS

Association of Canada,
Inc.
Founded 1960

David C. Ross of Ross, Chief

WINTER ISSUE
FEBRUARY, 2012

An Cirean Ceann Cinnidh



PDR

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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STANDARD OF CHIEF DAVID CAMPBELL ROSS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, WINTER NEWSLETTER, 2012

Here at the Clan Ross "home" office, it is a busy time as our mail box fills with renewals of membership. Thank you for your continued membership in our Clan.

Thank You to YOU

A few special thank you notes, out to those who reached out to me via their membership renewals. To Nick Murdock & Judy Ross, thank you for the donation of Stamps, \$50 to the National Project, and the kind note. Thank you for the donation of \$25 to the National Project from Doug & Patricia Ross. I appreciated the nice card from Joanne Ross-Zuj, mayor of Centre Wellington (Fergus, Ontario), who proudly wears her dress Ross tartan while on the stage in her town at Canada's largest Scottish Festival. To Kay Ross Love of Nova Scotia, I so appreciated the two nice blank note cards, decorated with the Ross tartan on the front. Thank you to Betty Flock, for special ordering Ross Lion patches, that she is sewing on hats. These are available at \$5 each, if you too want a 3 inch by 3 inch embroidered patch of the Rampant Lion with maple leaf Clan Ross logo.

2012 Gathering

In this issue you will find the registration form for the 2012 National Gathering. I am so impressed by the program organized by our Manitoba Clan and I look forward to taking my mother to this great weekend. The Norwood Hotel, I hear, is in a beautiful and central location. Winnipeg is enjoying a real rush of exciting developments: a new airport just opened a few weeks ago, the football team will have its new stadium next summer, the Jets hockey team is enjoying sell-out crowds, and of course, the National Human Rights Museum, is opening, probably in 2013. I hope to see many familiar faces and meet some new people this summer! Please get your registration in as soon as you can!

Executive Position Openings and Newsletter Editor

With the AGM this summer, I do want to encourage some of you to seriously consider increasing your participation in the clan. Executive positions as 2nd VP and possibly Membership Chair/Treasurer are available. Participation is a minimal time commitment but a fun and interesting way to make a contribution to our unique organization. In addition, the very important role of Newsletter Editor is coming available this summer. Patricia Ross has done a superb job for us for six years and I so appreciate her time and creativity. If you have a creative spirit and enjoy layout work on the computer, please reach out to me in the coming weeks as we prepare for the summer.

Sad News: the Passing of Patrick & Gillian Blair.



At the Buxton Historical Site, 2006: Janet, Gillian, and Patrick, with Shannon Prince and Spencer Alexander, who volunteer at this Underground Railroad site and are the descendants of escaped slaves. They were thrilled to meet the great great daughters of a man that they called one of Canada's greatest human beings.

In 2006 almost 50 Clan Ross members had the privilege of spending a weekend with sisters Janet M. Jones and Gillian Blair and Gillian's husband, Patrick. Janet and Gillian were the great great granddaughters of Dr. A.M. Ross, Canada's greatest abolitionist and the focus of our 2006 National Gathering. It is with great sadness that Janet shared with us the passing of her sister and brother-in-law within 3 months of each other. When I got the phone call, I recalled a line from one of my favourite songs by the group Rush, "when I heard you were gone, I felt a shadow cross my heart". I have such fond memories of hosting these three special people as our guests of honour as we began the process of erecting a plaque in their ancestor's honour. I am so happy that we made the effort to reach out to invite them to come all of the way from England. In life, it is so easy to not make an extra effort, not to ask the question, and to doubt yourself with statements like "they won't be interested". But, that wasn't me or our 2006 AGM team and executive. We thought big, and made the

effort to invite them, and we considered ourselves so blessed that these three made such a tremendous effort to visit Canada. A special highlight was Gillian standing in the church at Uncle Tom's Cabin historical site in Dresden reading a poem written to her great great grandfather about his work as an abolitionist. If Dr. Ross could only have seen where his legacy and efforts would take his descendants!

That weekend, we made the three of them Honorary Clan members and they have received our newsletters for years. So, to Janet and your family, Clan Ross Canada shares in the sadness of loss. We also rejoice in the memories of our brief time with you all.



Gillian Blair reads a poem to Dr. A.M. Ross, in the church at Uncle Tom's cabin, Dresden



**CLAN ROSS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
19TH Annual General Meeting since Incorporation
MINUTES**

15 September 2011
Teleconference

IN ATTENDANCE

Andrew Ross Thibodeau
Donald Fraser Ross
Denis Fletcher

National President; A/Treasurer & A/Membership Coordinator
1st Vice President: and A/Secretary
Past National President & 2012 AGM Committee Member

CALL TO ORDER

President Andrew Ross Thibodeau called the meeting to order and offered welcoming remarks. Meeting commenced at 8:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda circulated in advance of the meeting was presented.

MOTION: Denis Fletcher/ Andy Ross Thibodeau moved that the agenda as distributed be approved.

CARRIED

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

1st Vice-President Donald Fraser Ross reviewed the minutes of the 2010 AGM held in Niagara Falls.

MOTION: Denis Fletcher/ Andy Ross Thibodeau moved to adopt the minutes from the 2010 AGM.

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT & AUDITOR'S REPORT

Clan President Andy Thibodeau presented the Financial report for 2010/2011, copy of which is available. The association is in the good by nearly \$2300.00 due in part to the memberships received, expenses less than forecast for last year's AGM, and some positive clothing sales. Denis mentioned that there had been previous discussion re the practice of paying the CASSOC membership out of the national Clan Ross coffers when the benefits from that payment are mainly enjoyed by the Ontario members. It was agreed that this topic should again be revisited and added to the agenda for the 2012 AGM.

MOTION: Andy Ross Thibodeau /Denis Fletcher moved that the Financial report be accepted.

CARRIED

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Chair Andy Thibodeau then presented the membership report for 2010/2011, copy of which is available. Promotional efforts have increased over the last year due in part to the new Clan Ross Facebook site being administered by Quebec Commissioner Debra Barry, the new You Tube videos added to the internet by Clan President Andrew Ross Thibodeau, the blog efforts on the Electric Scotland website (mainly by Doug Ross), and the continued high quality Clan Ross of Canada Newsletters as well as Great Clan Ross Website by Patricia and Doug Ross. Furthermore, the Clan Passports for children, sponsored by the Scottish Studies Foundation for introduction at the Fergus Festival by Doug Ross, were supported by many clans including our own. Despite these initiatives, Andy advised overall membership levels are basically 'status quo' as the new additions received this year were offset from others who did not reoffer to continue their memberships.

MOTION: Donald Fraser Ross /Denis Fletcher moved that the Membership report be accepted.

CARRIED

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Maritimes

No report. Andrew mentioned he had been talking with Chris Rayworth.

Quebec

Debra Louise Barry had another busy year. Debra attended the AGM in Niagara Falls in July 2010, and she and husband Bill supported 'in person' several of our Ontario and Quebec Scottish festivals (for example Fergus, Glengarry, and Montreal). On August 17, 2010 she set up our Clan Ross Association of Canada page on Facebook. There have been 5,225 post views so far and 77 permanent fans. (The page has about 60 Canadian daily users, 8 Americans and 8 from Europe and even South America). Debra and Bill have also sponsored a Clan Ross flag which is to be shared nationally. This report was printed in the Fall, 2011, newsletter.

Ontario

There was no written report. However, Debra had been in close contact with Wendy throughout the year. Debra mentioned that Wendy Ross ran a tent at Embro Games with her brother July 1 weekend. Wendy said that the tent was very busy and they got about 3 full pages of guests signed up. Wendy thinks her brother has the list.

Manitoba

Christine reports that Clan Ross Manitoba again remains very active. Events this year included Selkirk Settlers Commemorative Parade, Tartan Day, Christmas party at McBeth House, Robbie Burns supper, Winterfest in Brandon, Folklorama in Winnipeg (week long event), and the annual night at the races at Assiniboine Downs. They are busy planning a fun filled AGM for Clan Ross Canada in Winnipeg in summer 2012. Her detailed report is available.

British Columbia

Dorothy mentioned that it was a relatively quiet year and that she had nothing to report at this time.

Webmaster

As we have become accustomed, Great Clan Ross webmaster J. Douglas Ross has provided another good annual report detailing his activities for 2010/2011. Doug's report has a lot of information which the minutes need not repeat here. However a couple of items merit attention. Doug encourages our membership to share interesting articles, photos, jokes, stories etc. with our other Clan Ross members, and friends around the globe. Please send items to "jdr@greatclanross.org". Current and Future Events are collected at <http://www.GreatClanRoss.org/cra~can5a2.html>. Clan Ross Commissioners are reminded to make full use of this section to advertise events in their regions. He asked members to please include a photo, whenever possible, with Flowers of the Forest announcements. He also suggested the Association encourage provincial chapters to establish local websites to promote local events, publish pictures, and report on their meetings.

Newsletter

In 2010, Newsletter Editor Patricia Ross and Andrew Ross Thibodeau moved to a completely Excel based database after experimenting with Access for a few issues. Andrew keeps it updated and emails the Executive the database quarterly to ensure that duplicate copies exist. Patricia arranges the 'mailing' of the newsletters, and Andrew arranges the 'emailing' of the newsletters. Patricia forwards a copy of all newsletters to Electric Scotland for archiving, and Doug provides a link to our Newsletters from the member's only section of our website. Andrew advised that new members get a special welcome email, including a sample newsletter and highlighting our member's only website. New members are given the option between receiving email or postal delivery. Almost one third of members get the newsletter via email. Andrew reminded us that Patricia gave us two years notice so we would have sufficient time to find a new Newsletter Editor. We will therefore need a replacement for Patricia in 2012.

HONORARY MEMBERS

A brief discussion was conducted about Honorary Members. It was agreed that the Association does not have agenda items at every meeting for this specific topic. It is a rather rare event to bestow such status to anyone. In future, this topic will be added only to those meetings when the membership wishes to discuss it.

NEW BUSINESS

2012 AGM

Denis then provided an update on some of the activities of the 2012 Clan Ross AGM planning committee. It will be held August 4-6, 2012 and promises to be a fun weekend. A little change this year is that the weekend will commence on the Sat evening (rather than the more typical Friday). Subsequent to our meeting, we were provided some additional information about tentative plans as of this date.

Saturday evening things commence with a 'meet and greet' at the Norwood Hotel at the edge of Winnipeg's French Quarter, followed by a full day of activity on Sunday with 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. Sunday evening, there will be a special tour of the Manitoba legislature and a group dinner at a local ethnic restaurant. Monday will be another fun-filled day. There will be a group tour at the Islendigadagurinn (Icelandic Festival) in the town of Gimli ... about 100 km north of Winnipeg. Lots of social events to enjoy that day with multiple stops, returning back to Winnipeg by around 9 pm. Please see the promotional page attached to these minutes for more exciting details.

ELECTIONS and APPOINTMENTS

Andrew Ross Thibodeau and Donald Fraser Ross stated that they would be happy to serve in their current positions for the upcoming year. There is an urgent need for more members to come forward and become more actively involved in the Executive. There are a number of positions currently available, ranging from 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, and Newsletter Editor. Besides the fun of being more involved with Clan Ross activities, new Executive members can help shape the direction the Association goes in the future. Please contact Andy or Donald or any of the Executive if you'd like more information about what's involved. This topic will be on the agenda at the 2012 AGM in Winnipeg.

OTHER MATTERS

Andrew advised that clothing orders for Clan Ross apparel this year were quite popular. The new crest designs were well received. Andy will have another order later in the year. Anyone wishing to order Clan Ross clothing can get more information by contacting Andy by e-mail at andyspeaks@rogers.com.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by President Andrew Ross Thibodeau at approximately 10:00 pm, EST.



GOOD FOOD AND FUN FOR ALL 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEEKEND IN WINNIPEG

- By Ian Ross

This is the Manitoba Chapter's **third** article warmly inviting you to the 2012 Annual General Meeting weekend in Winnipeg, 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 accompanied by a whole weekend of interesting activities.)* Our committee is working to make it memorable. Members across Canada *(and we often get a few from Clan Ross – USA)* are encouraged to attend and make their summer vacation a "Clan Ross vacation".

Our first two articles outlined how we would introduce you to your "Inner Viking" at Gimli's Icelandic Festival ... and to the "mysteries of the ancients" on a private Hermetic Code Tour of the Manitoba Legislative Building. But food, drink and fun are important too, so we also have:

* Sunday evening dinner at Gasthaus Gutenburger ... Winnipeg's authentic German restaurant ... with 4 out of 5 stars in TripAdvisor. Chef Kurt will lay out family-style platters of a variety of schnitzels, sauerkraut, red cabbage, spatzle noodles and breads, with choice of soup or salad. Len the accordionist will be on hand. Of course they have German wine and draft beer!



Gasthaus Chef Kurt Wagner and Len the accordionist



Gasthaus schnitzel platter ... yum !!



Interior of Gasthaus Gutenberg German restaurant

* Monday noon will feature a fresh Lake Winnipeg pickerel fish-fry with all the trimmings at Jane & Walter's family-style restaurant in Sandy Hook, a summer beach resort.



Beautiful flowers adorn Jane & Walter's Restaurant at Sandy Hook

* Monday evening we will enjoy a Western BBQ Beef dinner ... complete with salad, rolls, potatoes, Laurie Hunt's special seasoned cream corn, cake and coffee ... at Hunt's Country Roadhouse (*BadAss Jack's*) and Museum in Petersfield, a local Metis community. The roadhouse is chock full of fascinating antiques and country collectibles. Then Alex Lamoureux (*B.C. provincial champion fiddler in 2008 and 2009*) and friend will raise the roof with some real old-style western, Metis and barn dance tunes. We will run our own cash bar, at cost.

Here's how the total weekend program looks so far:

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:

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

Sunday, August 5

On your own for breakfast at the Norwood Hotel's breakfast buffet

9:30 Group transportation to McBeth House, an authentic late 19th century farm house built by direct descendants of Lord Selkirk's Highland settlers of the Red River Colony (*which became the Province of Manitoba*). There will be stops along the way to view the almost-complete National Human Rights Museum exterior 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. How do hamburgers, hotdogs, BBQ beans and all the fixings sound? We'll run our own cash bar, at cost. Jeans recommended.

Group transport back to the Norwood Hotel for a brief rest/change of clothes, then:

5:00 Group transportation to the Manitoba Legislature for:

5:30 - 7:00 our private Hermetic Code Tour (*as described above*), followed by:

7:30-9:00 dinner at Gasthaus Gutenberger, followed by return to the Norwood Hotel.

Monday, August 6

To explore our Viking roots, we will spend a day at the Islendigadagurinn (*Icelandic Festival*) in the town of Gimli ... about 100 km north of Winnipeg, including:

On your own for breakfast at the Norwood Hotel

8:00 group transportation to Gimli

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

12:00 group transportation to Sandy Hook for lunch at Jane & Walter's Restaurant in Sandy Hook ... then, 1:30, back to Gimli for:

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

3:00 Viking attack and mass warfare re-enactment, followed by free time in the vendor's market and the unique old Torgeson's country general store

5:30 Group transportation to Petersfield (*Metis community*) for 6-8:00 group dinner, collectibles museum and old-time western fiddling entertainment ... all at Hunt's Roadhouse

Back to the Norwood Hotel by 9 pm or so

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

Send in your Registration Form (*elsewhere in this newsletter*) and cheque for the prepaid events/meals today. **See you there!**



CEUD MILE FAILTE

A hundred thousand welcomes to our new members

Donna Robinson (nee Dingwall), Winnipeg, Manitoba
Jim Osborne, Winnipeg, Manitoba

FLOWERS OF THE FIELD

Al Casey, Bedford, NS
Patrick & Gillian Blair, England



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

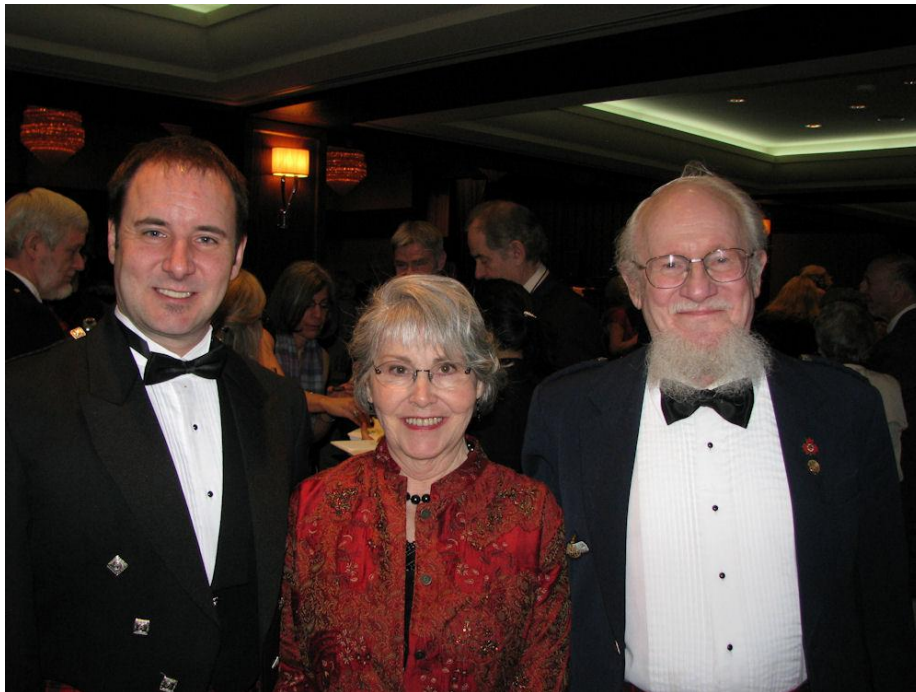
April 6: Canada celebrates TARTAN DAY on the anniversary of the *Declaration of Arbroath*, April 6th, 1320) to honour the contributions of its Scottish descendants. See <http://www.greatclanross.org/htext8~Q3.html> for facts about the origins of Tartan Day.

May 19 - 20, 2012: Victoria, BC. 149th Annual Victoria Highland Games, Topaz Park in Esquimalt (250)598-1531 evenings and (250)598-8961 daytime.
Website: <http://www.victoriahighlandgames.com/>

May 19, 2012: Courtenay, BC. 17th Annual Comox Valley Highland Games at Lewis Park. Info: (250)338-0363. Website: <http://www.cvhg.org/>

May 26 - 29, 2012: Perth-Andover, NB. Gathering of the Scots Festival at Baird's Memorial Campground. (506)273-6710. Website: <http://www.gatheringofthescots.com/>

BURNS SUPPER, GRANITE CLUB, TORONTO January 21, 2012



Rob Ross, Patricia Ross (Newsletter Editor), and Doug Ross (Clan Ross Canada Webmaster)