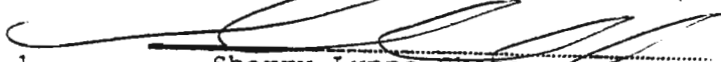


WILLIAM THOMAS ROSS

SWORN BEFORE ME THIS 20th DAY  
OF JUNE 1994

  
1 Sherry Lynne Skater  
Commissioner, etc

(519) 759-4002

I, Sherry Lynne Skater, of Brantford, Ont. am the common-law spouse of John Ross, brother of Bill Ross. I am acquainted with his wife, Catherine Lois Eleanor Ross. This statement was prepared by Bill Ross based on interviews with me. I worked together on this statement with Bill until I felt my views were accurately reflected.

Catherine and Bill visited and stayed with John and I for weekends twice a year on average, beginning in 1989, when John and I started to live together. In addition, we spent five days with them at a cottage in the summer of 1991 and eight days at their home during Christmas 1992.

Catherine and I hit it off right away when we met and we did some serious confiding. Catherine was always feeling good from drinking whenever we had any of our discussions. She does not talk when she is sober (in the morning). We had our outside view of the Ross family dynamics in common. I am also a good listener and do not usually criticise. I like Catherine as a person although I normally don't like people who drink to excess. I also do not like her laziness and always punting responsibility for the children to Bill (should be shared). She is also a real bitch towards Bill.

I used to think that Bill and Catherine had an average relationship. This illusion was blown away when we stayed with them at the cottage in 1991. I couldn't believe my eyes, Catherine was extremely pushy, bossy and abusive with Bill. It was Bill do this, Bill do that. She sat around the whole time and did nothing but drink rum and cokes. Bill had no vacation, he was too busy with the kids and doing Catherine's bidding. He took her demands like he was used to it.

In conversations about our men, Catherine has never given me the impression that she loved Bill. She talked about Bill as a possession providing money and security.

Catherine is a terrible mother, she does not let the kids be kids. She imposes adult constraints on them such as she wouldn't let them play in the dirt at the cottage (you're ladies). At her home, she is fanatical in cleaning up the children's disarray as if to hide all evidence that the children exist. She does not play or interact with the children as people. Whenever they want attention she always finds something to distract them away from her or sends them to Bill. I have seen no rules or expectations for the children (on Catherine's part) except those that keep the kids away from her. I have never seen Catherine give the children personal attention. The only thing she does is scold them if they are in her space. When we visited during Christmas 1992, John's son Philip refused to come, saying he could not stand to be near Catherine. He ended up staying with his grandmother. Before the cottage (I don't remember

which visit), Catherine confided in me that she was unable to cope with motherhood, which is why she drank so much alcohol. She said the children really get on her nerves. She said that she blames Bill for having children and it was up to him to make up for it.

Catherine has a major alcohol problem. Since the day I met her, she always had a drink in her hand. During the day, she starts drinking right after lunch. She always goes to bed before 10 PM, usually intoxicated, sometimes very intoxicated. At thanksgiving 1993 she confided to me that she had bottles stashed all around the house that Bill didn't know about. She said she was drinking two to three 1.75 litre bottles of rum a week. At Christmas 1992 Catherine bought a 1.75 litre bottle of rum and admitted it was her third of the week. She was the only one drinking rum in all of my encounters with her and alcohol. On thanksgiving weekend (1993), I saw Catherine get up both mornings, fill her cup at least half full of rum, top it up with coffee and take it back up to her room. She continued to drink all day, both days. One day that weekend, we had a social engagement to go to and I got extremely upset with Catherine because she was incapable of preparing in time for the 2 PM engagement. We were late because of her incapacitated state.

The same weekend, Catherine told me about some friends of theirs who had separated. She indicated the situation was similar to her and Bill in that the man had a good job and she was a secretary. She harped on and on about a thousand dollars per month for one child in support payments. She said it was fantastic and a good deal. I said I didn't think it's fair to impoverish the man. She replied "it's the man's job in life to pay". This has always seemed to be her attitude towards Bill.

*Sherry Lynne Skater*

MAY 30 - 94