

**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. We no longer attend the Fergus Scottish Festival or the Ross family reunion.

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 Rosster**

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.

**Our First Event**



*January 21, 2018*  
**A VERY HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**  
*at The Mandarin . . .*

This year Patricia continued to serve on the executive of the University Chapter of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honour Society. She narrated several audio books as a volunteer at the CNIB. She is a member of two quilt associations and took classes at Quilt Canada in Vancouver and The Creative Festival in Toronto. While in Vancouver she had an enjoyable visit with our daughter Jenn.





## St. Andrew's Nicht



*A Whiff o' the Doric*, Page 14, George P. "Stoneywood" Dunbar, 1922

**W**HEN bauld St. Andrew's nicht cam' roon  
A core foregathered i' the toon  
Tae hae a rant or lilt a tune,  
An' teem a jovial jorum.

They suppit kail an' gweed kail brose,  
Whilk needs nae praise in rhyme or prose,  
Till faces low't like reidest rose,  
Or kaim o' cockalorum.

Comes cock-a-leekie—gweedly fairin',  
An' haddies sweet, an' caller herrin',  
There was eneuch for a', an' sparin',  
As fest as thrapples store 'em.

The swuppert baad that mony a morn  
Had laucht the racin' win' tae scorn,  
In maamy bree noo did adorn  
Ilk platter, thick as stoorum.

Syne cam' the haggis, het an' reekin',  
Its spicy guff ilk nose was seekin',  
An' nae a tongue had room for speakin'  
Till nippies swack did score 'em.

The rossen breist o' some fat nowt  
That aft 'mang juicy girss did rowt,  
The deil a ane o' them wad flout,  
But scowft what was afore 'em.

Noo sheep's heid roon the table creeps,  
Alang wi' birsled tatties, neeps,  
An' whang o' ither stuff in heaps;  
Some winnert whaur they'd store 'em.

Wi' feesant here, an' peertricks there,  
Stoot mealie puddens an' tae spare,  
Ye wad 'a' thocht some had nae ser',  
Sae he'ryt they did lower 'em.

Neist rich plum duff an' aipple tairt,  
An' "trumlin' tam" sae sweetly ser't  
Gart ilka chiel pray tae be spare't  
Tae form the happy quorum.

Some noo made wye their teeth tae pyke,  
Some crackit nitts an' jist sic like,  
While tongues were bizzin' like a byke,  
Wi' naething noo tae bore 'em.

Wi' sang an' news the 'oors sped by,  
While pleasure beamed in ilka eye,  
An' care gaed wannerin' wi' a sigh  
Ayont aul' Cairngorum.

A deoch-an-dorris, nane may doot,  
Was quaff't afore they daunert oot,  
Whaur shone the meen's sharp-nibbit snoot;  
Some swore they saw a score o' 'em.

An' so wi' sang an' he'rtsome cheer,  
Wi' auld acquaintance aye sae dear,  
They heild St. Andrew's nicht, this 'ear,  
As ithers did afore 'em.



#### Some Scottish Doric Words

<i>bauld</i> --- adj. bold	<i>kaim o' cockalorum</i> --- rooster's comb
<i>core</i> --- n. corps	<i>cock-a-leekie</i> --- leek and onion soup
<i>foregathered</i> --- v. assembled	<i>caller herring</i> --- freshly caught herring
<i>toon</i> --- n. town	<i>thrapples</i> --- throats
<i>rant</i> --- v. shout	<i>swuppert baad</i> --- quick hare
<i>lilt</i> --- v. sing	<i>maamy bree</i> --- full-bodied broth
<i>teem</i> --- v. pour	<i>het an' reekin'</i> --- hot and smelling
<i>jorum</i> --- n. punch bowl	<i>spicy guff</i> --- nippy smell
<i>suppit</i> --- v. supped, sipped	<i>nippies swack</i> === ???
<i>gweed</i> --- adj. good	<i>birdsled tatties</i> --- sizzling potatoes
<i>brose</i> --- n. soup, porridge	<i>whang o' ither stuff</i> --- a strip of other stuff
<i>low't</i> --- v. glowing	<i>feesant an' peertricks</i> --- pheasant and partridges
<i>cockalorum</i> --- n. self-important little man	
<i>haddies</i> --- n. haddock	<i>stoot mealie puddins</i>
<i>eneuch</i> --- enough	--- stout white pudding made from oatmeal
<i>laucht</i> --- v. laughed	<i>plum duff</i> --- plum pudding
<i>stoorum</i> --- n. oatmeal gruel	<i>trumlin' tam</i> --- potato pancake
<i>girss</i> --- n. grass	<i>gart ilka chiel</i> --- made every fellow
<i>nowt</i> --- n. cow	<i>crackit nitts</i> --- cracked nut (shells)

## Zoo Run - February 24

The "Move Your Paws For The Polar Bear Cause" was the first of two annual races held at the Toronto Zoo.

Continuing his passion for travel, Rob has been to Mexico, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Cuba and Barbados. His new hobbies are crocheting and home brewing.



## Oasis Toronto Zoo Run - September 22, 2018



Rob and his mother participated in the Zoo Run again this year. Patricia keeps in shape with her regular practice runs no matter whether the weather is fair or foul. Thus it should not surprise anyone that she won a first place medal for her age group. .

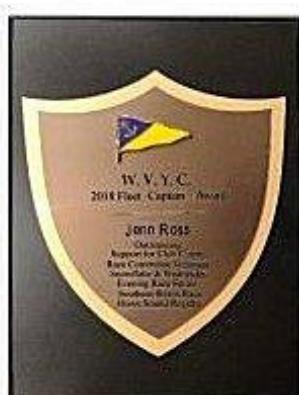
## Volunteer of the Year - October, 2018



Our daughter, Jennifer, serves as Race Officer for the Vancouver Yacht Club and as co-Club-Rep for the Vancouver Area Racing Council Board. Having just completed an Advanced Race Management course, she won Volunteer of the Year for the VARC out of three nominees. Jenn has served as Chief Judge and Race Officer for dozens of Vancouver area races and regattas as well as serving on the British Columbia circuit series.

### 2018 Fleet Captain Award

On November 4, the West Vancouver Yacht Club handed Jennifer the 2018 Fleet Captain Award. This plaque (right) honoured her outstanding support for club events, her service as race committee volunteer, her work at the Snowflake and Wednesday evening race series, the Southern Straits Race and the Howe Sound Regatta.



See this link: <<https://www.canadianyachting.ca/lifestyle/yacht-clubs/4509-west-vancouver-yacht-club-celebrates-the-50th-southern-straits-classic>>.

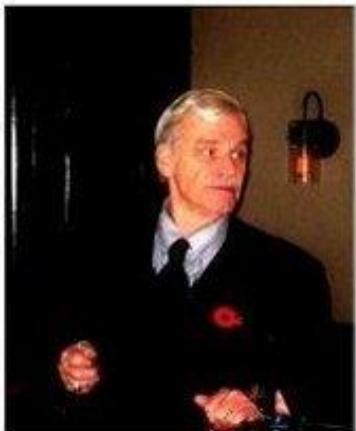
## Victoria College Charter Day

On October 10, Doug attended the Victoria Charter Day Luncheon. Vic Chancellor Taylor posed questions to Maryscott Greenwood (CEO, Canadian American Business Council and former Chief of Staff at the US Embassy in Ottawa) on the topic *Trump, Trudeau and the Future of Democracy As We Know It.*

Doug sensed "Scotty" feared that there might be repercussions from Trump if she was overly critical about his policies.



## Oor Club - Border Reivers



On November 2, we attended the Oor Club at the Duke of York Club in Toronto. Norman White gave an illustrated talk entitled *The Other, Other Scotland* in which he explored the history of the Scottish and English borderlands between the 13th and 17th centuries, home of the notorious border reivers.

While standing outside the Duke of York Pub waiting for the October 5th Oor Club meeting, Patricia was surprised to meet Norm, a former acquaintance from her years working at the UofT and ROM. We sat together during lunch and learned that Norm was to be the next scheduled guest speaker at the Oor Club.

## CASSOC - AGM

Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada held its Annual General Assembly Meeting at the North York Central Library on November 25, 2018. Doug presented a report from David Hunter, President of the Scottish Studies Foundation.

He also mentioned the Christmas Special of the Oor Club at the Duke of York Pub.next month.



# *The Empire Sandy*



Sept.  
2,  
2018



You may be interested in the following tales, which may be found at <https://www.ross-ter.com/Tales/Icons/icons11.html> in the list of many delightful Scottish Icons.

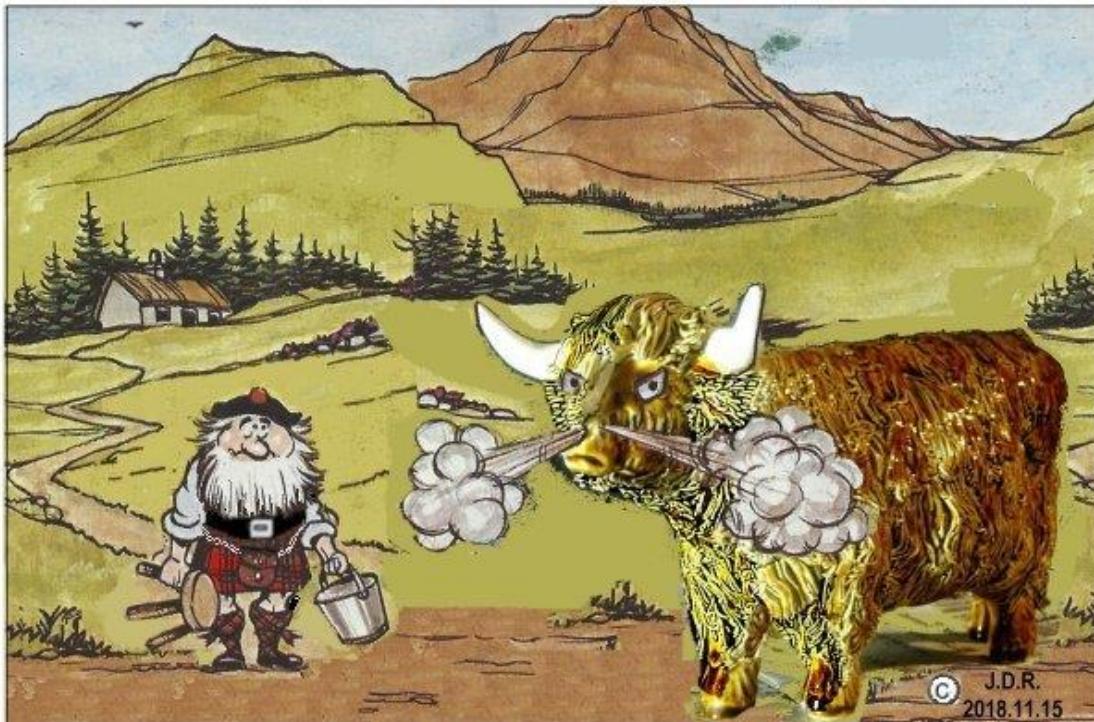


## The Way It Is: Haggis Hunt Lore



J. Douglas Ross, from Several Sources

Here is Doug's latest cartoon which is based upon our ceramic Highland Cow which we purchased in Scotland.

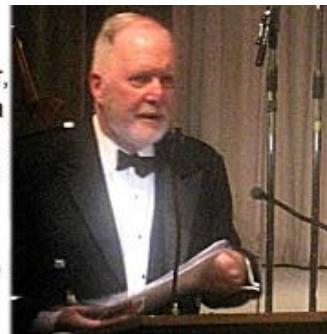


**NO BULL !!! This is our pet Heilan' Coo.**

## 2018 Scot Of The Year

The Scottish Studies Foundation awarded the Award to James Fraser, Canada's sixth Commissioner of Official Languages. James was a former journalist and writer. Congratulatory letters from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (below) and First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon were read before the presentation.

Patricia and Doug were privileged to attend this event, which was held in the Great Hall of The Arts And Letters Club in Toronto on October 26, 2018.



**PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE**

### **Statement from the Prime Minister of Canada**

It is with great pleasure that I join everyone in attendance in congratulating Mr. Graham Fraser on being Canada's Scot of the Year.



We gather tonight, to honour Graham for his many outstanding achievements throughout his distinguished career. Graham has spent many years – as a journalist, writer, professor, and Commissioner of Official Languages – understanding and advocating the importance of linguistic duality in Canada. In his various roles, Graham has served his country and its citizens with great integrity. He is most deserving of this honour.

I would like to thank the organizers for making this event possible. Please accept my warmest welcome and best wishes for a memorable celebration.

Congratulations, Graham!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Justin Trudeau".

## Our Family Tree

This year Doug began to concentrate upon those families which took pride in posting photographs of members. He wasn't surprised when the searches extended to the Mormons, since the Latter Day Saints also have the best collections of family records. In fact, they provide reels of microfilms to many genealogy societies and associations.

Natural and synthetic polyesters have been around since the 1940's when Terylene and Dacron were introduced. However, a Mormon named Polly Esther Mecham was born on September 10, 1873, in Utah, USA.

Another Mormon, James Bond, was born in England on August 25, 1830, but married in Salt Lake City. Returning on a mission to Manchester, England, he wrote a song of seven stanzas containing repetitive platitudes to encourage fellow Mormons in their quest to emigrate to Utah.

Doug is pleased to announce that 44,000 individuals have been recorded at the **My Heritage** website, an increase of almost 9,000 individuals since last year. Photographs of individuals doubled to over 5600 in all.

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. Regretfully, one cousin wanted to add information about her mother's siblings, but fell too ill before she could complete her promise. 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 .

The **Honest Product Reviews** site has been added at our GENEALOGY button because they provide a very complete overview of DNA tests. They also informed us about a broken link with the **RootsWeb** site. It appears that **RootsWeb** is undergoing some changes, but the link is being repaired.

Membership requests from the USA have been suspended until the narcissistic, racist, white-supremacist Trumpism disappears. The same goes for our consumption of produce from that country. We are Canadian, and we are quite different from our neighbours who support such values. [Aside from two inserts (May 11, 2016 and August 12, 2017), no additional comments have been inserted on the webpage located at <https://www.ross-ter.com/Favourites/People/Halloween/halloween.html>. None are necessary. We are certain that the daily "President Number 45 TV Show" is becoming too boring for most Canadians.]

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.

### **The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (Congratulations to Bill Davidson this year.)**

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**

The University of Guelph reports that work has been completed on the digital archives centre. This project promises to provide internet access to the University's unique collection of rare Scottish books and manuscripts. Details may be had at the website <http://www.scottishstudies.com/>.

**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.



Ruth Marie Trafford (nee Ross) A3C3 was predeceased by her parents James Ross (A3C) and Minnie Belle McLellan, as well as her sisters Jean (Stewart Ferguson) and Marion (Jack Hudson). She is survived by husband Ernie whom she married on February 3, 1962. They had two children, Mark Ernest and Kimberley Ruth.

**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.

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**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 Rosster <http://www.ross-ter.com/>

Past Webmaster, Clan Ross Association of Canada <http://www.greatclanross.org/>