

### **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>. Currently there are 93 site members (which would be greater, but American applications are not being accepted during the Trump presidency). The tree has grown to 44,486 people, an increase of 486 over last year, and there are 7930 media items (mainly photos). Once again, Suzanne Whyte (E3F2) has been a major contributor as a co-administrator. [There are no new births, deaths or marriages reported for the current year. We cannot report what we don't receive in emails or snail mails.]

There have been 11,510 visitors to our personal website at <https://www.ross-ter.com/> since our report last September.


### **Overview for Our Family**

Patricia had a couple of visits to our family Physician during January, but we eventually celebrated her birthday at the Red Lobster; she stated that her scheduled activities, races and conferences pretty much continued as usual in 2019. Doug returned from a dentist appointment on January 22 to find a car blocking the driveway as well as the garbage pickup [This occurs at least once per year following a heavy snowfall]]; he underwent laser surgery to remove cataracts on Friday, March 15 (left eye) and Friday, May 10 (right eye); his representation on the board of directors for the Scottish Studies Foundation and the Scottish Studies Society remained as a commitment throughout the year. Jenn has remained active in her role as a manager of yacht races within and beyond the Vancouver area. Rob accepted an exciting and challenging new job with a travel company in Toronto. There will be a more complete account about our family activities later in the newsletter.





# Curling, Scotland's National Sport



Excerpts from *A History of Curling* by John Kerr, M.A., FSA Scot  
Edinburgh, 1890

No stone has been left unturned (pun intended) during this inquiry into the history of curling. Regretfully, Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns (1759-1796), says very little about the subject; even the winter season merely impressed him by its gloomy, chilly aspects. That he understood the game may be inferred from his *Eligy on Tam Samson* in 1786. Tam, or Thomas, was one of his Kilmarnock friends and a zealous sportsman. Among his other quallies, Samson's prowess as an avid curler is noted as follows:

When winter muffles up his cloak,  
And blinds the mire like a rock;  
When to the loughs the curlers flock  
Wi' gleesom speed,  
Wha will they stalion the cock?  
Tam Samson's dead!

He was the king o' a' the core,  
To guard, or draw, or wick a bore,  
Or up the rink like Jehu roar  
In time o' need;  
But now he lags on Death's 'hog-score'  
Tam Samson's dead!

Just as Canada owns hockey as its national sport, so Scotland lays its claim to the sport of curling. Perhaps *The Curlers March* was equally popular in its time as any Canadian lunc composed for its *Hockey Night in Canada* theme. This reference appeared in a collection of Scottish airs by Alexander M'Clashan predating Burn's eligy by about eight years. The only other record of note is a "prescription" by Alexander Pennecuik, M.D., (1652-1722) of Auld Reekie (Edinburgh) for himself and and for his patients in these words ~~~

"To Curle on the Ice, does greatly please,  
Being a Manly Scottish Exercise  
It Clears the Brains, stirs up the Native Heat,  
And gives a gallant Appetite for Meat."



## Zoo Run - February 23

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

This past year, Rob has been learning about fermentation and how to make his own fruit wines, mead and hard apple cider.

Rob also started a new job at Travel Edge, a provider of travel and luxury private guided tours. His new role has him heading the support team, leading technology projects and managing the company's facilities. One of his projects was to renovate a whole office building floor in downtown Toronto.



## Oasis Toronto Zoo Run - September 22, 2018



Rob and his mother participated in the 5K Oasis.run once more this year. No matter what kind of weather we have, Patricia usually heads out for a practice walk. She won an Age Category medal once again in this run.





## More Honours For Jenn in 2019

On January 18 our daughter, Jenn, sent a photo of her new vest. It was a "Thank You" for becoming a regional race officer.

She continues as a race officer for the Vancouver Yacht Club and attends meetings of the Vancouver Area Racing Council board.



" Here's a photo from the gala banquet on Thursday night (April 18) and a photo from the start of the race on Friday morning (April 19)."

"The boat in the background was over early and had to go around to the pre-start side. It was a little windy and I'd put away the hat I was wearing so it wouldn't blow away."







In June, Jenn received this Regatta Backpack as a thank-you gift for helping the Nanaimo Yacht Club. She says, "I wasn't expecting to receive anything, but it was nice nonetheless. It doubles as a laptop case and roll-aboard suitcase. I am thinking of using it on my trip to Portland in a couple of weeks to run the Lido 14 sailboat championships."

On July 8, she received an email welcoming her to the BC Sailing Association board of directors.

Oct.13 Victoria BC Marathon

Jenn and her mother did the 8K "Turkey Trot" race.



## **65<sup>th</sup> 5T4 REUNION – May 31, 2019**

Following a visit to the Pearson Garden of Peace and Understanding at Victoria College, we stopped briefly at the Northrop Frye bench to pay our respects before heading across to Alumni Hall, where a luncheon had been prepared for those celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (6T9) to their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary (4T9) inclusive. The Alumni Office had requested that Doug deliver the “Toast to the College” as shown in the photo to the right. Please visit <https://www.ross-ter.com/Favourites/OldVic/2019/5T4STRANDS-65th.html> for a complete report on the event, including an issue of “Vic Strands”, the 5T4 plaque at the Pearson Garden, a photo at Norrie’s bench, a copy of the luncheon menu and order of proceedings plus the Toast to Old Vic and many photographs .



## **CASSOC AGM - November 24, 2019**

The annual meeting was held at 2:00 p.m. at the North York Central Library. Doug is shown with secretary and Chairperson Jo Ann Tuskin in the photo to the right. Since Clan Ross Canada has been dormant for a couple of years, he serves as a representative of the Scottish Studies Foundation. Director Maggie McEwen also attended this year as the convener for Clan MacEwen in Canada. [Doug also attended the Spring Assembly of CASSOC on April 28 at the library.]

## **Oor Club at the Duke Of York Pub**

You don’t need to be Scottish to join the noon hour talks organized by Pearl Grieve-Nixon on behalf of the Scottish Studies Foundation. Doug and Patricia attended five of them this year. On April 5, Bruce Simpson discussed why Scotland should join Canada; on May 3, Hugh Heron talked about the Mikey Network for the distribution of defibrillators; on September 6, we were entertained by Rory Sinclair with his lowland bagpipes and a guitar; on October 4, Maggie McEwen covered the topic of the rebuilding of Clan MacEwen; on November 1, Norman White delivered a talk about Glasgow tenements. Please visit <https://www.ross-ter.com/Tales/OorClub.html> for more information.



## **Photographs on Page 7:**

Top – This photograph from 2018 was taken at the University of Guelph on the occasion of the dedication of the digitization room financed by the Scottish Studies Foundation.

Bottom – John McMillan took this photo at the Wallace Gastropub meeting of the directors of the Scottish Studies Foundation on March 12.





Representatives of the Scottish Studies Foundation are pictured above at the launch of the University of Guelph's Digitization Room which the Foundation helped fund. L to R: David Hunter, President; Murray McEwen, Patron; Doug Ross, Director; Maggie McEwan, Vice-President; John McMillan, Director; Bob Smart, Patron.



March SSF Meeting:  
Doug Ross, Maggie McEwan, Bill Somerville, John McMillan, David Thompson

PHOTO BY  
JOHN McMILLAN

