



# THE ROSS-TER Since 1951

## END OF YEAR REPORT

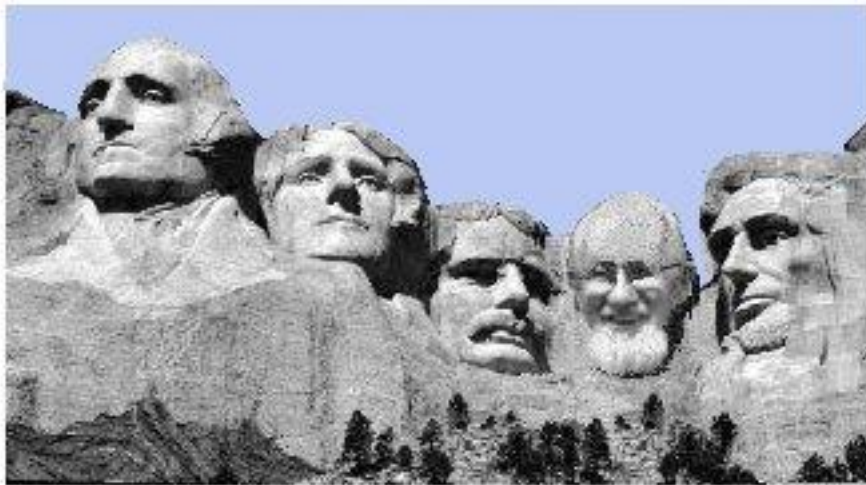
ROSS-TER REPORT #38

NOVEMBER 30, 2020

### Happy St. Andrew's Day, Everybody:

This has been a year for pandemics and politics. Hopefully everyone has kept their distance, worn face masks and washed their hands frequently. Gatherings and meetings have been curtailed. Food costs have risen. Travel has been restricted to those things which are most essential. We choose to view our glass as being half full in the belief that we'll find our way out of this nightmare, discover new treatments and develop a vaccine.

I may be a couple of years older than the carvings on Mount Rushmore, but I recall that I modified it slightly in 2004 during a period when experimentation with altering photographs provided some leisurely fun. On a whim, I decided that I would insert myself into the group of US presidents selected by Gutzon Borglum to represent the birth, growth, development and preservation of America. [On July 3, 2020, one of Trump's staffers "tweeted" a photo with the "commander-in-chief's" image added at the left of this landmark prior to his visit to South Dakota. I ask, "What would Trump represent?"]



### Mount Rushmore

George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt,  
Douglas Ross and Abraham Lincoln.



## Changes To The Rosster

Our system of identifying members of the branches descending from Alexander Ross and Margaret Noble with alternating letters and numerals began twenty years before the Canadian Postal Code was introduced in Ottawa. The method has served for over one-half million hours.

I believe that the time has come for concentrating on the first two or three generations in each branch in the family tree. Perhaps DNA results will allow us to speculate about distant relationships where records are scarce. Three hundred and five entries have brought the total to 44,791 persons in the My Heritage family tree. There are 7934 media items (mainly photos) and there are currently 70 members. The Data Subscription Plan has been an added expense with little current use; subsequently it was terminated on September 30. The Family Tree basic plan will continue to be supported each March.

While we are discussing the My Heritage website, there is another entry labelled "Ross Web Site" which is managed by an Alexander James (Sandy) Ross to whom I am NOT related. In his "tree", my dad's parents are listed as Alexander (Alick) Ross 1875-1909, and Christina Ross (born Lawson Simmers), and his siblings are supposedly Charles Ross, Annie Ross, Jack Ross and Christine Ross. Sandy managed to fit my sister and me into his tree. Sandy also lifted my photos for Wilfred Lee Badgley 1900-1939, Joseph Jabez Flavelle 1898-1968 & Eva Joyce Badgley 1902-? and Edward Badgley 1871-1934 & Eva Joyce 1872-1964.



His copied photos use my format without my permission. In addition, I do NOT recognize anyone in following the photo which Sandy has associated with my father, John Caven Alexander Ross. This site is truly fake!



The Ross family taken in Leicester in 1939, Alex and Ruth with children, Donald, Sandy, Gertrude and Ruth.

IMG\_8958 ([View this photo record](#))

## Overview for Our Family



Here is a wee catch-up event for Jenn on November 17 last year. She earned the West Vancouver Yacht Club Fleet Captain Award.

Skipping ahead to February 22 of this year, Patricia and Robert were

able to complete the Polar Bear Run before the Pandemic struck.

Having served as a Director of both the Scottish Studies Foundation and the Scottish Studies Society since 2005, Doug decided that he had spent sufficient time as a Director, and would retire in the year of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Treasurer David H. Thompson persuaded Doug to remain active until his actual birthday in the month of May.

Congratulations to John McMillan on his membership as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland today. Doug was one who supported John's application, and he confirmed his support by communicating with the Fellowship and Development Manager of the Society.



The coronavirus-19 pandemic took everyone by surprise around March, and many of the best-laid plans had to be changed. As the representative to CASSOC (Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada), Doug continues to act as liaison for important email messages to be forwarded to other directors and representatives of SSF.

There will be a more complete account about our family activities later in the newsletter.





# The Way It Is: The Sporrán

Excerpts by J. Douglas Ross from several sources

**Definition:** *Sporran* is the Gaelic word for a purse or pouch.



**Material:** The earliest pouch was made of deerskin or calfskin and was tied at the opening with a drawstring.

The Victorian-style sporran was introduced upon the arrival of the "little kilt". It was a practical solution for not having trouser pockets, and generally it was supported by a leather belt and chain combination. This flat version often has three tassels attached to the front.

Most modern sporran chains are threaded (together with the belt) through a pair of loops at the back of the kilt.



Early (Rob Roy)



Victorian



Regimental

**Contents:** The baggy Rob Roy style was particularly ideal for carrying a small flask of Scotch whisky. In his 1812 novel *Rob Roy*, Sir Walter Scott has Rob Roy MacGregor declare, "I advise no man to attempt opening this sporran till he has my secret." He had observed an 18th century example on display at the National Museum of Scotland, which featured a clasp of brass and steel concealing four pistols inside.

Like any pocket, the contents could vary according to the occasion ~~~ money, musket balls, medicine, fire-making paraphernalia and even the ingredients for whipping up a hasty meal on a hike.

## The 5k Oasis Zoo Run

The Oasis Zoo Run 5k on September 11 was changed to a virtual race. Rob and his mother did the race at the Toronto Botanical Garden. A GPS app on their phones recorded their distance, the route and time. Upon the completion of the 5k distance, they uploaded screen shots of their results to the official results page. The race raised over \$41,000 for the new outdoor habitat for the Zoo's orangutan troop.



**Patricia's Official Results (above) and Medal (Right)**  
[Since the app was installed on her phone, she has walked 312 km with a total elevation gain of 2812m. Time equals 60 hours.]





## Congratulations to Jenn in 2020

Jenn entered the Scotiabank Virtual Half-Marathon and 10 K this year, coming in 175th place (4th in her age group) in the half-marathon out of 1252 and 51st place (2nd in her age group) in the 10K out of 446.

She is still a certified sailing official. However most events she was to be at this year were cancelled due to the pandemic. She was elected as vice-president of BC Sailing and remains on the management committees of B/C Sailing and Sail Canada. She left the executive of the Vancouver Rowing Club Yachting Section in October and the Vancouver Racing Council in November. In October she became a 1/3 partner in a 31 foot racer/cruiser that she is looking forward to spending more time racing and sailing around BC.

In addition, Jenn is starting her second year working for one of Vancouver's largest film, television and production supply companies.



## Rob's Update



Rob has continued working at one of Canada's largest travel companies; however, since nobody is travelling, he is on a temporary furlough. In his spare time, Rob is continuing to try new food recipes, such as pumpernickel bread, yakisoba noodles and even dill pickle soup. He is also getting better at making homemade wine. Currently on the go is a batch of mixed strawberry, blueberry and blackberry wine. Both will be ready to drink sometime in the new year.

## Patricia's Progress



All of the lectures, Quilt Canada, the local quilt guild and professional meetings, which Patricia has attended in previous years, moved to a virtual format on Zoom in April. She represented the University of Toronto Chapter at the Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, in November. She is looking forward to next year and, like all of you, hopes to be able to travel, visit family and friends, and resume a somewhat normal life.

## Doug's Doings



Doug's doctor wants a more thorough lab test next March. His optometrist states that there is little change since his previous exam. Full speed ahead, eh? The pandemic has coincided with more home-oriented activities, such as collecting the lyrics of his favourite calypso songs (mostly by Harry Belafonte). He particularly enjoyed revisiting those calypsos captured in the **Beetlejuice** movie. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQXVHITd1N4> .

# NO JOKE [TRUMPISM and the COVID-19 PANDEMIC]



Here is a fancy, handy Christmas Countdown if you truly need one: <http://www.yourchristmascountdown.com>. Don't forget NOAD's traditional Santa Claus tracker for the kids on Christmas eve at <http://noradsanta.org/>. There is also a fine assortment of games, puzzles and stories for kids of all ages at <http://www.electricscotland.com/kids/index.htm> thanks to our friend Alastair MacIntyre.

Best Wishes to Everyone!  
And stay safe!!  
Doug and Patricia Ross