

Happy St. Andrew's Day, Everybody:

We wish all of you the very best during the holiday season and the new year. Thanks again for your continued support and interest in the Ross-ter and our ancestral history. This has been a very busy year, and our attendance at the annual family reunion had to be discontinued.

Please share this email with our friends and relatives, and don't forget to advise us about any changes in email addresses. Additional email addresses are always welcome. Please DO THIS NOW.

Changes To The Ross-ter

An important event from last September was omitted in my report for 2016. The well-organized Scottish Diaspora Tour conducted by Jenny Bruce finally arrived in Canada on its trip around the world. A full description of the event is at <https://www.ross-ter.com/Favourites/People/ScotDiaspora.html>. Doug and Patricia enjoyed the opportunity of viewing the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry on September 24 and 25 during its exclusive Toronto exhibition at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Scarborough as part of the World Tour.

When Doug was considered for the position of Director to the Scottish Studies Foundation and the Scottish Studies Society, the very first event attended by Doug and Patricia was a presentation by David McConnell Hunter at the Oor Club on January 9, 2009. David, aside from occupying the position of President elect over the years, is an accomplished photographer. His presentation, entitled The Highlands of Scotland, is well worth watching at <https://www.ross-ter.com/Tales/OorClub.html>. The current location of these noon hour meetings is the second floor of the Duke of York pub on Prince Arthur Avenue in Toronto, but you are advised to visit our "LINKS" section for future topics and sites.

Notes, photographs and recollections about Fred Varley, member of the famous Group of Seven Canadian Painters, were quite difficult to locate on the website until recently. A tale about a visit to The Varley Art Gallery received a more prominent place at <https://www.ross-ter.com/Tales/FredVarley.html> in June. In 1954 I met Fred at the old King Cole Room pub, which was located in the basement of the Park Plaza Hotel while I was in residence at Middle House, Victoria College. Fred had been a WWI artist and is known for painting portraits, unlike the others in the group of artists.

Colonel Frederick Cody, alias Buffalo Bill, may have died one hundred years ago, but he lives on with the assistance of The Ross-ter at <https://www.ross-ter.com/Favourites/People/BuffaloBill.html> as well as within the Our Heritage Ross Family Tree.

A past Director and friend, Douglas Gibson, wrote ***Across Canada by Story*** as a sequel to his ***Stories About Storytellers***. “The Other Doug” was inspired to compose a pictorial adventure of Across Canada, which will hopefully be enjoyed by those who visit <https://www.ross-ter.com/Favourites/People/AcrossCanada.html>. At the Tartan Day event on April 20, Doug Gibson received a printed copy of the next item.

I was saddened by the death of my dear cousin, Helen Wiles, nee Badgley, but I was even more saddened by the sickly photograph and bland text added to her Memorial Card. It was shocking. The experience gave me the determination to compose my own obituary card, which I have included at the very end of my mini-biography at <https://www.ross-ter.com/Favourites/Family/BriefAutobiography.html>. I trust that my efforts evoke a smile or two.

Upon the addition of a new storm door, the latest improvement to our home, I decided to give a plug to the amazing work that has been accomplished by Anatoli and Nina Anisimov. A few “Before” and “After” shots were included in the video at <https://www.ross-ter.com/Tales/Doors.html>.

I have known my friend, Bill Reid, since our days in the classes of Harold Pascoe and Amelia Lear in Westmount Public School, East Whitby (now part of Oshawa). While my path was to become a “generalist”, my friend was already honing his skills towards becoming a professional artist. Over the years, a multitude of photos, cartoons, comic strips and illustrations have been shared. Now seemed to be the appropriate time to recognize his talent (beyond the Scottish Humour already included in The Ross-ter). You are invited to visit <https://www.ross-ter.com/Tales/BillReid.html>.

Our Ross Family Tree is growing on the My Heritage website. If you belong to that tree, you may simply send us an email to become a member. The website has been visited by many individuals, but only members may add details or pictures. The site is <https://www.myheritage.com/site-family-tree-207596231/ross>. There is a more complete report further on in this newsletter.

Canada’s sesquicentennial occurred on July 1. That day also marked our 50th Wedding Anniversary. We celebrated by treating ourselves to a dinner in the 360 Restaurant of the CN Tower. Photos of the event are posted at <https://www.ross-ter.com/Favourites/Family/50thAnniversary/WeddingAnniversary.html>. Doug finally got around to displaying our collection of pictures for our wedding on July 1, 1967; take a look at <https://www.ross-ter.com/Tales/OurWedding.html> for slide presentations of our wedding, reception and honeymoon. Videos of our honeymoon have been digitally transferred from the 8mm film and then restored for viewing in two parts at the bottom of the webpage. [This paragraph will be repeated further on.]

Who said that retirement is relaxing? We’ve kept ourselves busy. On the evening of March 15, Doug attended a Memorial for Duncan Campbell at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto. Photos of this event are located at <https://www.ross-ter.com/Tales/DuncanCampbell/DC.html>. Duncan was a founder of the Clan Campbell Association of Canada and a Director of the Scottish Studies Foundation since 2000. He will be missed.

Verbatim



Finally, *The McGregor Story*, has been made more accessible. My work on a 2nd and a 3rd edition is noted in the Prefaces printed at https://www.ross-ter.com/Ross-ter_Reports/Mausoleum/TheMcGregorStory-3rdEdition.pdf. The late Henry Ward of Edmonton deserves much credit for the basic story and research into the House of Glengyle and the story of the family of Peter McGregor in Canada. Section 3, The Appendices, will continue to receive new, related material.

In recent years, I have accepted the task of keeping the McGregor-Ross Mausoleum at the Waterdown Pioneer Cemetery in good repair. A new stone plaque was mounted above the door when the original brass one was stolen. An iron gate was restored in front of the door, and new locks were placed on both to prevent future break-ins. Other improvements remain in the planning stage.

A record of the series of communications concerning the McGregor-Ross Mausoleum has been kept on a webpage at https://www.ross-ter.com/Ross-ter_Reports/Mausoleum/Search.html.





The Way It Was: Plague Cure



A Short History of the Scottish People, Volume 2

On this occurrence of the plague, a Scotch gentleman is found copying and sending to a friend the following specific for the disease, an invention of Dr Burgess:

'Tak three mutchkins of Malvoysie, and ane handfull of red sage, and a handfull of rue, and boil them till a mutchkin be wasted. Then strain it, and set it over the fire again; then put thereinto ane pennyworth of long pepper, half ane of ginger, and ane quarter of ane unce of nutmegs, all beaten together; then let it boil a little, and put thereto five pennyworth of Mithridate and two of treacle, and a quarter of a mutchkin of the best Angelic water.

'Keep this all your life, above all bodily treasures. Tak it always warm, both morning and evening, ane half spoonfull if ye be in health, and one or two if ye be infected; and sweat thereupon.

'In all your plague-time, under God, trust to this; for there was never man, woman, nor child, that this deceived.

'This is not only for the common plague which is called the Sickness, but also for the small-pox, missles, surfeat, and divers other diseases.'

You may be interested in some of the other Scottish Icons on the same webpage; they may be found at <https://www.ross-ter.com/Tales/Icons/icons8.html>. One of several headers from the same theme is included below, but other topics vary from Weapons to Witchcraft. From Dyes to Diets, from Heather to Haggis, et cetera.



The Way It Was: Auld Remedies



Abridged, Excerpted, Condensed and Shared from Multiple Sources

Doug and Patricia attended the Annual Tartan Day Dinner on April 20, when Bruce Simpson, Senior Partner of McKinsey & Company, received the Scot-of-the-Year award. Coverage of the event may be found on The Ross-ter website at <https://www.ross-ter.com/Tales/TartanDay/Tartan2017.html>. It is my belief that Bruce delivered one of the best speeches of the evening (or even including the recipients from past years). You may listen to his speech at the website noted above.

The lighting in the Great Hall of Hart House was not conducive to the best photography when restricted to “no flash”, but hopefully the flavor of the event was captured nevertheless.



Our Family Tree

You may be surprised to learn that the following people are recorded in Our Family Tree: KING ALPIN (778-834) who ruled Scots and Picts; LORD JOHN BLAIR of that Ilk (1440-1513); RACHEL SMITH nee VROOMAN (1725-1793) who was the first white child to be born in Upper Canada now known as Ontario, Canada; LAURA SECORD nee Ingersoll (September 13, 1775-October 17, 1868) whose tale involved the War of 1812; and COL. WILLIAM FREDERICK CODY also known as “Buffalo Bill” (February 26, 1846-January 10, 1917).

Doug is pleased to announce that over 34,000 individuals have been recorded at the **My Heritage** website, an increase of more than 26,000 individuals since last year. There are 137 members (69 from our family) and over 3800 media items, of which more than 2290 are of people. Membership is still open and free to use but, looking to the **future**, an annual fee of \$160 may be shared by members **who wish the site to remain active**. **Please add information to the family tree for those who can no longer speak for themselves:** whether aunts, uncles or cousins. Family photos also make Our Family Tree more interesting. A new **My Heritage** “Sun Chart” and other features remain available for displaying the tree. Keep in touch; those who participate will always be informed of the latest developments by email .

A REMINDER: Family members who supported the production of the “Our Ross Family Story” manuscript have received information about a new online update if our files contain an accurate email address for them. The “new” version includes corrections, revisions, and additions to make a total of 254 pages.

Our Own Family

Almost the very first event of the year was our visit to the Red Lobster in celebration of Patricia's birthday.



Lord Bruce

At the Annual General Meeting of the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada on November 26 at the Fairview Public Library, Doug once again wore two hats. As a director, he gave the Scottish Studies Foundation report about the digitization of books and documents at the Scottish Studies Centre of the University of Guelph, and he plugged the opportunity of CASSOC members to become directors. As a member of Clan Ross, Doug presented a report from Jim Turnbull about the plaque which commemorated the accomplishments of James L. Ross, Canadian philanthropist and industrialist a new project in conjunction with the Tain and District Museum and Clan Ross Centre, Scotland, to mark the 100th Anniversary of WWI remembrance. The membership in both organizations may be proud of this progress. Last year, I had a pleasant chat with Lord Bruce, the new patron of CASSOC.



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In February, Rob and his Mother completed the Metro Zoo "Move your Paws For the Polar Bear Cause" 5K for the fourth year in a row. He also served as the Vice-President of the Clan Ross Association of Canada until this year.

Rob is a Project Manager, PMP, CSM (Project Management Professional and Certified Scrum Master), specializing in Search Engine Optimization, Information Technology and all things Digital.

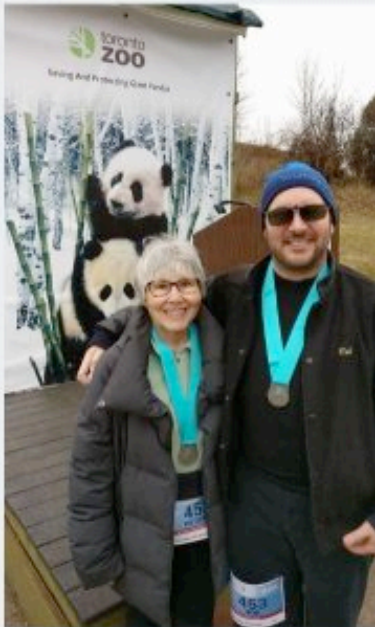
One of Rob's favourite vacation destinations is the Playa Pesquero Resort in Cuba. His much-anticipated holiday in September was cut short when he had to be evacuated because of Hurricane Irma. He was able to return to Cuba in October for a redo between leaving his job as Senior Project Manager at Symcor to join Sunwing. His new role involves some traveling. At the last week of November he was sent with a team to work at one of the company's resorts in Cancun (The photo to the right was taken at the Sunwing Christmas party).



Jennifer continued 2017 as a certified sailing race officer, running dinghy and yacht races for the West Vancouver Yacht Club, Vancouver Rowing Club and False Creek Yacht Club. She presided as SRO during two division final regattas, one VCR Match Racing (See photo left as the Principal Race Officer) and the other the U. S. Northwest Intercollegiate Sailing Association. In October, she was elected the Racing Officer member of the Vancouver Rowing Club Yachting Section and, therefore, will be kept busy organizing and running the yacht racing program for the year. She took the level one "Club Judge" Canada Sailing Course in November and passed the required certification test, and may end up a certified judge before the end of the year.



the Victoria 8km marathon with her Mother and visit some friends in Colorado.)



FEBRUARY
Move Your Paws
For The Polar Bear Cause



APRIL (High Park)
Race Roster
Spring Run Off



OCTOBER
Victoria Park
Marathon



APRIL 20 - Hart House
Tartan Day Dinner



JUNE - Quilt Canada
Toronto International Centre

Since Patricia retired, her life has followed a very predictable pattern. She still volunteers to narrate audio books for the CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind) library, serve on the executive of the University of Toronto chapter of Sigma Xi (The Honour Scientific Research Society), is an associate of the Natural History Department at the Royal Ontario Museum, and has time to indulge in stitching, knitting and quilting.

The year was punctuated by several events. On July 1st, Doug and Patricia celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Rob and his Mother participated in the Metro Toronto Zoo's Move Your Paws for the Polar Bear Cause in February and in October, after fully recovering from major surgery, she joined Jennifer in Victoria, B.C., to do the 8 km during the marathon weekend.



The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

New members are considered for nomination to the Society every year on November 30th. The Office Manager Jacqueline Clabby stated she would like to encourage more Canadians to become Fellows. There are more than 3000 persons worldwide (including researchers, amateur enthusiasts, and heritage experts) who have become Fellows because of their commitment to the study and understanding of Scotland's past.



Scottish Studies Foundation

Breanna Wells, Senior Development Manager at the University of Guelph, reports that work has started on the installation of the digital archives centre. This project promises to provide internet access to the University's unique collection of rare Scottish books and manuscripts. The Scottish Studies Foundation has raised 60% of the \$150,000 required for completing the project, and interested individuals are encouraged to make donations AND support the fund-raising events celebrating Robert Burns, Oor Club, Scot-of-the-Year, Tartan Day, and the Annual Tall Ship Cruise aboard the Empire Sandy. Details may be had at the website <http://www.scottishstudies.com/>. Please visit <https://archive.org/details/guelphscottishstudies> and help the Foundation with donations if you are impressed with the early stages of the project.

The Ross-ter The following are updates of records which were received for "The Ross-ter" in 2014. We depend upon members of the surviving branches to supply the information about our extended family. We regret that some data may not be available at this time. Please consider sending us a picture of yourself and your family for our Family Tree if you have not already done so and if you are a member.

Births {no data received}

Marriages {no data received}

Deaths We honour the names, the lives and the memories of our family members ... the flowers in our Ross-ter forest.



2012.04.06 - Ruth June Tanner, wife of the late George Emery Hutchins; sister of the late Charles Victor Tanner Jr (Shirley Mewer). Ruth is distantly related with an Orr connection in the Donald Ross branch of our family tree.

2015.10.07 - George Purinton Dodge II, husband of Joanne Cavanaugh (E3H5), passed on at the Primrose Retirement Community in Wasilla, Alaska. .

George is survived by his three sons: George III, David and John, and two daughters: Sara and Susan. Also surviving George are his 12 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.



2015.11.12 - Ralph Clayton Hopkins (D1E1) of Orillia, Ontario husband of the late Margaret Bernice Orr Swinton. Ralph is survived by daughters Dianne (Edward Williamson), Kathleen (Brian Quick), Lynn (Murray Miller), Carol (John Walker) and Elaine (Tosh Skalosky).

2017.01.31 - Muriel Eleanor Ross (D2L) passed away in her 105th year at the Glynnwood Retirement Residence in Mount Albert, where she lived during the past 20 years. Her sister, the late Effie Isabel Ross (D2I), was her companion there until May 7, 2011, Their parents, Henry and Winnifred Ross ran the general store and post office in Mount Albert during their childhood years. Muriel will be missed by many nieces and nephews, and all whose lives she touched.





2017.01.20 - my cousin, Helen Joyce (Badgley) Wiles, wife of the late Wallace George "Curly" Wiles. Survived by the families of Karen (Brian Wadell), Brett (Terry Turl), Randy (Rhonda Smith), and Kim (Kim Ann Wilson).

2017.06.25 - Elva Marie Ross (A3A3C) was predeceased by parents Alex W. Ross (A3A3) and Marion Waters. She is survived by her brothers and sisters: Donald Ross and Jill Callaghan, Betty and Ross Small, Mary and Michael Orton, and Jim and Brenda Ross. Elva will be remembered by her many nieces and nephews.



Bruce Edward Roney (July 18, 1938 - October 25, 2017)
My friend and colleague since 1955. I was present when Bruce first noticed his wife-to-be, Sharon, while we bowled on a teachers' league. Later, I also met his son John in my former residence Middle House at Victoria College. Bruce was an avid fly-fisherman, an amateur ham radio operator and a volunteer as an audio book reader for the CNIB. Youngsters in his choirs learned to love music. Bruce is missed by many whose lives he touched.

Special Occasions: Once again, we acknowledge the support of Suzanne Whyte (E3F2) as a co-administrator of our Ross Family Tree on the My Heritage website.



Here is a fancy, handy Christmas Countdown if you truly need one: <http://www.yourchristmascountdown.com/> Please let us know if you discover a new children's "Advent" Calendar on the internet for us to share besides <http://www.christmasfiles.com/advent/index.php>. And don't forget NORAD's traditional Santa Claus tracker for the kids on Christmas Eve at <http://www.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.

[illegible]

Our very best wishes to everyone!

Sincerely,

Doug and Patricia Ross

Sláinte mhòr!

J. Douglas Ross, B.A., M.Ed., FSA Scot

Director, Scottish Studies Foundation <http://www.scottishstudies.com/>

Seannachaidh, The Ross-ter <http://www.ross-ter.com/>

Past Webmaster for the Clan Ross Association of Canada

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