



Calgary Claver

****DOUBLE ISSUE****

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



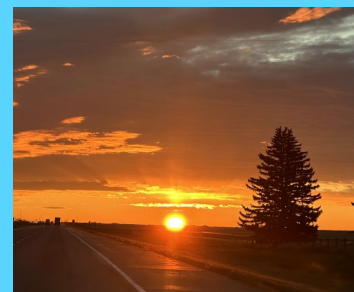
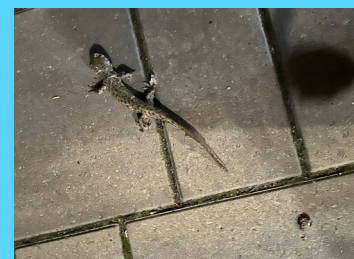
As I write this article for the Calgary Burns Club Claver, spring has finally sprung, my grass has some green in it and I have even seen a robin in my yard. This has been a great year for the Club; since my last report, I have attended wonderful dinners in Medicine Hat and Lethbridge, and I look forward to a visit with the Edmonton Burns Club in early May. My tenure as President is nearly at an end and I look back fondly on this year and forward to our Annual General Meeting.

The 48th annual Calgary Burns Club Burns Supper will go down in history as the first one to ever welcome ladies. The dinner was a resounding success, with a wonderful Immortal Memory from our very own Gordon Grant-McCulloch. I must thank Jamie Osborne for his tireless dedication to planning this event, particularly as we moved to a new venue at Hotel Arts. Thanks also to Jamie for the excellent summer BBQ, and to Steven Campbell for a wonderful St. Andrew’s Night event; next year’s dinner is in good hands.

I would also like to thank the Board of Directors and all the conveners, along with my wonderful wife Carrie, for all their support this year; without it, I could not have succeeded as your President.

The smiling spring comes in rejoicing,
And surly winter grimly flies;
Now crystal clear are the falling waters,
And bonny blue are the sunny skies.
Fresh o'er the mountains breaks forth the morning,
The ev'ning gilds the ocean's swell;
All Creatures joy in the sun's returning,
And I rejoice in my Bonie Bell.

Rob Pinkerton
President, Calgary Burns Club



1. Tiger Salamander In My Garden
2. Sunrise SE Calgary
3. Tour Bus Medicine Hat

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RBWF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (NEIL MCNAIR)

BURNS POEM

A Bard's Epitaph (1786)

Is there a whim-inspired fool,
Owre fast for thought, owre hot for rule,
Owre blate to seek, owre proud to snool,
Let him draw near;
And owre this grassy heap sing dool,
And drap a tear.

Is there a bard of rustic song,
Who, noteless, steals the crowds among,
That weekly this area throng,
O, pass not by!
But, with a frater-feeling strong,
Here, heave a sigh.

Is there a man, whose judgment clear
Can others teach the course to steer,
Yet runs, himself, life's mad career,
Wild as the wave,
Here pause -- and, thro' the starting tear,
Survey this grave.

The poor inhabitant below
Was quick to learn the wise to know,
And keenly felt the friendly glow,
And softer flame;
But thoughtless follies laid him low,
And stain'd his name!

Reader, attend! whether thy soul
Soars fancy's flights beyond the pole,
Or darkling grubs this earthly hole,
In low pursuit:
Know, prudent, cautious, self-control
Is wisdom's root.

FAMOUS QUOTES

1. Confucius said, "Everything has its beauty, but not everyone sees it".
2. Nelson Mandela said, "It always seems impossible until it's done".
3. Oscar Wilde said, "**It always seems impossible until it's done**".
4. Albert Einstein said, "Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."
5. Mae West Said, "You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."



My Fellow Burnsians,

Here in Scotland it seems that we are barely over the January Burns season, then we are straight into the National Schools Competition.

The Competition starts with regional inter-school competitions. In Fife, where I am involved we saw an increase in entries. The only disappointment being that we see so few from the south of the county. Some schools appear to produce a great quantity of eager participants, one primary school in particular swept the board in recitation. Needless to say they had an inspirational Burns teacher.

Those who qualify 1st, 2nd and 3rd at regional level can go forward to the Scottish National Competition, this year held at Clydeview Academy in Gourrock. The National Secondary Schools Competition was held on 23 March and the results will be published shortly. The Convenor of the Schools Competition, Beth Kerr and her many helpers ran a superb competition.

The standard of entry was very high. The judges gave written feedback to all the participants in each of the categories of:

- Recitation
- Singing
- Piping
- Instrumental

As I said to the competitors, their families and friends, there is so much more to be gained from the competition more than simply taking part. It builds confidence, promotes learning about how to engage and respond to an audience. Vital skills, that gain a competitive advantage, which are essential in a global workplace.

Burns, I am sure would be proud.

Neil McNair
President RBWF

RBANA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (PAUL KENNEDY)



Greetings and warm wishes to The Calgary Burns Club

Thank you once again for allowing me a few lines in your wonderful newsletter, The Claver.

A lot has taken place since I last wrote you. To begin, my own club, the South Jersey Celtic Society (SJCS) hosted the 44th Annual General Meeting which was quite successful and where we hosted members from around the US and Canada, as well as Scotland. I was also honored to turn over the gavel to the new President of RBANA, Mr. Mark Ferguson. Please join me in congratulating him again when you next see him.

My time as President, along with my visit to your city for the 43rd AGM, and the support I received from your club, will remain in my memory as one of the highlights of my life. Thank you to each and every one of you for the courtesies you have shown to me, and for all you continue to do for the Burns Community.

While I remain an active member of RBANA, I have also recently been honored to be nominated for Junior Vice President of the Robert Burns World Federation (RBWF); if successful it is a position following in the steps of your own Henry Cairney, (PP, RBANA, and PP, RBWF); an honor, God willing, that will allow me to bring "the chain" back to North America in a couple years.

It has truly been my honor serving as RBANA president, and I look forward to continuing to serve in my capacity as IPP RBANA

I greatly look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our RBANA's 45th AGM in Atlanta, GA, in May of 2025.

Paul Kennedy

President, RBANA

BURNS SONG

A Tippling Ballad (1792)

When Princes and Prelates,
And het-headed zealots,
A'Europe had set in a low, a low,
The poor man lies down,
Nor envies a crown,
And comforts himself as he dow, as he dow,
And comforts himself as he dow.

The black-headed eagle,
As keen as a beagle,
He hunted o'er height and o'er howe,
In the braes o' Gemappe,
He fell in a trap,
E'en let him come out as he dow, dow, dow,
E'en let him come out as he dow.

But truce with commotions,
And new-fangled notions,
A bumper, I trust you'll allow;
Here's George our good king,
And Charlotte his queen,
And lang may they ring as they dow, dow,
dow,
And lang may they ring as they dow.



SCOTTISH FACTS

1. The most infamous Scottish dish is **haggis**, (pictured above) normally made with the heart, liver, and lungs of a sheep, traditionally boiled in the animal's stomach. It is not known where it originated, but a similar dish was mentioned in Greece 2,500 years ago.
2. Scotland has spawned some of the **greatest thinkers** of the modern age, including Adam Smith, James Watt, David Hume and John Stuart Mill.

CBC BURNS SUPPER 2024







CANADIAN FACTS

1. Located in Moncton, New Brunswick, the famous "Magnetic Hill" is a truly unique tourist attraction. This intriguing spot creates an optical illusion that gives the impression of cars rolling uphill on their own. (Scotland has its own one called "The Electric Brae" in South Ayrshire)
2. John Cabot, an Italian explorer commissioned by Henry VII of England in 1497, embarked on a voyage to Asia aboard the ship Matthew. He unexpectedly arrived at modern day Newfoundland, and Cabot's accidental landing marked England's initial claim on parts of Canada.

The 48th Annual Robert Burns Supper was held at the Hotel Arts in downtown Calgary on January 26, 2024. This was the first time we had used this venue, we were pleased with the food, entertainment, and camaraderie, with a dram or two of Scapa. There were over 350 Attendees, and for the first time in Calgary Burns Club history, 26 of our guests were women. The ladies in attendance sure did class up our dinner, and we look forward to seeing them again at our future dinners.

The night was planned and exceeded, for the first half, by 1st Vice President Jamie Osborne and for the second half by President Rob Pinkerton. Jamie gratefully acknowledges, that he was helped by many members of the Calgary Burns Club, too many to mention. It takes a small town to run the Calgary Burns Club Burns Supper. The program began with everybody singing the anthems and Grace by John Easton, followed by a traditional four course meal of smoked salmon, cock-a-leekie soup, haggis, and prime rib followed with the Scots trifle, Topsy Laird, each introduced by our Past President Paul Kane, and Life Member and Past President of the Calgary Burns Club, RBWF and RBANA, Henry Cairney. The Loyal Toast was given admirably by Trekker Armstrong.

The haggis was carried in and guarded by our 3 newest members of the Club, Dayle West, John Easton, and James Dahl respectively, while being led in a Haggis parade by 2 honoured guests, our duty pipers for the evening, Stephanie West and Emma MacPherson (Left) of the Calgary Police Service Pipe Band. The Address was conducted in full fettle by Jim Hutchens. Entertainment included the pipes and drums and highland dancers of the Calgary Police Service Pipe Band, the Calgary Burns Club Singers, Jim Osborne's stirring rendition of "Green Grow the Rashes O" and Club Bard Jim McLaughlin's recitation of "To a Mouse".

The Immortal memory was performed by Club member Gordon Grant-McCulloch (Left), who as well as being a passionate Burnsian, a brilliant raconteur, former police officer in Auld Reekie and a retired detective of the Calgary Police Service, as well as the former frontman for the Celtic band Seanachie. Gordon focused his Immortal Memory on the deliberate choice of Burns to use Lallans Scots as his choice of language for most of his poetry.

We also had all the traditional toasts, with Sandy Paterson giving the Toast to the Lassies, as well as having for the first time, the past Pipe Major of the Calgary Police Service Pipe Band (and wife of one of our newest members) gave a fine reply to the Toast to the Lassies, Mrs. Stephanie West.

The evening ended with a heartfelt Toast to Absent Friends where we honoured two members of the Calgary Burns Club that we have lost, Ron Girardeau and Bill Gardner, by Life Member Tony Grace. And ended the evening, as always with all attendees singing "Auld Lang Syne".



Many Thanks to Jamie for a Dinner well done. He is currently planning, like Rip van Winkle to sleep, for up to 20 years after running the Dinner.

Brian Cumming and Jamie Osborne

FIRST VP REPORT (JAMIE OSBORNE)

January 26th, 2024, at Hotel Arts saw the Calgary Burns Club's 48th Annual Burns Supper. Overall, even with the new venue and some minor hiccups (which are already in the works of being changed), the event was a success. As you are aware, this was the first year that we opened our dinner to the ladies, and they loved it! They are looking forward to next year and to bring some friends. We had a total of 354 guests in attendance, of which, 42 were members and 26 were ladies. The success of the dinner would not have been possible if it wasn't for the membership of the Club, our spouses, and our guests, so I would like to thank you all immensely for all your help, guidance, and support.

This will likely be my last report as the 1st Vice President, so I would also like to thank each member of the Club for their assistance and encouragement during my time as the 2nd and then the 1st Vice President. Because of this backing I have had from the members, I am looking forward to becoming the President of the Calgary Burns Club, working hard to bring the Club one year closer to our 50th Anniversary, and being able to promote our Club to the Burns Fraternity around the world over the next year.

Jamie Osborne

1st VP CBC

SECOND VP REPORT (STEVEN CAMPBELL)

The St Andrews night was held in the Delta South on Thursday 30th November 2023 and a grand night was had by all. Presently I am assisting with the Calgary Burns Supper preparations with Jamie Osborne. I am also starting to organize the Summer Barbeque for the incoming 2nd VP.

Our Board of Directors, seeking to recognize the hard work of the many volunteers who keep the club in motion, decided to host a complimentary barbecue at the Elboya/Britannia Community Center on June 22nd, 2024. The event was well-attended, and weather was above seasonal, making for a warm evening outdoors. We were all entertained by the Club Singers as we enjoyed cold drinks and hot dinner in the evening sun. Despite the warmer weather throughout the summer, attempts to revive our Golf Tournament as a shorter 9-Hole Event did not pan out. We'll try again next summer!

The club typically meets at the Danish Canadian Club, and we were informed that they will be closing their doors and the building being demolished in a little over a year, so the club began plans to find a new location, and examine costs associated.

Steven Campbell
2nd VP Calgary Burns Club

CBC SINGERS (RON PRATT)

The Singers were pleased to again participate in a couple of the Field of Crosses services in November, and in December, we were disappointed that our annual Christmas concerts at the AHS Fanning Centre were cancelled at the last minute due to outbreaks in the wards.

Our busiest month was as usual in January where we provided entertainment at about a dozen venues, all of which were at least one hour of singing.

The new wireless microphones were a welcome addition at the Club Dinner and should prove to be a worthwhile investment for future events.

Given the age demographic of our group, it is not surprising that we experience some attrition at our events and practices but we are fortunate that we are able to add some new members from time to time.

Saturday morning practices continue at the Danish Canadian Club and we certainly appreciate their allowing us to do so.

CBC COMMUNICATIONS (BRIAN CUMMING)

After a bit of a bumpy start with my new portfolio, I am settling in with the exception that I forget to change my identity on Zoom from Robert Burns. That probably won't change.

Some email reminders:

Don't forget to check your emails. Most of the emails you receive from CBC are important. Be careful to see who has originated an email when you reply back to it. Reply back to the person specified in the email please.

If the email is for a table at a dinner for example, and you hit reply all, you might be sending your message to the whole Club and the person you want to book your table may not open your email. If I'm away, I may not be able to forward the message back to the 1st VP for a few days, and someone else may get your preferred table.

Please ensure that your membership information is current and correct and inform me of any changes promptly to ensure you do not miss any important communications.

We received many fraternal greetings in January/24 and continue to receive regular relevant information from the Robert Burns World Federation (RBWF) and Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA) which I forward on, via the CBC distribution list.

Brian Cumming (March 2024) Communications Convenor

BURNS POEM

A Mother's Lament (1788)

Fate gave the word, the arrow sped,
And pierc'd my darling's heart;
And with him all the joys are fled
Life can to me impart.

By cruel hands the sapling drops,
In dust dishonour'd laid;
So fell the pride of all my hopes,
My age's future shade.

The mother-linnet in the brake
Bewails her ravish'd young;
So I, for my lost darling's sake,
Lament the live-day long.

Death, oft I've feared thy fatal blow.
Now, fond, I bare my breast;
O, do thou kindly lay me low
With him I love, at rest!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2023/2024

Executive

President: Rob Pinkerton
1st VP: Jamie Osborne
2nd VP: Steven Campbell
Secretary: Tony Grace
Treasurer: Steven Nichol

Non-Executive

Past President: Paul Kane
Director At Large: Hugh McFadzean
Director At Large: Henry Cairney

Ex-Officio

Communications: Brian Cumming
Entertainment: Henry Cairney
Steward: Don Humphreys
Website: Paul Armstrong

FUTURE EVENTS

St Andrews Event Dinner November 30th
2024

FUTURE SPEAKERS

2024 Club Member Gordon McCulloch
2025 Ronnie O'Byrne
2026 Sandy Paterson.

RON PRATT

I was born in Oakbank, a mining village in West Lothian in 1942, then shortly after the war, moved to Polbeth, another mining village next to West Calder. Did grades 1 through 6 in a two room schoolhouse in nearby Bellsquarry then completed High School at West Calder where the English department's emphasis was on teaching us about Willy Shakespeare, even to the point of performing some of his works like Midsummer Night's Dream and Twelfth Night. Much as I enjoyed the performing, I didn't really enjoy the language. I cannot remember getting much, if any, teaching on Burns, knowledge of which I got from my Dad's reading and recitation. Had many tough bouts of asthma but fortunate it was not always present.

Being the second oldest of 8 children, I couldn't afford to go to University and after an open competition, was fortunate to be offered a position with Her Majesty's Tax Office in Edinburgh covering the Leith area, the domicile of Fishing companies, bond warehouses etc. I worked there for 3 - 4 years gaining good experience of office work including Saturday shifts every 3 weeks. Like most families in the area, money was scarce so the pay packet went straight to Mother and I was given enough for bus fares and some pocket money. This same arrangement was in place for my older sister and the next four younger siblings. Only the two youngest were able to keep their earnings when they started work as the money situation for all families was much improved by then. At work the office supply manager took things to the extreme when he would not give anyone a new pencil until the old one was so short it was almost impossible to hold. Needless to say he continually got a lot of stick.

Looking for change, an ad where Canada was looking for emigrants caught my eye, especially as they would pay the fare as long as you were employable, passed a medical, basically a chest x-ray, and repaid the Government once settled. Fortunately I made the cut. Reflecting today on the Government mandates and restrictions surrounding the covid pandemic reminded me of a relative who followed a few years later and had nicely settled into his skilled job in Calgary when he got a call from the health authorities. A closer inspection of his x-ray, revealed a small spot on his lungs. No nonsense tolerated, he was immediately ordered into the sanatorium at Bowness for a couple of months until cleared.

As I had obtained excellent work reference from my tax inspector boss, I was fortunate to get a job shortly after arrival with the O&GCB (now the EUB) recording technical reservoir data in their oil department. They were looking for SAIT graduates and while I did not have their specific technical training, I was hired at a slightly smaller salary - but I had a job.

After a year I transferred into their financial accounting dept and started the 5 year CMA program. I worked a few years each at the EUB and a couple of medium oil companies then over 20 years with the ATCO group before our business was bought by a US company. After a few years with the US company, I then did consulting work, financial accounting and tax for a number of years and am now retired from the daily grind.

Music is and always has been in my mind from my earliest memories. In our block of 4 houses in Polbeth, one neighbour played the bagpipes and one other played the cornet. Both were excellent players. I was able to join the West Calder Brass Band around age 10 and my music education was limited to basic instruction from a couple of the much older players. I made great progress emulating my more experienced neighbour and after a few years, was the leading cornet player of the group, due mainly to some more skilled players moving from the area for work opportunities and also one or two for their national service call up. I had many good experiences with the local band but also helped other Bands in the area. One of note was being part of the Armadale Band's 1959 trip to London for the National Band Finals which were held in the now demolished Kensington Town Hall. The intensive rehearsals under a professional conductor in the months leading up to the trip was a wonderful experience.

After getting settled in Calgary, I started playing trumpet with the local Foothills Concert Band and also with the Hippocratic Oath, a big band dance band. Have fond memories of big events at Mount Royal College and the Banff Springs Hotel.

I met Louise on a blind date, she must have been blind, and we were married in 1967 at her parents' farm at Peace River. We have two children, Edward and Marie, both employed and living in Calgary. We moved to an acreage near Langdon in 1971 and are still there today. Over the years we kept some farm animals with mostly broiler chickens, laying hens and sheep. After a while, work on the acreage and the daily work commute to the city meant giving up the concert band and dance band. One of those decisions one regrets later in life. However, I am very grateful that Louise puts up with all the time I spend on sports, music and the last 25 years with the CBC.

Sports were always important and when not under the weather, I had always played soccer after school hours and in amateur leagues until I emigrated, and then started playing rugby with the Calgary Rams for a few short years until forced to retire following shoulder injuries. I then started curling and played for many years both at Indus and the Acadia Centre. Again I was forced to retire after another shoulder injury.

I had my share of mishaps over the years which in several instances could have been game over. Falling from a tree, falling from a roof, bike/car accident, shoulder injuries, a building collapsing on me.

Over the years, I have volunteered in various local endeavours and am a member of the Langdon IOOF Lodge where we support some charities and maintain the local Hall. Have been treasurer there for the past 30 or so years and am also the treasurer of the Live Wires Seniors at Indus.



**Ron in the Dance Band
'Hippocratic Oath'**



**The Armadale Brass
Band**



Polbeth Gala Day



**The Family
(Marie, Ron, Louise and
Edward)**

RON PRATT (CONTINUED)

I was not aware of the CBC existence until I attended a January business lunch in the early 90's where the haggis was addressed followed by a short talk on Burns. When I enquired about the club to the speaker, he was not interested in enlightening me in any way. Not a good impression at all. However, a few years later I had the good fortune to meet Bill MacLachlan on Company business and was invited to the Sept 99 club meeting. I joined the club November 1999, was appointed treasurer at the May 2000 AGM and I was honoured to be made a life member of the club in 2016.

I was delighted when Mr. Budd opened the door for me to join the singers and I've thoroughly enjoyed the experience and camaraderie over the years.

While I've enjoyed many enjoyable and satisfying encounters with our entertaining each year, the highlights for me were the 2009 Edinburgh Tattoo and the 2022 Kirkcudbright Tattoo in the SW Scotland tour.

Another personal highlight, albeit as a stand in at the unfortunate expense of fellow member Jim Osborne who had to cancel due to family illness, was being all of the entertainment (except the piping) at a small private dinner in the Bahamas. This was very challenging but also very rewarding as none other than 007 himself was in attendance. Had an excellent exchange with Sir Sean and was really chuffed that a rank amateur like me could make a small impression on this icon of the entertainment industry.

I started directing the singers in 2010 after the retirement of Ron Budd and while I don't have the same level of musical education and discipline I do enjoy the challenge and experience. However, the active participation in smaller groups is much more satisfying to me. The sharing of music, especially to those having physical or mental challenges brings a little diversion and enjoyment to their lives and is very satisfying to me.

As I enjoy reciting Burns as well as singing and, notwithstanding the fact that I've been told on more than one occasion that my enthusiasm makes up for my lack of talent, I will continue to do so as long as I am able.

BURNS WORLD (TONY GRACE)

We are entering the last few weeks of our year for the Calgary Burns Club with the AGM preparations already underway. Our last regular meeting will already have taken place on Tuesday April 9th 2024 when the entertainment part of the evening will have been devoted to the infamous William Topaz McGonagall. This will have been the third time the Club has enjoyed the efforts of this poet and hopefully will have been as enjoyable this time as it was on the previous occasions.

The AGM is planned for Tuesday May 14th 2024 and will be preceded by a dinner for those members who wish to fraternize before the meetings. This will be followed by a short (hopefully) Club meeting to clear up any outstanding regular business for the year. Then the AGM will follow with its regular agenda including approving the Financial Statements for the year ending March 31st 2024 as well as the budget for the upcoming year. In addition there will be the election of Officers and Directors for the upcoming year, 2024/2025.

More information is available through their respective websites:-
www.rbwf.org.uk and www.rbana.com.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS (PAUL KANE)

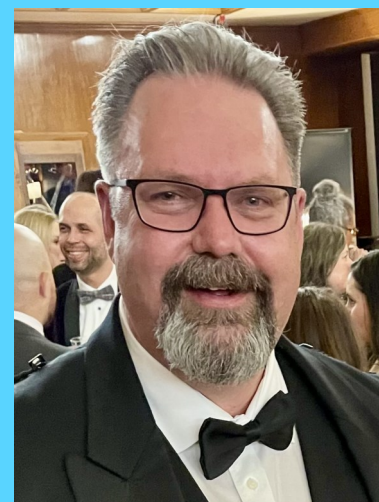
14 Life Members
34 Ordinary Members
9 Associate Members – 3 resident and 6 non-resident
3 Honorary Members
Total of 60 members

Dennis Anderson has accepted the Board's offer of Honorary Membership.

We welcomed 2 new members, James Dahl and Thomas Farquharson and we look forward to their active participation in the Club.

Bill Gardner's children accepted a posthumous 50 year service medal from the Canadian Legion.

Paul Kane
Past President – March 2024



James Dahl



Thomas Farquharson



Bill Gardner's Children Accepting the Award

BURNS POEM

A Winter Night (1786)

When biting Boreas, fell and dour,
Sharp shivers thro' the leafless bow'r;
When Phoebus gies a short-liv'd glow'r,
Far south the lift,
Dim-dark'ning thro' the flaky show'r,
Or whirling drift:

Ae night the storm the steeples rocked,
Poor Labour sweet in sleep was locked,
While burns, wi' snawy wreaths up-choked,
Wild-eddying swirl;
Or, thro' the mining outlet bocked,
Down headlong hurl:

List'ning the doors an' winnocks rattle,
I thought me on the ourie cattle,
Or silly sheep, wha bide this brattle
O' winter war,
And thro' the drift, deep-lairing, sprattle
Beneath a scar.

Ilk happing bird, - wee, helpless thing!
That, in the merry months o' spring,
Delighted me to hear thee sing,
What comes o' thee?
Whare wilt thou cow'r thy chittering wing,
An' close thy e'e?

Ev'n you, on murdering errands toil'd,
Lone from your savage homes exil'd,
The blood-stain'd roost, and sheep-cote spoil'd
My heart forgets,
While pityless the tempest wild
Sore on you beats!

Now Phoebe in her midnight reign,
Dark-muff'd, view'd the dreary plain;
Still crowding thoughts, a pensive train,
Rose in my soul,
When on my ear this plaintive strain,
Slow, solemn, stole:

"Blow, blow, ye winds, with heavier gust!
And freeze, thou bitter-biting frost!
Descend, ye chilly, smothering snows!
Not all your rage, as now united, shows
More hard unkindness unrelenting,
Vengeful malice unrepenting.
Than heaven-illumin'd Man on brother Man
bestows!

ROBERT BURNS IN GLASGOW (JIM MCLAUGHLIN)

Robert Burns was not a frequent visitor to Glasgow, but he did find his way there on about five different occasions, although he most often seems to have been just passing through. The first time was during his tours of the West Highlands in the summer of 1787. His main purpose may have been to transit on to Greenock to visit the gravesite and the family of his recently departed Margaret Campbell - or Highland Mary as she came to be known - but whether he made it or not has never been recorded.

He made a flying visit again in about August of 1787 of which we know little, but in the following February he enjoyed a longer sojourn, staying at the Black Bull Inn, located on Argyll Street at Glassford Street, opposite Stockwell. There he met up with Richard Brown, his old seafaring buddy and his mentor of life's wilder pursuits from his Irvine days, as well as with his brother William. The three of them seem to have passed a very merry evening together; in a letter to his beloved Nancy McLehose in Edinburgh, he reported that it was one of the happiest periods of his life.

The Black Bull Inn itself has an intriguing history, being built by the Highland Society in 1759 (coincidentally the year of the Poet's birth) on the site of the present-day Marks and Spencers store. Besides being an Inn, it also served as a terminal point for a three-times-weekly coach service between Glasgow and Edinburgh. It had 32 rooms and stabling for 40 horses, so it was a pretty imposing structure. The building became part of a warehouse in 1849, and was demolished only as late as 1958.

On another one of his brief trips to Scotland's first city, he stayed at the Saracen Head Inn in the Gallowgate - or the 'Saury Heid' as many Glaswegians would pronounce it - although that original structure was demolished and a replacement built across the street.

Although having spent but little time in Scotland's premier city, Robert had many connections with Glasgow. His Clarinda was a Glasgow lass, born in the Saltmarket in the year of his own birth, and many of his friends and acquaintances either were born or spent many years there. Burns's daughter to Anna Park - Elizabeth, or Betty Burns as she liked to be called - lived all of her married life in Pollockshaws. And Rab himself looks down from a great height in George Square where his larger-than-life bronze form has looked out on the city since January 25th, 1877.

Now, if I may digress to relate an incident that you may think I've made up, but I'll relate it in any case. The Black Bull Inn referred to above was demolished in 1958. Well, a couple of months before that my granny was shopping on Argyll Street and she was overwhelmed by the call of nature. She knew there was a lavvy in the then-deserted building, so she snuck in and made use of the convenience. After finishing her business, she cast around for some paper, only to find that some so-and-so had finished off the roll. But then her eye caught sight of a hole in the wall, in the plaster between the bricks. She noticed what seemed like a piece of paper sticking out slightly, so she managed to tweak it out. It was a fairly long piece of paper tightly rolled up. She unfurled it; it was very old looking and stained, but she saw some writing on it, in fact a poem of some sort which she browsed through. At the end there was a signature that looked to her like 'Robert Burns'. Now my granny wasn't much of a scholar, and not into Burns at all, but she had heard the name. Luckily, she had a bit of a super retentive memory, so she thought she's better memorize the poem. Then she used it to finish her visit and flushed it.

Burns spent a few months in Edinburgh, and composed 'An Address to Edinburgh' the first four lines of which read:

Edina! Scotia's darling seat. (makes you want to puke already)
All hail thy palaces and tow'rs
Where once beneath a monarch's feet
Sat Legislation's sov'reign powers.
He goes on like this for eight verses, and in the last we're treated again to:
Edina! Scotia's darling seat.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

ROBERT BURNS IN GLASGOW (CONTINUED)

Now we come to his unpublished masterpiece, "Address to Glasgow". We only have my granny's word for it that he wrote it, but you can judge for yourselves:

Address to Glasgow

Hail Glasgow, how sweet paradise is,
Proud Scotia's now most darling seat!
Grand palaces Glasgow despises,
And castles false Monarchs to treat.
Great cannons to roar out surprises,
Or force an invader's retreat.
Vain birkies in dandified guises
Sporting grey-powdered wigs in the street;
Proud ladies of noble devises
In Paris-born fashions replete.

These fripperies merely demean,
These vanities thou hast decried;
But what of this place so serene,
On the bonnie banks of the Clyde?
Your valleys sae fruitful and green,
The crimson-hued hills do bestride.
The warm-hearted chiefls I have seen,
Toiling with such honour and pride.
The lasses sae cantie and keen,
Sonsie and bonnie bright-eyed.
Of all of the places I've been,
In my heart shall but Glasgow reside.

Well, I will admit that Robert Burns did not compose this piece, but if he had spent as much time in Glasgow instead of Edinburgh, I think he may have expressed his liking of Glasgow's fair city similar to the above.

Jim McLaughlin

THE CBC WEBSITE (PAUL ARMSTRONG)

The Calgary Burns Club website continues to be a vehicle by which Club Members can stay up to date with current events in the Club and the public can access information regarding Robert Burns and Club hosted events. The traffic has been understandably low during the summer but will ramp up as we approach Burns Season.

As always, we welcome feedback and suggestions for content and improvement of the site.

Dr. C. P. Armstrong, Webmaster

A WINTER NIGHT (CONTINUED)

"See stern Oppression's iron grip,
Or mad Ambition's gory hand,
Sending, like blood-hounds from the slip,
Woe, Want, and Murder o'er a land!
Ev'n in the peaceful rural vale,
Truth, weeping, tells the mournful tale,
How pamp'rd Luxury, Flatt'ry by her side,
The parasite empoisoning her ear,
With all the servile wretches in the rear,
Looks o'er proud Property, extended wide;
And eyes the simple, rustic hind,
Whose toil upholds the glitt'ring show
A creature of another kind,
Some coarser substance, unrefin'd
Plac'd for her lordly use thus far, thus vile,
below!

"Where, where is Love's fond, tender throe,
With lordly Honour's lofty brow,
The pow'rs you proudly own?
Is there, beneath Love's noble name,
Can harbour, dark, the selfish aim,
To bless himself alone?
Mark maiden - innocence a prey
To love-pretending snares:
This boasted Honour turns away,
Shunning soft Pity's rising sway,
Regardless of the tears and unavailing pray'rs!
Perhaps this hour, in Misery's squalid nest,
She strains your infant to her joyless breast,
And with a mother's fears shrinks at the rocking
blast!

"Oh ye! who, sunk in beds of down,
Feel not a want but what yourselves create,
Think, for a moment, on his wretched fate,
Whom friends and fortune quite disown!
Ill-satisfy'd keen nature's clamorous call,
Stretch'd on his straw, he lays himself to sleep;
While through the ragged roof and chinky wall,
Chill, o'er his slumbers, piles the drift heap!
Think on the dungeon's grim confine,
Where Guilt and poor Misfortune pine!
Guilt, erring man, relenting view,
But shall thy legal rage pursue
The wretch, already crushed low
By cruel Fortune's undeserved blow?
Affliction's sons are brothers in distress;
A brother to relieve, how exquisite the bliss!"

I heard nae mair, for Chanticleer
Shook off the pouthery snaw,
And hail'd the morning with a cheer,
A cottage-rousing craw.
But deep this truth impress'd my mind
Thro' all His works abroad,
The heart benevolent and kind
The most resembles God.

THE MAKING OF RABBIE (PAUL ARMSTRONG)



Paul Armstrong beside Bob Young's Painting of Grant MacEwan



Tony Grace Busy at work.



Jim McLaughlin, Trekker Armstrong and Paul Armstrong



Bill Laing, Paul Armstrong, Trekker Armstrong and Brian Cumming



The 'Painter' Bill Laing



The Calgary Burns Club received its charter from the Robert Burns World Federation in June of 1976 and planning immediately began for the Inaugural Dinner to be held on the Bard's birthday, January 25, 1977, at the Calgary Inn. The minutes of the Executive Committee of the fall of 1976 reveal that Graham Underwood proposed that each table have, as its centrepiece, a statue of Robert Burns. He just happened to have such a statue from which a mould could be made and the statues created from it. The origin of it is a mystery that will remain in the mists of time. The statue in question was a miniature replica of the statue of Robert Burns that was created by the London sculptor, George Anderson Lawson, and unveiled in Ayr on July 8, 1891. The minutes also reveal that Jack Whyte volunteered to have a mould made, presumably by Studio West in Cochrane, and our "Rab" was born! This mould is now part of the Club's archives.

A number of Club members have been involved in the statue's production over the years and this is where the history becomes a little hazy, at least in the early days. It is my understanding that Graham Underwood, Wally Hunter, Jack Whyte and Tommy Miller were involved in the production of the early ones. Jim Osborne made them for a couple of years but became frustrated by the high breakage rate. Bill Robinson was involved in their production using his knowledge of plaster techniques. As most of us know the weakest part of the statue is the lower legs. Realizing this, Bob Ferrier was the first to reinforce the legs of the statues with metal in the early 1980s and this practice continues today although we now place two pieces of wire and this seems to improve the integrity of the ankles somewhat more.

In 1989 the Club was in receipt of a box of dental mould material and a limited number of statues were made from it which, although producing a statue that required less work to finish, proved to be too costly to be a viable option for the Club. Ed Riach was involved with their production then and he also created a vibrating platform to use while pouring the statues. The early statues were unpainted as far as I am aware. When they were first painted, as they are today, is not clear. This was a good thing because they could sure make a mess of a nice black Prince Charlie!

In 1996 the Executive committee recommended to the membership that the Club present the City with a bronze copy of the statue to commemorate the bicentennial of the birth of Robert Burns. Joe Dundas undertook this initiative and Studio West was commissioned to make the statue and it appears that two were made; one became the President's statue and is held by the Club President and the second was presented to the City in January of 1997 by, then president, Bill MacLachlan and holds a place of honour in the Grant MacEwan library. We also know that Jim Currie, aided by other members, was involved in their production until his wife became tired of the dust that he created while he was sanding them and he passed the job on to Joe Dundas. For 10 years Joe produced the statues in his garage. He poured, finished and painted them with the help of Graham Underwood for a short time until Graham passed away and then by himself.

Joe deserves special recognition as this is a momentous task!

In 2010 Joe handed the mantle to an unsuspecting threesome of Tony Grace, Jim McLaughlin and Paul Armstrong. The statues were poured in Jim's garage in Douglasdale and then, we think, he sold his house and moved into a condo just to get out of doing it. Little did Sheila Grace know what was happening when the production moved to her garage 2 years later. Sheila, a good sport to the end, tolerated the project and gracefully supplied refreshments. In 2017 the production moved to Trekker Armstrong's garage. Trekker joined the team in 2016 and assumed the role of statue production coordinator in 2017 following the move to his garage.

In the summer of 2023 Bill Laing and Brian Cumming joined the pouring team.

A number of Club members have been involved in the production of the statues over the years and need to be recognized. They are Derek Larg, Jim Hope-Ross, Stephen Campbell, Jamie Osborne, Bill MacLachlan and John Young. Some new faces joined the ranks of the "finishers" in 2017 including Bill Lawson, Stephen Nichol, Don Humphreys, Ken Carr and Brian Cumming. The statues require repair of defects created in the production process and sanding in preparation for painting. In the final stage of their production the statues received 3 coats of white enamel paint before they are ready to be placed on the table at the annual Burns Supper.

For the last 10+ years this has been done between Christmas and New Year at the University of Calgary's Art Department paint booth under the expert guidance of Professor Bill Laing aided by the author. Following this, and once they were dry, the statues were carefully wrapped and boxed by Bill in preparation for transport to the venue for the dinner. In all, each statue takes a minimum of 2 - 3 hours to produce from the initial pour to final placement on the tables at the dinner. With Bill Laing's retirement
(Continued on next page)

from the Art Department at the University of Calgary we lost access to the paint booth and we had to find another place to paint them. In all, each statue takes a minimum of 2 - 3 hours to produce from the initial pour to final placement on the tables at the dinner. With Bill Laing's retirement from the Art Department at the University of Calgary we lost access to the paint booth and we had to find another place to paint them. Fortunately due to the generosity of our Club Patron, Gerry Wood, we were able to have them painted in his Body Shop at Woodridge Ford/Lincoln. David Currie assumed the role of "Chief Finisher and Repairer" of the statues and arranged for them to be painted when they were ready. There was a bit of a learning process for the painters as they had to realize that the statues are fragile and the weak point is the lower leg.

We did suffer some breakages in the process but this was less of a problem in 2023/2024. Enough statues are produced each year to provide for the number of tables that are expected at the dinner with a bit of a cushion to cover breakage and other unforeseen circumstances (usually 40 - 60). The intention is that one guest at the table will take Rab home and that person will be determined by the other guests at the table. It has been the custom for the last many years to present the Dinner Speaker with one of the statues and plinth in recognition of his/her presentation of the Immortal Memory. We are not sure when this tradition began.

We have also, on occasion, given a statue to a VIP (as determined by the Board of Directors) and the Club has presented one of our statues to the Medicine Hat Burns Club. This was to recognize the bond between our two clubs and as a token of gratitude for their gift of the trencher that we use each year to carry the haggis at our events. We also presented one to the Edmonton Burns Club on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary. We welcome volunteers to help in statue production. This is a unique feature of our dinner and it is only with your help that we can continue it. Check out the slideshow on the website!

<https://www.calgaryburnsclub.com/the-production-of-the-burnsstatue.html>

Author's Note: Mark Twain may or may not have said, "Never let the facts get in the way of a good story". This is the situation here. The information contained in this article was gleaned from a wide variety of sources and may or may not be accurate. Please treat this like a Wikipedia article and let me know if you have any corrections to it or can add detail that I have missed. I think that this is an important part of the Club history and I would like to preserve as much as we can. I did not have any pictures of the earlier "artisans" and if anyone can provide some of them making statues I would gladly add them to the piece and the slideshow of the creation of Rabbie.

RBANA AGM/CONFERENCE

RBANA held its annual AGM and Conference in Mount Holly NJ from May 2/24 to May 5/24. The event was hosted by the South Jersey Celtic Society (SJCS). The SJCS planned activities, for each day of the conference which showcased the town of Mount Holly and its History. Mount Holly is a town of approximately 10000 people which is located 30 minutes from Philadelphia PA.

It was the site of battle at Iron works Hill in 1776 during the Revolutionary War, the result of which General Washington was able to defeat the Hessians (British mercenaries) at Trenton and Princeton in the weeks following the action in Mount Holly. Many thanks to SJCS President and RBANA President for hosting. Calgary Burns Club was well represented at the conference, with attendance by Brian Cumming, his wife Jan Boydol, Jamie Osborne, and Jon and Lisa Easton. Canada was also well represented by attendees from Edmonton Burns Club, Halton Peel Burns Club and the Winnipeg Burns Club. Jane Brown, Jean Abdulrahim, Margaretann Dougall and Bill Dawson also made the long trip from Scotland.

The conference began on Thursday night with cigars and whisky at the Smoking Dog, followed by dinner the Local Bar & Grille. An informal Ceilidh followed in the restaurant's lounge and whisky bar. Entertainment was provided by the Kennedy's (Paul on guitar and Junior on fiddle. Friday began with a golf tournament where to everyone's surprise Darlene Cameron won. This is the first time in many years that Ronnie O'Byrne or Les Strachan's name is not to the trophy. Many of the attendees went on a walking tour of Mount Holly, or the afternoon by an excellent whisky tasting at the Train Wreck distillery.

Friday night was a ceilidh held at the Deerfield Country Club with an excellent buffet dinner and entertainment. Guests were treated to music from RBANA and SJCS members as well as a local group.

The AGM was held at the Lyceum and Museum of Natural History in Mount Holly. Mark Ferguson was bestowed as president and Brian Cumming as senior vice president. The AGM was followed by a lecture on Burns and Adam Smith, by Dr. Steven Newman of Temple University and by a joint lecture by Ronnie O'Byrne and Les Strachan on Burns and Northern Ireland. Post AGM, Saturday attendees chose from Mount Holly activities including a brewery tour or an afternoon tea at the Peach field plantation, home to the first freemason in North America, John Skene.

On Saturday the RBANA Burns Supper was held at O'Connor's American Grill, Jamie Osborne performed "Toast, to the Haggis and Charlie Zahn a local entertainer was the emcee, and performed along with the Kennedy's, Bob Hurst, and Joe Mullin & Friends.

Great food was had again, including a special flight of whiskies available, paired to the courses. Les Strachan did the IM, Ronnie O'Byrne the Toast to the Lassies and Jane Brown the Reply to the Lads.

On Sunday eight of us were able to go to the Rosenbach museum, where we were able to see and touch a number of Burn's handwritten manuscripts as well as a copy of the Johnson's Scot's Musical Museum. What a treat to see them.

Finally, many thanks to Paul Kennedy and his volunteer drivers who not only picked us up and dropped us off at Philadelphia International but also drove us to and from events.



The 'Finisher' David Currie



The Statue Team



Brian Cumming, Jan Boydol, Edmonton BC President Doug Mathieson (Far right) and wife Kathy



The Presidential Team and Guests



Jamie Osborne Addressing the Haggis



Calgary Claver

****DOUBLE ISSUE****

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



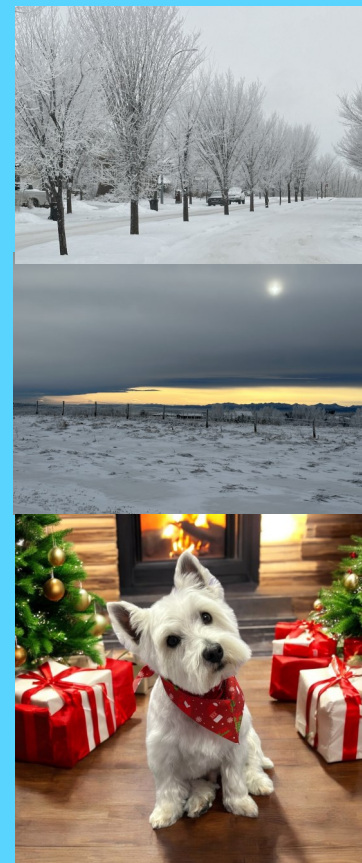
I can not believe that it has been 6 months already since you, the membership, have voted me in as President. The first 6 months have been quite a learning experience for me, as this is the first time I have held a position of this magnitude. And it is with the help of the Board, Past Presidents, and the Membership, that I have felt that I am not alone and have all the support and encouragement I need to be the best President I can be. Thank You.

This year so far has been hard on our membership with the passing of so many members, spouses, family members, and past members. Colin Logan (Past Member), Jean Whitelock (Wife of Founding Member John Whitelock), Claire Stephens (Daughter of Stuart and Anne Chalmers), Anne Ferrier (Wife of Life Member Bob Ferrier), Ed Riach (Previous Member), as well as Kyle Scott (Member and Director at Large). My sincere condolences to all the families during these difficult times. I also wish a speedy recovery to all the members that are currently ill at the moment and look forward to seeing you at the meetings again very soon.

I originally met Peter Pringle on January 25th, 2023, when Dad and I attended the Greenock Burns Club's (The Mother Club) Burns Night, where Peter and I were sat together at the table, and enjoyed an evening long chat and the start to a good friendship. I then met Peter again recently in September when I attended the RBWF AGM & Conference (along with Ron & Louise Pratt) and got to meet his wife Morven where he was voted in as President of the RBWF. Peter & Morven arrived in Calgary on October 1st, where they were hosted by Henry & Shona, along with some other members of the Club, for 2 weeks on their first trip to Canada. On October 8th, the Club hosted Peter & Morven for the RBWF President's Reception where Peter gave an excellent talk on what his plans are as President of RBWF, as well, the two of them were enthralled by the excellent performance of the Calgary Burns Club Singers, and the gift of a set of CD's of the Singers. Thank you to everyone for hosting Peter & Morven, and making them feel so welcome, and for representing Calgary and the Calgary Burns Club as an elite city and Club.

I am really looking forward to the next 6 months, as well as the preparation of the Club becoming one year closer to its 50th Anniversary in 2026!

Jamie Osborne
President, Calgary Burns Club



1. Winter Hits Calgary
2. 'Chinook' From NW Calgary
3. Our Brodie at Christmas

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RBWF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (PETER PRINGLE)



**Henry, Morven and Peter
Hockey Night in Calgary**



My first visit abroad as RBWF President was to Calgary BC, Medicine Hat BC and Edmonton BC. The itinerary also allowed visits to both Calgary University and The Rotary Club of Calgary; where we build network links back in Scotland with both said institutions and organisations. One of the many highlights was the trip to Lake Louise and the surrounding Rocky Mountain Range. We were most grateful to Henry Cairney and his wife Shona for allowing us this once in a lifetime experience and wonderful opportunity to see these wondrous forces of nature close up and be among such breath-taking beauty. We considered ourselves most blessed. Huge thanks to both.

I wondered how Robert Burns would have described these most wonderful vistas

Our 2 day trip to Edmonton with Edmonton BC President Doug Matheson and his lovely wife Kathy was also excellent. The Edmonton BC Supper was an intimate and lovely evening and I spoke on how the Federation were trying to engage younger members to the Burns Movement. Doug and Cathy, our hosts, cooked and distributed meals to the homeless in Edmonton, Morven and I went along to help deliver the food, and witnessed compassion and kindness afforded to those who had fallen on hard times in a non-judgemental manner with such grace and love. I was a moving experience and I vowed to try and explore how I could contribute in my own communities in Scotland or by donating to those charities engaged in similar activities. We attended two sporting venues, our first ever ice hockey match with Calgary President Jamie Osborne and my first ever Canadian Football Match arranged by Henry. Something you see on television but you had to be there to experience this marvellous spectacle

The Burns communities have many wise counsellors including Henry, and I will be putting out a call to meet some of those individuals that can offer help to the Federation during these difficult and challenging times that the world is currently facing

Other Calgary Burns Cronies Jim Hutchins, Brian Cumming and wives were both equally exceptional in providing guided tours of the city and visits to the countryside which had both heritage and cultural significances.

Jim arranged for me to speak at The Rotary Club of Calgary and as Rotarian I learned a great deal about the marvellous work their clubs were engaged in supporting their local communities with exceptional fundraising capacities I also shared our main projects the Dementia project and working with Arts and Media Students. RBANA President Mark Ferguson and I agreed to collaborate on our various approaches on how we are proceeding to engage the 20 -35-year-old undergraduates and postgraduates through our project work and other related Burns and Scots Language initiatives

The Medicine Hat Supper was truly special and one that will remain with me for all time, and my gift of The Trencher was truly appreciated and completely unexpected.

My sincere thanks on behalf of the Robert Burns World Federation were relayed for a wonderful evening especially to Ken Montgomery and President Rab Cowan for a super evening.

The Dementia Project I sensed was something they could relate to and understand.

To conclude, my focus on this trip was to learn how our Canadian friends were meeting the challenges of recruiting new members and especially in the aforesaid 20 -35 year age bracket.

I found that our Canadian Burns friends were some of the kindest and most sincere people that I know have had the good fortune to meet and make their acquaintance.

My wife Morven is a talented singer with a beautiful voice; but like most genuine talented people doesn't put herself forward into the spotlight as a performer. She felt so comfortable and so safe in the presence of her new Canadian friends that she felt suddenly compelled to sing a beautiful song about the Highland Clearances which was well received .

Mark Twain was a great admirer of Robert Burns and once said .

If in life if you can be anythingbe kind.

Because kindness is the Language the Blind can see

And the Deaf can hear.

Burns would have most certainly have approved of those wise sentiments

Peter Pringle
President RBWF



**Peter the Converted in
Tim Horton's Glasgow**

RBANA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (MARK FERGUSON)



Dear Friends and Fellow Burnsians of the Calgary Burns Club,

As the winter season approaches, I extend my warmest greetings to each of you. It is a privilege to connect with kindred spirits who share a deep passion for celebrating the life and works of Robert Burns. Your dedication to preserving his legacy continues to inspire admiration across the global Burnsian community. In these colder months, I hope you find comfort in the fellowship of your club and the enduring warmth of Burns' words, which resonate through every season. Take care to stay safe and warm as Alberta's winter weather sets in—remember, even Burns himself would surely recommend a dram or two to keep the cold at bay!

I write not only to send my best wishes but also to encourage you to attend the 2025 Annual General Meeting and Conference – an event that will unite Burnsians from across North America and beyond! Taking place in the vibrant city of Atlanta, Georgia, hosted by the esteemed Burns Club of Atlanta. Mark your calendars for May 9 and 10, 2025, and prepare for an unforgettable experience of camaraderie, celebration, and cultural enrichment.

A particular highlight of the 2025 conference will be an opportunity to visit the replica Burns Cottage, a cherished centerpiece of the Burns Club of Atlanta. Imagine walking through its doors and being transported to Alloway, immersed in the surroundings that so profoundly shaped the Bard's early life. This iconic setting will serve as the venue for a lively Ceilidh—a chance to revel in music, poetry, and spirited conversation in a truly magical atmosphere. Beyond the Ceilidh, the weekend promises engaging speakers, discussions, and the chance to reconnect with old friends while forging new connections. It is through gatherings like these that we strengthen our shared mission of keeping Burns' spirit alive and ensuring his timeless message of equality, love, and humanity continues to resonate.

On behalf of RBANA, I encourage each of you to consider making the journey to Atlanta. It is sure to be an occasion that embodies the essence of our Burnsian fellowship—a celebration of art, culture, and enduring friendship. Until then, may your winter months be filled with good cheer, and may the shared passion for Robert Burns bring light and warmth to your lives. I look forward to seeing many of you at future gatherings and continuing the work of our shared cause together.

Yours in Burns,
Mark Ferguson
President, Robert Burns Association of North America
Mark Ferguson

President, RBANA

BURNS POEM

Ae Fond Kiss (1791)

Ae fond kiss, and then we sever;
Ae fareweel, and then for ever!
Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge thee,
Warring sighs and groans I'll wage thee.
Who shall say that Fortune grieves him,
While the star of hope she leaves him?
Me, nae cheerful twinkle lights me;
Dark despair around benights me.

I'll ne'er blame my partial fancy,
Naething could resist my Nancy;
But to see her was to love her;
Love but her, and love for ever.
Had we never lov'd sae kindly,
Had we never lov'd sae blindly,
Never met-or never parted,
We had ne'er been broken-hearted.

Fare-thee-weel, thou first and fairest!
Fare-thee-weel, thou best and dearest!
Thine be ilka joy and treasure,
Peace, Enjoyment, Love and Pleasure!
Ae fond kiss, and then we sever!
Ae fareweel alas, for ever!
Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge thee,
Warring sighs and groans I'll wage thee.

CANADIAN FACTS

1. Canada is responsible for producing nearly 85% of the world's maple syrup. Many families have maintained their businesses by passing down land filled with rock maple trees from one generation to the next.
2. The ramparts of Quebec City have a rich history beyond mere decoration. Originally built by French and British colonists from the 17th to the 19th centuries, these fortifications served as a formidable defence against invaders.
3. Canada's Thanksgiving predates the American tradition by over 40 years, with origins going back to 1578 when the English explorer Martin Frobisher held a ceremony in Newfoundland to express gratitude for a successful voyage.

BURNS SONG

Auld Lang Syne (1788)

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne!

For auld lang syne, my jo,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

And surely ye'll be your pint stowp!
And surely I'll be mine!
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

We twa hae run about the braes,
And pou'd the gowans fine;
But we've wander'd mony a weary fit,
Sin' auld lang syne.

We twa hae paidl'd in the burn,
Frae morning sun till dine;
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
Sin' auld lang syne.

And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!
And gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll tak a right gude-willie-
waught,
For auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my jo,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.



The Presidents and Guests



Peter and Escort

FIRST VP REPORT (STEVEN CAMPBELL)

Preparations continue for the CBC Burns Supper on January 24th 2025, where an estimated 360-400 attendees will gather at The Hotel Arts to celebrate the 266th year of the Ploughman Poet's birth. The event continues to gain momentum, with over 80% of the capacity sold with just over a month to go. The entertainment is finalized and guest Speaker Ronnie O'Byrne from Ontario has been confirmed. If anyone is interested in sponsoring part of this event, please do not hesitate to reach out to me; we have plenty of options available for sponsorships of all sizes.

Steven Campbell
1st VP Calgary Burns Club

SECOND VP REPORT (JOHN EASTON)

Saint Andrew's Night!

The fall has been busy with St Andrews night event planning and then the actual evening. We decided to hold the event at the Delta South Hotel again this year on Friday, November 29th where we had a full slate of entertainment including our club piper Thomas Farquharson, the Calgary Fiddlers, The Campbell School of Dancing and of course the Calgary Burns Club Singers among others. A superb evening was had by all. I thank all who attended!

John Easton
2nd VP Calgary Burns Club

BURNS WORLD (TONY GRACE)

The Calgary Burns Club has been active in the Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA) for the last several years and will continue to be with Brian Cumming standing for Vice President, Jamie Osborne as Treasurer and Rob Pinkerton as a Canadian Director at the upcoming RBANA AGM. The AGM is being held in Mount Holy, New Jersey from May 2 – 5. An ambitious series of events is planned in this historic town as well as a number of visits including a brewery and a distillery. Any members wishing to support this event should register as soon as possible.

Full details and application forms for the Robert Burns World Federation AGM and Conference have just been made available online. The event will be held in Irvine, Ayrshire from September 13th - 15th 2024. Full details and planned activities are still being developed and will be announced when they are finalized. The Conference promises to be a good one with Irvine having strong connections with Robert Burns, and have hosted previous RBWF Conferences with great success. Irvine Burns Club has its own home called The Wellwood Burns Centre and Museum which is home to a large number of Burns associated items including a significant number of his manuscripts, which always make a visit there well worthwhile. When the Calgary Burns Club Singers visited Scotland in 2023 they performed at the Wellwood Centre. Any member planning on visiting Scotland in September should consider attending this conference.

More information is available through their respective websites:-
www.rbwf.org.uk and www.rbana.com.

MEDICINE HAT JOLLY BEGGARS (HENRY CAIRNEY)

The Medicine Hat Jolly Beggars was held on Saturday 5th October 2024 at the Medicine Hat Golf Club.

It was well attended with the Presidents from the RBWF (Peter Pringle), RBANA President (Mark Ferguson, Calgary BC President (Jamie Osborne), Edmonton BC President (Doug Mathieson) and three other members from Calgary BC, Henry Cairney, Ron Pratt and Brian Cumming. A wonderful evening was had by all with the usual delicious meal which also included an 'Ostrich' course (No I never saw anyone with their head in the sand) and their famous 'Whisky Bar'. Peter Pringle gave the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns and Henry Cairney gave the address to the Haggis accompanied by Bill Cocks (Medicine Hat BC) providing an 'English Translation'. Ron Pratt, Henry Cairney and Brian Cumming provided 'Bring On The Whisky'. The evening closed with 'Auld Lang Syne' and the company weaved their merry way home.

Henry Cairney

5000 MILES - 15 YEARS LATER (JIM LITTLE)

I'm sure you've heard about the Calgary Burns Club Singers' appearance at the 2009 Edinburgh Tattoo so I thought on this the 15th. Anniversary of that trip, I might be allowed to share, in song, some of the lesser known highlights of that glorious adventure.

We practiced, every weekend in the pub...

When we were invited to perform at the Tattoo, we were told we had to march off in formation in front of a crowd of 9,000 people. So we practiced marching around the Rose and Crown parking lot every Saturday morning, much to the amusement of the passers by. One of them called the Police who were even more amused at our pathetic attempts keep in step.

We were singing on the castle esplanade...

We were standing in a straight line across the castle esplanade; the principal singers, from the Glasgow School of Music, each had a mike, the tenors shared a mike, the baritones shared two mikes, the basses started with a mike but one of the singers broke their's so they "borrowed" the bass's mike...and it never came back. But we kept singing, every evening, rain or shine for the next three weeks.

In the finale...

We were on the other side of the drawbridge, off the esplanade altogether. To get there, we entered the castle via a tunnel, sneaked quietly through the castle door into cramped, unlit alcove, out of sight of the audience. It was just as though we weren't there - until we marched out of the darkness into the light singing "We're no awa to bide awa".

When it was (all) over...

One last afterparty in our favourite pub The Whisky Bar, where the Singers in full dress uniform, met after every performance to relax and sing for the punters. On this last night, the crowd was so big, it spilled out onto the pavement and the Singers were behind the bar, helping to serve.

...and we can brag about our singing in the rain.

...and singing in the rain we were. One night we had a tropical downpour reminiscent of Hawaii, only 20 degrees colder. After the performance, there were kilts hanging in hallways, doorways, chair backs and light fixtures in a desperate attempt to dry them before the following day's performance. Alas, in my case, to no avail. I drooped onto the esplanade next day, wet and shivering, buckling at the knees from the added weight. No "going commando" for me that night!

And now the song (to the tune of 500 miles by The Proclaimers).

(Chorus)

**FOR WE ALL FLEW FIVE THOUSAND MILES, AND THEN WE FLEW FIVE THOUSAND MORE
TO BE THE MEN WHO FLEW TEN THOUSAND MILES TO SING AT THE CASTLE DOOR
(Ldr: Sha na nana) all: SHA NA NANA (Ldr: Sha na nana) all: SHA NA NANA
all: SHA NA NA NANANANA NA NANANANA NA (x 2)**

We're the singers, of the Calgary Burns Club
We were invited to the Edinbra Tattoo
So we practiced, every weekend at the pub
and we wrote a Little song to sing for you

(Chorus)

Ldr: In Ed-in-bur-gh, August two thou-sand and nine
We were singing on the castle esplanade
And we kept singing; every evening, rain or shine
Till we marched off in that final grand parade

(Chorus)

In the finale, we were against the castle door
It was just as though we weren'y there a 'taw
But we kept singing, 'til we were marching off once more
Belting out we're no awa to bide awa'

(Chorus)

When it was over, at the Edinbra Tattoo,
We came flying back to Calgary again
And when we're older, and our singing days are through,
We can brag about our singing in the rain

All in all, it was an incredible experience - and we made it back to Calgary, tired (very tired), but happy.....
Jim Little

BURNS SONG

Bony Jean (1793)

There was a lass and she was fair,
At kirk or market to be seen;
When a' our fairest maids were met,
The fairest maid was bonie Jean.

And ay she wrought her Mammie's wark,
And ay she sang sae merrilie;
The blythest bird upon the bush
Had ne'er a lighter heart than she.

But hawks will rob the tender joys
That bless the little lintwhite's nest;
And frost will blight the fairest flowers,
And love will break the soundest rest.

Young Robie was the brawest lad,
The flower and pride of a' the glen;
And he had owsen, sheep, and kye,
And wanton naigies nine or ten.

He gaed wi' Jeanie to the tryste,
He danc'd wi' Jeanie on the down;
And, lang ere witless Jeanie wist,
Her heart was tint, her peace was stown!

As in the bosom o' the stream,
The moon-beam dwells at dewy e'en;
So trembling, pure, was tender love
Within the breast of bonie Jean.

And now she works her Mammie's wark,
And ay she sighs wi' care and pain;
Yet wist na what her ail might be,
Or what wad make her weel again.

But did na Jeanie's heart lowp light,
And did na joy blink in her e'e,
As Robie tauld a tale o' love
Ae e'ening on the lily lea?

The sun was sinking in the west,
The birds sang sweet in ilka grove;
His cheek to hers he fondly laid,
And whisper'd thus his tale o' love:

"O Jeanie fair, I loe thee dear;
O canst thou think to fancy me!
Or wilt thou leave thy Mammie's cot,
And learn to tent the farms wi' me?"

At barn or byre thou shalt na drudge,
Or naething else to trouble thee;
But stray among the heather-bells,
And tent the waving corn wi' me.

Now what could artless Jeanie do?
She had nae will to say him na:
At length she blush'd a sweet consent,
And love was aye between them twa.

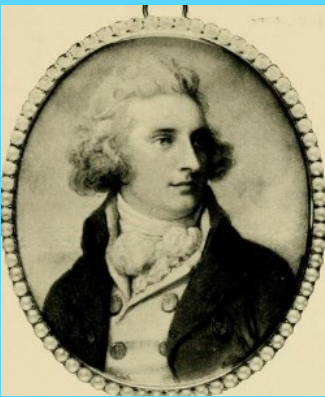
THE CARNIE GROUP (JIM MCLAUGHLIN)



**The Sabine Women Statue
in Giambologna, Florence**



Maria Riddell



Robert Riddell

Robert Burns and Rape of the Sabine Women

This title may suggest an unlikely connection between Burns and a violent connubial- inspired abduction of a group of mostly virginal Sabine women. The story is considered part of early Roman mythology when Romulus supposedly ordered the capture of these women to provide a pool of wives for Rome's predominantly male population following its early foundation. So, how could this have anything to do with Scotland's Bard? Well, let's find out.

Not long after his taking on the lease of Ellisland Farm, Burns had become friendly with Robert Riddell, a distinguished member of the Dumfrieshire gentry. The Riddell estate was located immediately to the north of Ellisland. By about 1791 Burns considered Robert Riddell to be his best friend. About two years later, he also became acquainted with Riddell's sister-in-law, Maria Riddell.

By then, at just twenty-one years of age, Maria was already a mother of two. She was an attractive, intelligent and musically accomplished young woman, and also recognized by Burns as a talented poet whom he coached with the intent of improving her technique. She was married to Robert Riddell's brother Walter who - at the time of this incident - had been in the West Indies for several months managing a number of sugar plantations that he owned there; Maria was free therefore to take advantage of the social interactions to which a spirited and popular young lady would no doubt have been exposed. Burns was particularly drawn to her, and they met fairly frequently, but she does seem to have discouraged whatever romantic attentions he may have attempted to bestow upon her.

The extent to which these meetings were noticed by Robert Riddell and his wife Elizabeth, and what they thought of them, is not known for sure, but they would almost certainly have been concerned about Maria's frequent and audacious contacts, both with the poet and also a company of officers from a regiment garrisoned at that time in Dumfries, and having them openly socialize with her at the theatre.

It appears there was never a good relationship between the Robert Riddells and Walter and Maria, and if the rumour mill was now churning out gossip concerning Maria's apparent indiscretions, it is not unreasonable to suppose that Robert and his wife Elizabeth at some point would have felt that the family reputation was being sullied and it was time for something to be done about it. Maria had to be punished, and in such a way that would be witnessed by others.

In what was thought to have been late December 1793, they decided to put on a dinner to achieve this, to which Burns was invited (though not accompanied by Jean as she often did not attend such events with him) and of course the unwary Maria. At least some of the invited guests must have been drawn into the dastardly plan they devised, and in which Burns would serve as a central figure and unwitting villain. The incident is supposed to have taken place after dinner when, as was the custom of the time, the ladies would have withdrawn to a separate room to allow the men to discourse over their port and brandy. But on this occasion one or more of the men - likely Robert Riddell himself - fed Burns sufficient liquor to ensure that he was well oiled and primed to fulfill his role in a re-enactment of the Sabine Women drama...just to amuse the ladies, don't you know. The men would each be assigned a particular lady for their pretended abduction, with Burns assigned to Maria; the others would likely claim to be paired with the ladies they were escorting. On an agreed signal, the men began to charge towards the entrance to the room where the ladies were, though everyone but Burns held back at the last moment. The well-intoxicated Burns continued on unaware, with all of the ladies watching on in horrified dismay as he appeared to roughly and sexually assault Maria, only too late for he himself to realize what he was doing, and he alone! At that point he must have known that he had been set up. But why? And by his good friend Robert of all people. Burns's chagrin was overwhelming as Riddell almost immediately ejected him from the house in disgrace.

We can only guess what Burns was guilty of. Was it a kiss? Was it a grope? Something much more? It was presumably an act that was blatantly unacceptable. No written account of the event has ever been found. Why would no one in a roomful of guests not disclose an accurate description of something so scandalous that it destroyed Burns's friendship with the Riddell family and cast such shame on him? Perhaps we will never know. Burns did write a letter of abject apology addressed to the hostess, Elizabeth Riddell, blaming drunkenness for his behaviour. He and Robert Riddell never reconciled. Over time they may have, but Riddell died just four months later. Burns never expressed anger over his treatment at the hands of his one-time friend. He even honoured him with Sonnet on the Death of Robert Riddell, a mournful Epitaph for one whom he still held in high esteem. We have to assume that Maria's relationship with the family would also have been strained as a result of this orchestrated drama, but she did eventually seem to have been accepted back into the fold.

In a letter of rebuke dated January 12, 1794, Maria broke with him, an act he resented and that prompted his writing of Monody - On a Lady Famed For Her Caprice. However, they did fully reconcile in February 1796, and met at Brow Well for a bittersweet parting about two weeks prior to the poet's death.

KYLE SCOTT (JAMIE OSBORNE)

Kyle Bruce Arnold Scott

July 8, 1964 – August 4, 2024

Kyle joined the Calgary Burns Club in January of 2013, and what a ride it has been. Immediately upon joining the Club, Kyle started acting as our Piper, as a legal advisor, a singer, a quiz extraordinaire, to a Director at Large, among many other things. For me, the thing I will miss the most, is that laugh of his. No matter what, Kyle always found something to laugh about. Where do you start with trying to come up with something to say in brief words about the life that Kyle lived? Kyle was an extremely busy man in both his personal and professional life and was also a member of many groups and organizations where he always put his name forward to help where help was needed.

Born in Winnipeg, Kyle moved to Calgary with his parents and siblings. Kyle attended the University of Calgary and graduated with a BA in 1987, and in 1991 graduated from the University of Western Ontario with his M.B.A. and Law Degrees. His professional life was a passion of his, and “caught the bug” for law and politics from his parents Brian (was a Provincial Court Judge, and Assistant Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta) and Shiela (Campaign Manager for Ralph Klein in the 1980’s). His charity and not-for-profit work was also influenced by his parents who were both deeply involved in so many.

Kyle married the love of his life Yolanta Scott (Sochacki) in June of 2019, where the two of them merged their families of 4 and 2 children respectively. They shared many passions together, like football, hockey, travelling, music, and motorbikes. As busy as he was, he always found time to put his family and passions first.

Kyle’s professional life was in the legal industry, mainly based out of Calgary, Edmonton, and Fort McMurray. Being called to the Bar in 1992, he brought to the table more than 25 years of legal experience, in Business and Corporate law, Real Estate Law, Employment Law, Environmental Law, Wills and Estate Law, Charities and Not-For-Profit Law, and many more. Kyle opened and ran his own practice, Craft Law Group in 2013. He also dabbled in Politics for the People’s Party of Canada.

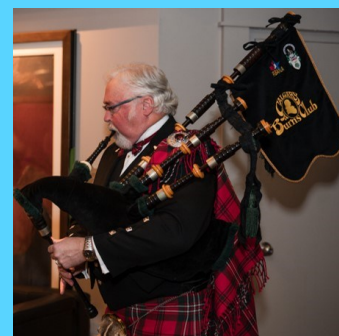
Recently, Kyle was a newly elected member of the Board for the Calgary Burns Club, Immediate Past Grand Master of Alberta, was President of the Al Azhar Shrine Mounted Patrol, Director of Easter Seals of Alberta, Officer Commanding of the 78th Fraser Highlanders Fort Calgary Garrison, among many others. Kyle was also very active in the piping community, played with several bands, and was appointed the official piper of many of these groups, clubs, and organizations.

Out of all he was a part of the Masons and the Frasers where he was most at home. Kyle joined his mother Lodge, Millennium No. 2000 in early 2006, taking on the role of Lodge Secretary soon after being raised as a Master Mason. He served as Secretary, Secretary-Treasurer and then Treasurer of Millennium Lodge from 2006-10. He was one of the Charter Members of Aurora-Borealis Lodge No. 201 in 2008, serving as the first Secretary-Treasurer of this Lodge in 2008-09, ultimately rising to Master of the Lodge in 2011-12. Despite a transfer back to Calgary in late 2011, Kyle completed his duties as Master and remained active with his Fort McMurray Lodges and within the Athabasca District, serving as DDGM for that District in 2014-15. His Masonic journey expanded beyond Craft Lodge and he is a member of most Concordant Bodies, most actively as the current President of the Al Azhar Shrine Mounted Patrol. As well as serving as DDGM, Kyle served three terms as Grand Piper. He was elected to the Board of General Purposes for 2017-2020, before being elected as Junior Grand Warden in 2020, and Grand Master in 2023.

In the fall of 1979 Kyle joined the 78th Fraser Highlanders Fort Calgary Youth Squad. His first summer with the Frasers was spent in Montreal with the Headquarters Squad to learn the ropes, where his prowess as a piper saw him appointed as the first Pipe Major of the Calgary Garrison. Little did he know that this would become a central focus throughout much of his life. Since 1979, Kyle spent much of the ensuing 45 years working with various generations of the band teaching them piping, history, and band officer. This saw Kyle rise through the ranks within the garrison, with his most recent promotion being Major and Officer Commanding. Kyle was the first 2nd Generation officer to hold this position in the entire 78th Fraser Highlanders after his father Brian held this position in the 90’s. Sadly, Kyle never got to finish this position, and as one of the longest serving members in the Regiment, Kyle was posthumously awarded the rank of Honorary Lieutenant Colonel at his service. This is the promotion you receive when you finish your term as Officer Commanding. No doubt in anybody’s mind is that Kyle would have continued through the ranks to become the Colonel Commandant, the highest position available in the Regiment.



**Kyle Bruce Arnold Scott
1964 - 2024**



**Kyle Piping with the CBC
Pipers Pennant**



Jamie and Kyle



MW Brother Kyle Scott

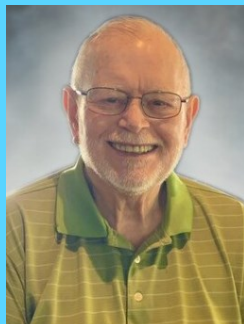
KYLE SCOTT (CONTINUED)



Kyle and Jamie having a Wee 'Deoch an' Doris'



Anne and Bob Ferrier



Colin Logan



Susan Stephens (Nee Chalmers)

I am going to leave you with a piece by Burns that I truly believe describes Kyle, and that is Epitaph on my own Friend.

An honest man here lies at rest,
As e'er God with His image blest:
The friend of man, the friend of truth;
The friend of age, and guide of youth:
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd:
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.

Rest easy my friend and make the angels dance with the sound of your pipes!

Jamie Osborne

MEMBERSHIP NEWS (ROB PINKERTON)

The membership update is as follows:

Life 14
Ordinary 34
Honorary 3
Associate 6
Regards,
Rob Pinkerton

Also further to the above, sadly on July 25th 2024 we lost Anne Ferrier, the wife of longtime Calgary Burns Club member Bob Ferrier. Anne was a friend to everyone who met her and always lit up a room when she entered.

Her obituary is available at <https://www.providencefuneralhomes.com/obituary/Anne-Ferrier>

Also a previous club member Colin Logan passed on May 6 2024, his obituary is at: <https://mhfh.com/tribute/details/49478/Colin-Logan/obituary.html>

Sadly the daughter of Life Member Stuart Chalmers Susan Stephens passed away on June 16th 2024. Sadly we also lost Kyle Scott on Sunday, August 4, 2024 who passed away after a road traffic accident. His profile and photos are also a part of this Claver issue, on the previous page and this page.

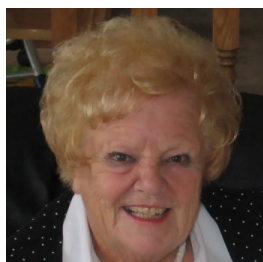
His Obituary is available at <https://mhfh.com/tribute/details/50518/Kyle-Scott/obituary.html>

On October 4th 2024 Ed Riach passed away at the age of 87 years. Ed was a former member of the Calgary Burns Club and will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

His obituary is available at <https://mhfh.com/tribute/details/51144/Edward-Riach/obituary.html>

The following also passed in 2024: Jean Whitlock and Sandy Morrison I was unable to find details of their obituaries in time for publication.

Regards,
Rob Pinkerton



Betty Spiers



Ed Riach

CBC SINGERS (RON PRATT)

After participating again at the Water Valley Celtic Festival in June we had the summer off, much to the satisfaction of the group. In November, we provided the choral singing at two sunrise ceremonies at the Field of Crosses. One was that for the Memorial Cross Families and the other for the US Tribute day, both of which we have done several times before. Also in November we were pleased to be part of the ProArts noon hour concert series at the Cathedral Church of the Redeemer in Calgary.

We finished November with a short lively program at our St Andrews night and followed this with Christmas concerts in December for the ANAV (Army Navy Air Force Veterans) at the Forest Lawn Legion, The Fanning Centre where we have performed for many years, and the Dulcina Hospice in NW Calgary. It was very moving when one of the lady residents with a lovely voice joined in singing Silent Night with us.

Aside from the two week Christmas break at the Danish Canadian Club, practices will continue there for the next few months.

CBC COMMUNICATIONS (BRIAN CUMMING)

The membership list has seen a number of address changes since spring 2024, but as of December 11-24 is fully up to date and has been posted on the website by Paul Armstrong. Please ensure that your membership information is current and correct and inform me of any changes promptly to ensure you do not miss any important communications.

The announcement that Bill Gardner's 50-year award at the Royal Canadian Legion was accepted by his grandchildren on his behalf was sent out to the membership in March 2024.

Funeral announcements were sent out to the membership for both the passing of Club member Kyle Scott, and Betty Spiers, wife of club member Bill Spiers.

On October 31-24 Margaretann Dougall stepped down as RBWF Administrator. Janet MacDonald has taken over her position and we continue receive RBWF communications from her. The latest was the November 2024 Vision.

I will continue to forward communications from RBWF and RBANA to club members via the CBC distribution list, as well as relevant communications from club members.

Brian Cumming - Communications Convenor

Brian Cumming (March 2024) Communications Convenor

THE CALGARY CLAVER

Thank you to all contributors.

If you have anything with a Robert Burns, Scottish or Canadian cultural interest you would like included in the newsletter, please e-mail Henry Cairney at: henrycairney7@gmail.com

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Deadline for the Spring edition
of the Calgary Claver is:

****April 30th 2025****

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2024/2025

Executive

President: Jamie Osborne

1st VP: Steven Campbell

2nd VP: John Easton

Secretary: Tony Grace

Treasurer: Steven Nichol

Non-Executive

Past President: Rob Pinkerton

Director At Large: Dayle West

Director At Large: Henry Cairney

Director At Large: Kyle Scott (Deceased)

Ex-Officio

Communications: Brian Cumming

Entertainment: Henry Cairney

Steward: David Currie

Website: Paul Armstrong

FUTURE EVENTS

CBC Burns Supper Jan 24th 2025

Summer Barbeque T.B.A.

St Andrews Event Dinner T.B.A

IN THE NEXT EDITION

1) T.B.A.

APPRECIATION

I would like to give thanks to Ron Budd, for his work in proof reading and feedback with this edition of the Claver.

Henry Cairney

FUTURE SPEAKERS

2025 Ronnie O'Byrne

2026 Sandy Paterson

2027 Henry Cairney

Editor's Note

The views expressed in the articles are not necessarily those of the Editor, BOD or the Calgary Burns Club at large. Feel free to contact the authors directly for any clarification.