



Calgary Claver

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (MAY 2023)

2022-2023 for the Calgary Burns Club (CBC) has been remarkable as the Club transitioned from exiting the Covid epidemic to delivering an outstanding year of achievements and events, for both the Membership and the external communities we engage with. This is testament to the tireless work and contributions that all the Membership, the appointed Board Convenors, the nominated Board Sub-committees and the elected Board of Directors (BoD), have made over the past year.

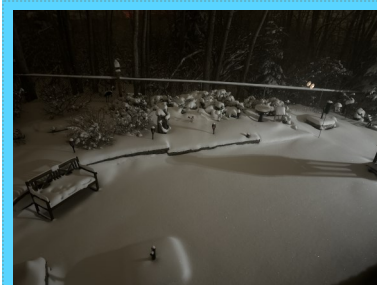
There are so many names to thank individually, and collectively, for a multitude of achievements and events delivered in the last year, that it would take several pages to list.

We all know who you are. I will personally say, without a shadow of a doubt, how grateful I am to each and every one of you for delivering a remarkable year for the CBC. It was a standout year that will long live in the collective memories of the Membership, our fraternal friends in the Burns Club network worldwide and in the communities we engage with.

Regarding opportunities to sustain the Club for the next year and beyond, there are now strategic themes for the incoming BoD and Membership to work on. Working on these strategic themes is critical to the sustaining the Club.

I therefor urge each Member to embrace these themes, and adopt the enterprise behaviour of putting the Club first. The past year has demonstrated we can put the Club first to deliver outstanding outcomes, and I have great faith we can sustain the Club for the long-term future.

Finally, I would like to conclude by thanking all of you for the privilege of serving as the Club President for 2022-2023, and I wish the incoming BoD considerable success in the forthcoming year.



1. January Deep Winter Snow Calgary
2. June Lighting Strike Calgary
3. Summer At Last and Stampede

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Burns POEM

Then Gudewife, Count the Lawin (1790)

Gane is the day, and mirk's the night,
But we'll ne'er stray for faut o' light;
Gude ale and brandy's stars and moon,
And blude-red wine's the risin' sun.

Chorus.-Then gudewife, count the lawin,
The lawin, the lawin!
Then gudewife, count the lawin,
And bring a coggie mair.

There's wealth and ease for gentlemen,
And simple folk maun fecht and fen';
But here we're a' in ae accord,
For ilka man that's drunk's a lord.
Then gudewife, &c.

My coggie is a haly pool
That heals the wounds o' care and dool;
And Pleasure is a wanton trout,
An ye drink it a', ye'll find him out.
Then gudewife, &c.



MAP OF CANADA

CANADIAN FACTS!

1. Canada is the second largest Country in the world.
2. Canada has the longest coastline in the world.
3. Canada and the USA have the longest border in the world.

RBWF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (ALAN BECK)



Hello to all my Calgary friends.

Since my last report to you I have represented the Robert Burns World Federation (RBWF) at numerous events. The most noteworthy have included delivering the Immortal Memory at the Glasgow Afghan United in the City Chambers with the Lord Provost, the Immortal Memory at Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club), the Immortal Memory at Dumfries Burns Club and presenting prizes at various schools' competitions, including Hamilton Burns Club, Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club) and, of course, our very own Robert Burns World Federation national schools' competition, where the standard was incredibly high. However, sadly, it seems that many events are held, which clash with similar events in other parts of the country, and I have arranged for the RBWF Senior Vice President (SVP) and Junior Vice President (JVP) to cover events in my absence.

Another highlight was meeting with Professor Carlos Olivera Santos, the President of the Cascais Burns Club. Based in Portugal, founded and run by Portuguese speakers it has just become the newest member of the RBWF and can fairly lay claim to being the youngest Burns Club in the world. The Professor is wildly enthusiastic about Burns and the Federation and representation from their Club will be attending the RBWF Conference in September.

Last month, I arranged a meeting between the RBWF sponsor, the Annandale Distillery, the Provost of Dumfries & Galloway, the Montrose Burns Club and the Provost of Angus regarding their project, to rebuild the cairn which marks Burns' connection with the area.

I am currently back in North America. In Boston to be precise, enjoying a short holiday. Following this, I will be back to RBWF business visiting Paul Kennedy, the President of the Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA), and the Burnsians of the South Jersey Celtic Society. I will then be travelling to New York City for various events associated with Tartan Day Parade, one of which will see me co-present a lecture with the Lord Lyon at the New York Genealogical Society. Before returning home I will be singing at the pre-parade, before marching in the Parade with the South Jersey Celtic Society (SJCS) pipers.

All in all, I will have attended around 40 events as President in my first six months in the role and this will continue over the next wee while – as the Bard says, "Happy! ye sons of busy life, Who equal to the bustling strife, No other view regard!"

Alan D Beck (May 2023)
President of the Robert Burns World Federation

RBANA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (PAUL KENNEDY)



Greetings and warm wishes to The Calgary Burns Club again, and I would like to thank you for allowing me just a few lines in The Claver.

Since my initial visit to your beautiful city in the 1980's, I was fortunate enough to return to be the Co-Chieftain of the Medicine Hat Jolly Beggars (along with Mr. Alan Beck, RBWF President). This allowed me an opportunity to visit several members of your Club, including the RBANA Past President, Henry Cairney, your past President Brian Cumming, as well as members of two neighboring clubs, The Medicine Hat Burns Club (MHBC) and the Lethbridge Jolly Beggars Club.

I was accompanied by Mr. John Adams, the President of the South Jersey Celtic Society (SJCS), and while boarding our plane in Newark NJ, we were seated next to a gentleman returning to Calgary. He asked what we were planning to visit in Calgary, to which we explained all about the Calgary Burns Club and the Jolly Beggars Supper, we would be attending. He said to us that he thought his friend, who lives in Calgary, was traveling to Medicine Hat for just such an event. He gave us his contact's name, and we were very excited to meet your very own Steven Campbell.

We had such a great time making new friends, and meeting so many of you that we just had to come back. Subsequently, we were truly excited to be returning for the RBANA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference to be held in Calgary. I have witnessed first-hand the time and effort that members of your Club, particularly Brian Cumming and Henry Cairney to make this a success: the coordinating with the hotel, the caterers, the entertainment, the setting up of the Ceilidh, and additional activities.

April 15th is the Annual New York City Tartan Day Parade and the South Jersey Celtic Society (SJCS) has the honor and privilege to host Alan Beck, and his lovely wife Polly during the days leading up to the Parade. We have a few exciting events scheduled for them and look forward to their visit here in South Jersey. My Burns Club, SJCS will also be marching in the Parade along with our Pipe Band "Lia Fáil". This has become an annual event for us and we have already received inquiries from the incoming President of RBWF for next year's parade.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the RBANA AGM and conference. I know this will be an event to remember.

Paul Kennedy (May 2023)
President of the Robert Burns Association of North America

BURNS SONG

I Hae A Wife O' My Ain (1788)

I Hae a wife of my ain,
I'll partake wi' naebody;
I'll take Cuckold frae nane,
I'll gie Cuckold to naebody.

I hae a penny to spend,
There-thanks to naebody!
I hae naething to lend,
I'll borrow frae naebody.

I am naebody's lord,
I'll be slave to naebody;
I hae a gude braid sword,
I'll tak dunts frae naebody.

I'll be merry and free,
I'll be sad for naebody;
Naebody cares for me,
I care for naebody.



Paul Kennedy and South Jersey Pipe Band members at the New York Tartan Day Parade



SCOTTISH FACT!

The deepest loch in Scotland is Loch Morar, and is also one of the deepest lakes in the world according to the International Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILECF) and other reputable references.

FROM ACROSS THE POND (IAN MCINTYRE)



**Elaine Baumann 'White Hatting'
Speaker Ian McIntyre**



*“ Your friendship, Sir, I winna quat it
An’ if ye mak’ objections at it,
Then hand in nieve some day we’ll knot it,
An’ witness take,
An’ when wi usquabae we’ve wat it
It winna break “
(3rd Epistle to J. Lapraik)*

I have had the utmost pleasure and honour of being in the company of members of the Calgary Burns Club (CBC) in Canada, the United States and of course, here in Scotland. I am proud of my association with a fine body of men, and at times, women. Calgary Burns Club is a vibrant and dynamic group of dedicated Burnsians.

In terms of longevity, the CBC can probably be regarded as a fairly new kid on the block. This of course is in relative terms, where clubs in Scotland date back to the early 1800's. But in terms of the age of the city of Calgary and its huge incremental growth, the CBC has become a Club with considerable reputation and gravitas locally. I would go as far as suggesting that the CBC is the leading Burns Club in North America, and one of the outstanding Burns organisations worldwide.

The Club has a template, which is one that I believe is the way modern Burns Clubs should be conducting their business. The business of course, promoting the life and works of our National Bard, Scots language, culture music and arts. Looking at the work of the Carnie Group, the research into Burns life and works, Scottish history and culture the contribution of the Club is significant.

The CBC singers in my view are the jewel in the crown of the Club. Their impact on the local community cannot be underestimated. Furthermore, the profile of the Singers has never been greater following their Scottish Tour of 2022. The humanitarian approach of the club is also worthy of mention. Supporting many charities over the years, you are the very epitome of Burns desire to care for fellow man.

All over the world, Burns Clubs are in decline for various reasons, despite the popularity of Burns and his works globally. There are now more Burns Suppers held annually than ever before. One eye on the future is always a wise way ahead. Many clubs suffer from ageing membership and little or no interest in new or younger members coming forward to take positions as Office Bearers and Directors. I know that from my discussions with President Charlie Malone that the Club have progressive plans going forward. It is heartwarming to hear that.

A lot can be learned from your club model. A club based on integrity, friendship, talent, creativity and research. You are indeed fantastic ambassadors for Calgary and Canada.

*“Now there’s a hand my trusty fiere!
An’ gies a hand o’ thine!
We’ll tak a richt gude-willie waught,
For auld lang syne.”*

In McIntyre (May 2023)
Past President, RBWF, proud Honorary Calgarian.



SNAG, YUKON

CANADIAN FACTS!

1. The coldest temperature recorded in Canada was -63°C (-81.4°F) in Snag, Yukon.
2. The Northwest Territories recognizes 11 official languages.
3. Lacrosse is the national sport of Canada.
4. Winnie-the-Pooh was named after a toy bear from Canada.

CBC SINGERS (RON PRATT & THE DOCTORS IN RESIDENCE)

At the Field of Crosses we participated in the sunset ceremony on November 3rd for the United States (US) Tribute day, and then the sunrise ceremony on November 6th for the Memorial Cross Families. We then provided five concerts before Christmas, two of which were at the Alberta Health Services (AHS) Fanning centre, continuing our presence there for a number of years. Masking was required at the Fanning Centre and hopefully that will be the last time for that.

January through March saw us providing songs and occasionally the haggis ceremony at ten venues including our own Burns Dinner where we had a full complement of 24 singers participating. Practicing continues every Saturday morning at the Danish Canadian Club.

Ron Pratt, The Calgary Burns Club Singers (May 2023)

COVID and the 2022 Calgary Burns Club Singers Tour



In the late summer of 2022 sixteen members of the Calgary Burns Club (CBC) Singers, almost all of whom were over the age of 60 and most were older than 70, travelled to Scotland to tour and perform in the south-west in Burns Country. This was a trip planned for the summer of 2020, but cancelled because of the COVID 19 pandemic.

All participants knew that the pandemic was not over and undertook the trip aware of the risks involved. All were fully vaccinated and most had 2 booster doses of vaccine. The weather was unusually warm for the time of year and the concert schedule was rigorous.

What follows is an observational study of the trip:

- * Nine members had developed COVID within 6 months prior to the trip.
- * One member, who travelled to Scotland before the main group, contracted the disease shortly after arrival and had recovered prior to the rest of the group arriving.
- * Four members contracted COVID towards the end of the tour, with the contact point likely traced to a venue in a poorly ventilated room, in which 50 – 60 people were in attendance.
- * Other individuals in the audience at this event also contracted the disease.
- * Eight group members travelled with their partners. Two partners contracted it with their significant other, and one contracted it even though their partner did not.
- * The Singers who contracted COVID noticed the onset of the symptoms 2–3 days following the event. One member developed symptoms on the flight back 2 days after their exposure and tested positive the following day at their home using the rapid antigen test.
- * The three remaining members who contracted it, did so in Scotland and self-isolated in their hotels. The self-isolation regime was between 5 and 10 days. They too tested positive using the rapid antigen test.
- * Most described their symptoms as mild to moderate. Only one person consulted a physician, and none took any anti-viral medications.
- * It is interesting to note that only one of the nine members who had previously suffered from COVID contracted it on the trip. This person (fully vaccinated) has now had 3 documented COVID infections.
- * Two of the nine shared a room with someone who contracted it on the trip, but did not themselves contract it. Four people were selected for random testing at the airport on arrival back in Canada and none tested positive. Two of these had contracted COVID on the trip but had recovered prior to their return.

(Continued on page 6)

BURNS POEM Her Answer (1795)

O tell na me o' wind an' rain,
Upbraid na me wi' cauld disdain,
Gae back the gate ye cam again,
I winna let ye in, jo.

Chorus-I tell you now this ae night,
This ae, ae, ae night;
And ance for a' this ae night,
I winna let ye in, jo.

The snellest blast, at mirkest hours,
That round the pathless wand'rer pours
Is nocht to what poor she endures,
That's trusted faithless man, jo.
I tell you now, &c.

The sweetest flower that deck'd the mead,
Now trodden like the vilest weed -
Let simple maid the lesson read,
The weird may be her ain, jo.
I tell you now, &c.

The bird that charm'd his summer day,
Is now the cruel Fowler's prey;
Let witless, trusting, Woman say
How aft her fate's the same, jo!
I tell you now, &c.



MAP OF HOKKAIDO

SCOTTISH FACT!

Scotland has about the same land area as the Czech Republic, the United Arab Emirates, Panama, the US state of Maine, or the Japanese island of Hokkaido.



THE WOODLARK

BURNS ADDRESS

ADDRESS TO THE WOODLARK (1795)

O stay, sweet warbling woodlark, stay,
 Nor quit for me the trembling spray,
 A hapless lover courts thy lay,
 Thy soothing, fond complaining.
 Again, again that tender part,
 That I may catch thy melting art;
 For surely that wad touch her heart
 Wha kills me wi' disdainin'.
 Say, was thy little mate unkind,
 And heard thee as the careless wind?
 Oh, nocht but love and sorrow join'd,
 Sic notes o' woe could wauken!
 Thou tells o' never-ending care;
 O'speechless grief, and dark despair:
 For pity's sake, sweet bird, nae mair!
 Or my poor heart is broken.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2022/2023

Executive

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

Non-Executive

Past President: Charlie Malone
 Communications: Brian Cumming
 Director At Large: Hugh McFadzean
 Director At Large: Henry Cairney

Ex-Officio

Entertainment: Henry Cairney
 Steward: Don Humphreys
 Website: Paul Armstrong

FUTURE EVENTS

St Andrews Dinner Thursday November 30th

CBC SINGERS (THE DOCTORS IN RESIDENCE CONTINUED)

What is suggested from this analysis?

- * Although not laboratory proven, this was almost certainly a variant of Omicron.
- * The venue at which the exposure took place can be identified.
- * The incubation period appears to be 2 1/2 to 3 days, in agreement with what is known about this variant.
- * The disease was subjectively reported as mild to moderate, and no one was admitted to hospital.
- * It appears that vaccination with boosters is beneficial, but an episode of the disease also provides some natural immunity, especially when exposed to the virus at a high-risk event.

Dr. C. P. Armstrong and Dr. A. H. G. Paterson
 The Calgary Burns Singers



BURNS WORLD (TONY GRACE)

The Calgary Burns Club is currently enjoying its summer recess. The Club has just completed its first full year of meetings and activities since the pandemic officially ended. The year concluded with the AGM and the new Board of Directors being elected; and finally, the annual BBQ was held at the Elboya Britannia clubhouse on what turned out to be a lovely evening and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those present.

The monthly meetings will resume in September, but members are asked to note that the September meeting will be a week later than its usual schedule – on Tuesday September 19th, 2023. This will allow those members attending the World Federation's Conference in Dumfries, Scotland to return. From October on the meetings will be held as usual on the second Tuesday of each month. Meanwhile work is proceeding on planning the annual Burns Supper to be held on Friday 26th, 2024. Details will be available at the September meeting.

The Calgary Burns Club hosted a successful RBANA annual Conference on the first weekend in May. At this conference Henry Cairney passed the presidential gavel to Paul Kennedy having completed his two-year term. Henry is now the Past President and the club's Brian Cumming starts a second term as a Canadian Director. The 2024 RBANA Conference will be held at Mount Holly, New Jersey, USA, from May 2nd – 5th, 2024.

The Robert Burns World Federation AGM and Conference is slated for September 1st – 3rd, 2023 in Dumfries, Scotland. President Rob Pinkerton and at least two other club members are planning to attend.

The venue is the same as the 2022 Conference as that one was dogged by the remnants of the pandemic which complicated the organizing and management of the event. Despite this a successful event resulted although smaller than usual. At the 2023 conference Henry Cairney will complete his service on the Board of Directors as he steps down from his role as Past President.

THE CBC WEBSITE (PAUL ARMSTRONG)

The Calgary Burns Club website continues to be viewed regularly with about 200 views per month, and an average of 3.5 pages viewed per visit.

The traffic increases considerably in January with a peak on the 25th for obvious reasons.

Papers from Club meetings, including those from the Carnie Group, are posted regularly if the contributors wish.

A slideshow of the Singers' Scotland trip was recently added. We will be adding a slideshow from the 2023 Burns Supper, and the official group photo. We are also looking to add some new themes this year, and we are looking for new content from the Membership.

We continue to keep the Upcoming Events page up to date, and the Google Club Calendar as well.

We always appreciate comments or suggestions to improve.

Dr. C. P. Armstrong
Webmaster

MEMBERSHIP NEWS (BRIAN CUMMING)

The membership stands at:

- * 32 Ordinary Members
 - * 13 Life Members
 - * 2 Honorary Member
 - * 6 Associate Members
 - * 5 Out of Town Associate Members
- TOTAL = 58**

The membership increased by one honorary member when Elaine Baumann accepted Honorary Membership in the Club on April 11, 2023 to great applause from the members present. She was "White Statued" with a CBC Burns Club statue, which she really appreciated.

Elaine has been affiliated with the Club for 24 years as our Calgary White Hatter Ambassador, and has white hatted our speakers, with a mix of slightly risqué humour, and Western hospitality. Elaine was born in Calgary, has a degree in Public Relations from Red Deer Polytechnique. She was Supervisor of the Tourism Calgary Information Centre at the Calgary Airport for 14 years. She has white hatted tens of thousands of visitors. She loves horses and rodeo, and in her own words she is "Annie Oakley's cousin twice removed." She retired from Tourism Calgary as a volunteer in January 2023. Welcome Elaine!

Henry Cairney was presented with Life Membership, and certificates of service given to retiring Directors at Large, Gerry Wood, Sandy Paterson and Stuart Chalmers.

Since President Charlie Malone's shout out for new members at the 2023 Burns Supper, we have had 7 guests to the Club. One guest attended his third meeting and submitted a letter of consideration for ordinary membership.

Best wishes for our fellow club members who has had health issues since the last Claver. We all wish you speedy recoveries Joe Dundas, Stuart Chalmers, Henry Cairney, and Ron Budd.

Brian Cumming (May 2023)
Immediate Past President

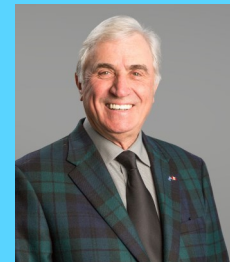
BURNS EPIGRAM

Epigram To Miss Ainslie In Church (1787)

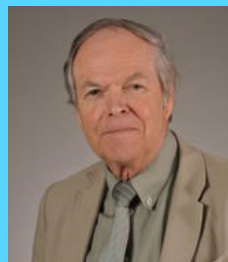
Fair maid, you need not take the hint,
Nor idle texts pursue:
'Twas guilty sinners that he meant,
Not Angels such as you.



Elaine Baumann Receiving the Honorary Membership and Statue from Brian Cumming



Gerry Wood



Sandy Paterson



Stuart Chalmers

BURNS SONG

Frae The Friends And Land I Love (1791)

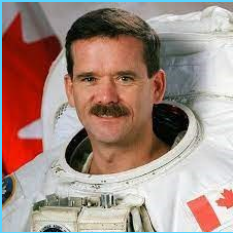
Frae the friends and land I love,
Driv'n by Fortune's felly spite;
Frae my best belov'd I rove,
Never mair to taste delight:
Never mair maun hope to find
Ease frae toil, relief frae care;
When Remembrance wracks the mind,
Pleasures but unveil despair.

Brightest climes shall mirk appear,
Desert ilka blooming shore,
Till the Fates, nae mair severe,
Friendship, love, and peace restore,
Till Revenge, wi' laurel'd head,
Bring our banished hame again;
And ilk loyal, bonie lad
Cross the seas, and win his ain.



OLD SCOTS PROVERB

"Is The Cat Deid!" Roughly translated means: This is derisively used to bring attention to people wearing short trousers!



Chris Hadfield

CANADIAN QUOTE

"To me, science is just formalized curiosity." – Chris Hadfield, astronaut

1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (ROB PINKERTON)

The Calgary Burns Club's 47th annual Burns Supper took place on January 20th, 2023. This was the first in-person Supper since January of 2020.

The event took place at the Downtown Calgary Westin Hotel with 382 in attendance on the night. The Immortal Memory was delivered by Ian McIntyre of Kirkcudbright Scotland.

The contributions of many club volunteers made the event a great success and we are already looking forward to next year.

Feedback from the club members was generally good. It's a running joke that the Haggis is somehow always an issue – too soggy, too dry, too spicy, or too bland (sometimes all at once), but this year the new supplier passed muster and there were no haggis-related complaints at all! However, the length of the program was a common theme, and this issue will be considered as we plan the 2024 event.

Robert Pinkerton (May 2023)

First Vice President



2ND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (JAMIE OSBORNE)

The St. Andrew's Night was held during the week on St. Andrew's Day, November 30th, 2022.

The dinner itself was at the Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club, with 99 tickets sold and 89 in attendance (sorry to those that had to back out at the very last minute due to flu/COVID/illness).

We had Bill Laing give Grace, and Charlie Malone give the Toast to St. Andrew. For entertainment we had Maurice McAtamney give a wonderful song with guitar, and Ron Pratt provided the background music for the evening. We also had Mary Ann Houston as our piper, the Calgary Burns Club Singers, and The Calgary Fiddlers.

The dinner was a success and turned a fair profit for the Club.

Thank you to all of those again that helped or performed with the dinner. As well as a Thank You to all of those in attendance for a great night. Planning is currently in the works for the next St. Andrew's Night on November 30th 2023.

Jamie Osborne (May 2023)

Second Vice President

JIM HOPE-ROSS (CHARLIE MALONE)

Jim Hope-Ross has been with the Club for what is nearing twenty-five years, and is one of our Life Members, due to his extensive contributions to the Club. He has during this time been President of the Club, held several positions on the Board and has actively participated in a number of committees.

He continues to provide legal counsel advice to the Board, and has been pivotal in coaching and advising the Board on what defines good Governance.

Jim continues to be a very active member of the Club as an ever present member of the Singers, and has had the fortune of attending the Singers tours to Scotland in 2009, and more recently in 2022. We asked Jim if he could tell his life story in his own words, and he kindly offered:

“Why Alberta takes kids who are in the angst of puberty and places them in segregation in junior high for three years is beyond me. I attended 4 schools in those 3 years. Then in high school, my lack of interest or ambition landed me on the Laggard List. The school’s guidance counselor told my parents: *“That son of yours isn’t going to amount to much. You should pull him out of school right now and get him to work digging ditches.”* Within days, I was packed off to a Saskatchewan boarding school.

Five years later, when I graduated from the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) with a B.A. in English and a Bachelor of Laws degree, my mother clipped the announcement of my convocation out of the newspaper and mailed it to that guidance counselor. I was called to the Alberta Bar just shy of my 25th birthday.

Fast forward 10 years. I was General Counsel of BP Exploration, but I found myself at a crossroads. You see, I was always a big fan of the Canadian Football League (CFL). I played high school and university football, but I was too small to play beyond that. My Dad was none too pleased when I became a lawyer instead of an engineer. But since that was what I was, his ambition for me was to reach the pinnacle of that profession, which in his eyes, meant becoming the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. Not a chance! Top judges in Canada would have to be bilingual. I had obtained the unbelievable grade of 7% (Seven percent!) in French in the second semester of my Grade 12 year.

But the Commissioner of the CFL (G. Sydney Halter), was both a lawyer and a referee. Attaining that position would be my goal. I set about to become the best CFL official. I worked my way up the amateur ranks to the point where I was the standby official for pro games in Calgary. An official was injured during a game and I went in as his replacement. The next year, I was invited to the CFL’s officials’ school where I wrote the rules exam receiving a mark of 100%, and was invited into the league. Just one small hurdle. No one makes a living by refereeing football. I had to have my employer’s permission. The President of the company said it would be out of the question. They couldn’t have their head legal counsel “running around the country playing football”. I resigned from the company and set up my own law firm.

Coincidentally, Imperial Oil (“ESSO”) had filed its application with the Alberta Energy Resources and Conservation Board (“AERCB”) to build its mega heavy oil project in the Cold Lake region of Northeast Alberta. There were no regulations surrounding intervention into such an application and no intervenor funding in place to support those folks raising their concerns. The AERCB hired me to act for all the local and regional intervenors at the hearing into the project. I had the necessary regulatory knowledge and experience and being a new law firm, I would have the time necessary to mount a credible representation. I would be independent of any AERCB or ESSO influence, and the Board would be responsible for my fees and costs. By the time the hearing convened, I had 67 distinct clients or client groups. It was a grueling schedule. I would fly back to Calgary on those weekends when I wasn’t refereeing football to babysit my fledgling law firm, and try to devote some precious time to my family. But thanks to the publicity, our practice began to flourish.

That fall, I became the first sophomore official to work a Grey Cup game. But storm clouds showed on the horizon.
(Continued on Page 10)



Jim in Party Mode



University of Saskatchewan



Cold Lake Oil Sands Facility



The Grey Cup

JIM HOPE-ROSS (CONTINUED)



Jim In The News



Jim at the Kirkeudbright Tattoo



Jim Speaking at the Calgary Burns Club Annual Banquet

The Federal government introduced its infamous National Energy Program (NEP). Within six months, my firm had lost 60% of our oil & gas clients. The support staff quit to find more stable employment and benefits with larger corporations. My law partner went to work for PanCanadian Petroleum (the CPR's oil & gas subsidiary).

My wife ran off with the veterinarian, and took the horses, leaving me with the acreage, the three boys, and the two dogs. But I had attained the position of Head Referee with my own assigned crew of officials in the CFL. One game, a journalist featured me as a human-interest story. The story took up a full page, complete with a photograph. The next day my ex-wife called me to ask: "*So tell me, Jim, what's it cost to run a full-page ad in the Calgary Herald?*"

About that time, the General Counsel at Pan-Canadian chose to retire. My former partner was the second-in-command in their law department. He asked if I would be interested in being his boss again and said he would recommend me for the job. Once again good fortune had shone upon me, and continued to shine upon me when I met the administrative assistant to the Vice President of Exploration - a dark-eyed Scottish lass, who was as bright as she was beautiful. My sons adored her, particularly my youngest son, Jeff, who was only four years old when he met Sandra.

Sandra had planned a trip back to Scotland with a girlfriend and she regarded it as a bucket-list adventure, so my sons and I were put on "*hold*" while she went off, as I put it, "*to scramble our nest egg*". We knew that the company would frown upon both of us being employees of the company once we were married. While she was away, I had scouted out a contract to take on the role of Associate General Counsel to the President of Petro-Canada Resources.

Sandra never went back to work. I never refereed another football game. (Although I did fulfill that ambitious plan after a fashion. I was invited to apply for the Commissioner's job and went to Toronto for an interview. When I learned that the league was rife with politics and the position had very little power and was committed to staying in Toronto, I said, "*No thanks!*")

After 11 years in Petro-Canada colours, I had built a formidable team of oil & gas lawyers. Through judicious use of delegation and mentoring, any function that I might contribute could be capably provided by one or more of my team members. When I was asked who in my group could be expendable in the next round of corporate cuts, I put my hand up. I had the right number of years of service and age to qualify for early retirement, which I took, along with an enhanced severance package. Fittingly, I was never replaced.

Shortly thereafter, Canadian Occidental Petroleum (Cdn Oxy) asked me to join its law department, primarily to assist with their acquisitions initiatives. The target was Wascana Energy, a Saskatchewan Crown Corporation. My background as a born-and-raised "*stubble-jumper*" with a U of S law degree, and an affinity for the province contributed to my suitability for the task. Initially, my role was to assist the team with their due diligence.

One of the first things I came upon was the Wascana Energy Act, which created the company, and set out its terms of governance and reporting relationships with the province's politicians and bureaucrats. Chief among those was the requirement that the head office of Wascana Energy had to be in Saskatchewan.

I was asked to move to Regina with responsibility for "*showing the flag*" in the community, maintaining relations with the government folks, and providing legal counsel with respect to the ongoing business of Wascana Energy. My unwritten, but ultimate goal would be to have the Wascana Energy Act repealed.

Not long after the close of the purchase, heavy oil prices dropped significantly. I was summoned to Calgary and asked what the penalties were if Cdn Oxy just ignored the Wascana Energy Act and closed the Regina office and moved all the operations to Calgary's head office. I advised that there were no "*penalties*", per se, but the law is the law and I, as their lawyer, could not advise the company to break the law just because the Act did not impose penalties. CdnOxy said they were going to do it anyway, so I was forced to resign.

We stayed on in Regina until the end of Alicia's school term and then were relocated back to our old neighborhood in Calgary where I have remained ever since.

I have done work with Indigenous peoples throughout Canada and the North and have taught good governance across all 11 time zones of Russia, but space does not allow me to discuss those adventures here!

PARTING GLASS (TREKKER ARMSTRONG)

So how does the song Parting Glass relate to Burns and the Armstrong Reivers?

"*The Parting Glass*" is a traditional Scottish song, often sung at the end of a gathering of friends. It has also long been sung in Ireland, enjoying considerable popularity to this day, and strongly influencing the style in which it is often now sung. It was purportedly the most popular parting song sung in Scotland before Robert Burns wrote "*Auld Lang Syne*".

So, what is another name for a Parting Glass?

The "*parting glass*", or "*stirrup cup*", was the final hospitality offered to a departing guest. Once they had mounted, they were presented one final drink to fortify them for their travels. This custom was practised in several countries. I guess we now know where "*one for the road*" originated from.

The earliest known printed version of the song was as a broadside in the 1770s, and it first appeared in book form in Ancient and Modern Scottish Songs, Heroic Ballads. An early version is sometimes attributed to Sir Alex Boswell. The text is doubtless older, as it was recorded in the Skene Manuscript, a collection of Scottish airs written at various dates between 1615 and 1635.

It was known at least as early as 1605, when a portion of the first stanza was written in a farewell letter, as a poem now known as "*Armstrong's Goodnight*", by one of the Border Reivers executed that year for the murder of a Warden of the Scottish March. Sir John Carmichael was killed by a body of the Armstrong's Reivers on June 16, 1600, who ambushed and shot him as he rode to Langholm to attend a warden court. For this murder Thomas Armstrong, nephew of Kinmont Willie was executed in the following November, and Alexander Armstrong in February 1606.

According to Sir Walter Scott, tradition affirms the well-known ballad, "*Armstrong's Good Night*" to have been composed by Thomas Armstrong, before his execution.

I first came across the poem "*Armstrong's Goodnight*" having purchased an 1830 publication by Sir Walter Scott of the Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border. This three- volume set was an anthology of Border ballads that was first published in 1802 but was expanded in several later editions. For Walter Scott, as his son-in-law J. G. Lockhart later wrote, compiling Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border was "a labour of love truly, if ever such there was".

His passion for ballads went back to early childhood where as a ten-year-old he began collecting the broadsheet ballads that were still being sold on the streets. In late 1799, impressed by the elegant work of the Kelso printer James Ballantyne, an old schoolfellow of his, the idea occurred to him of putting together a selection of ballads to be printed by him. This would satisfy his patriotic feelings in various ways, not just displaying the typographical prowess of a little-known Border town, but also preserving the folk-poetry of his beloved Scotland for the admiration of the world at large.

Excerpt from Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border

The following verses are said to have been composed by one of the Armstrongs, executed for the murder of Sir John Carmichael of Edrom, warden of the middle marches. The tune is popular in Scotland; but whether these are the original words, is still in doubt:

Armstrong's Goodnight

*"This night is my departing night, For here nae langer must I stay;
There's neither friend nor foe o' mine,
But wishes me away.*

*What I have done thro' lack of wit, I never, never, can recall;
I hope ye're a' my friends as yet;
Goodnight and joy be with you all! "*

Principal references Wikipedia and Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border (3rd Edition Volume 1)

Goodnight from Trekker Armstrong!



The Parting Glass

The Parting Glass Song (Trad)

Of all the money that e'er I had
I spent it in good company
And all the harm that e'er I've done
Alas, it was to none but me
And all I've done for want of wit
To memory now, I can't recall
So fill to me the parting glass
Good night and joy be with you
all

Of all the comrades that e'er I
had
They are sorry for my going
away
And all the sweethearts that e'er
I had
They would wish me one more
day to stay
But since it falls unto my lot
That I should rise and you
should not
I'll gently rise and I'll softly call
Good night and joy be with you
all

A man may drink and not be
drunk
A man may fight and not be slain
A man may court a pretty girl
And, perhaps, be welcomed back
again
But since it has so ought to be
By a time to rise and a time to
fall
Come fill to me the parting glass
Good night and joy be with you
all
Good night and joy be with you
all

THE CARNIE GROUP (JIM MCLAUGHLIN)

How Prolific Was Robert Burns as a Poet

Robert Burns enjoyed a very short life, having succumbed to a degenerative heart condition at only thirty-seven-and-a-half years of age. Although he wrote his first published poem in his fifteenth year - *Handsome Nell* - he composed only a very few others until approaching twenty. Thereafter, he produced more than six hundred poems and songs; in a modern volume of his works, those fill close to the same number of pages. That's prolific! Especially given that from an early age most of his waking hours were spent in backbreaking farm work, and later in life, riding most of the day performing his duties as an Excise Officer.

Any deserving poetical piece calls for considerable thought, driven as it usually is by deep feelings, convictions, and emotions, among other innate motivators. We know little about how speedy he was in composing and reviewing each piece, but we do know that he was possessed of a brilliant mind, and by nature was intense and passionate. No doubt these gifts and characteristics would have been essential to his success in earning the well-deserved accolade of Scotland's Immortal Bard. That title is a tribute less to the volume of poems and songs he produced, but to the quality and thematic scope of his works.

First and foremost, he was a poet of Nature. His knowledge of Ayrshire's fauna and flora was encyclopedic. How he embraced it, even using it often to garnish descriptions of his *'fair enslavers'* and other subjects. His descriptions of 'nature most fair' are so touching and uplifting. These may be contrasted with his earnest concern for the defenceless creatures that were exposed to man's cruelty, as in *On Seeing a Wounded Hare*, and even the 'wee mousie' who's 'wee-bit housie' he inadvertently left in ruin.

As a close second, he was the poet of Love. Even in his time, but more so shortly after his death, many condemned him for the many lovers that he had, and his out-of-wedlock 'begats', but we can thank those experiences for the depth of genuine feelings reflected in so many wonderful and endearing love poems and songs - such as *Ae Fond Kiss*, which I believe rates very close to being the most touching love song in English literature.

I could go on for some time highlighting other themes at which our brilliant bard excelled, but I will mention just a few, beginning with his satirical pieces. *Holy Willie's Prayer*, much like his world-class love song noted above, must surely rate as a classical masterpiece of rhyme incorporating, as it does, such scorching - yet oh so amusing - satire. He often employed similar satirical diatribe to rebuke some of the bible-thumping, 'rigidly righteous' Ministers he encountered, most of whom he exposed as hypocrites. Then we have his championing of the poor and the oppressed...so many pieces on that theme crying out for justice and equality; *A Man's a Man for A' That* could well be adopted as the international anthem for the ordinary citizens often deprived and made subservient to the ruling classes, although probably even more pertinent to the masses in Burns's time than now.

In conclusion, Scotland's Bard is close to being unique in world literature, not only for his impressive output of exceptional poetry, but also for the scope of important life themes that he addressed in his works. He was a genius, yes, and prolific, but he also had the talent to reach into the soul and touch on so many concerns and feelings of mankind...the agonies and the ecstasies to which we are all subjected.

Jim McLaughlin For the Carnie Group

CBC COMMUNICATIONS (TREKKER ARMSTRONG)

We continue to receive regular information from the Robert Burns World Federation (RBWF) and Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA). which I forward appropriately to the Calgary Burns Club (CBC) distribution list.

Virtual meetings via Zoom continue to be leveraged by the Club Board and various Committee meetings as required. As Communication Convener, I am tasked to schedule, and initiate hosting of these Zoom meetings.

The Club maintains a generic email address [calgaryburnsclub@gmail.com] as well as a Contact Form on the website [www.calgaryburnsclub.com]. We receive submissions to both sources, and these are forwarded to the appropriate person for action. By having a Gmail account, the Club also has an associated YouTube account [Robert Burns]. The Calgary Burns Club email distribution list is maintained electronically and the source is from our Membership list. Please ensure that your membership information is correct, and the appropriate email is recorded on the published club website Membership list, to receive the Club communications.

Having served as Communication Convener since 2019, I will not be standing for appointment in the upcoming roster. I would like to thank the membership for the opportunity to have served in this important role, and will work with the incoming Communication Convener to minimise any transitional impact.

Trekker Armstrong (May 2023)
Communications Convener

BURNS EPITAPH

Epitaph For James Smith (1785)

Lament him, Mauchline husbands
a',
He aften did assist ye;
For had ye staid hale weeks awa,
Your wives they ne'er had miss'd
ye.

Ye Mauchline bairns, as on ye
press
To school in bands thegither,
O tread ye lightly on his grass, -
Perhaps he was your father!

OLD SCOTS PROVERBS

"Yer bum's oot the windae!"
*Roughly translated means: You
are talking nonsense.*

"We're a' Jock Tamson's bairns!"
*Roughly translated means: We
are all God's children.*

"Don't be a wee clipe!" *Roughly
translated means: Don't rat on
someone.*



Modes of Communication



Trekker Armstrong

EPITAPHS FROM ALL SEASONS (STEPHEN NICHOL)

An epitaph is an inscription on a tomb or tombstone, relating to the person buried there, or an item of prose or verse telling something of a person, and to be displayed after he/she dies.

It must be short; it can be written by anyone; often for himself by the person who dies (The meaning is funeral oration)

In Greek times, around 480 BC, the Persians were marching on the Greek city of Sparta and a group of Spartans met and engaged the aggressors at Thermopylae where nearly all of the defending force were killed. One managed to escape and rode back to warn the city of the impending invasion. A relief force was gathered and rallied to the battle at the cost of the many lives.

The Spartans later erected a monument in memory of the 300 Spartans, which used the words by the Greek Poet **Simonides**:

“O passer-by Tell the Lacedaemonians
That We Lie Here, Obeying Their Orders”

William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616) is believed to have written the following epitaph:

“Good friend for Jesus sake forbear
To dig the dust enclosed here
Blessed be the man that spares these stones,
And cursed be he that moves my bones.”

Shakespeare was buried in his local parish at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon. At the time of Shakespeare's death grave-robbing and relic-hunting was popular and Shakespeare's epitaph comes across as a curse and a warning to those who might have looted his gravesite.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772 -1834) wrote his epitaph 9th November, 1833 which catches his preoccupation with the Christian promise of life beyond death:

“Stop, Christian passer-by! Stop, child of God, and read with gentle breast.
Beneath this sod a poet lies, or that which once seemed he.
O lift one thought in prayer for S.T.C.;
That he who many a year with toil of breath
Found death in life, may here find life in death!
Mercy for praise; to be forgiven for fame
He asked, and hoped, through Christ. Do thou the same!”

Robert Burns (1759- 1796) wrote many poems, songs and epitaphs during his 37 year life. To have had Robert Burns write an epitaph for anybody would be something to be treasured given the fame that Burns has gained during his life and in the time that has passed since he died.

In 1788 the epitaph that Burns wrote for his friend Willie Nicol captures the relationship that he shared with Nicol:

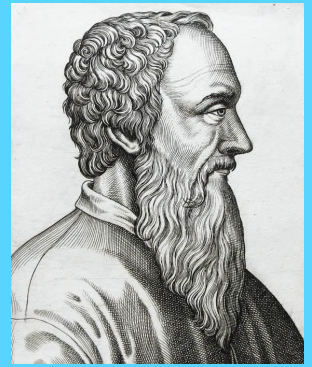
“Ye maggots, feed on Nicol's brain,
For few sic feasts you've gotten;
And fix your claws in Nicol's heart,
For deil a bit o't's rotten.”

Rudyard Kipling (1895- 1936) was a commentator on the events around WWI and he noted the practice of executing soldiers deemed to be cowards but today it is understood these were men suffering from shell-shock. Kipling wrote an epitaph for these WWI soldiers which he called “The Coward”:

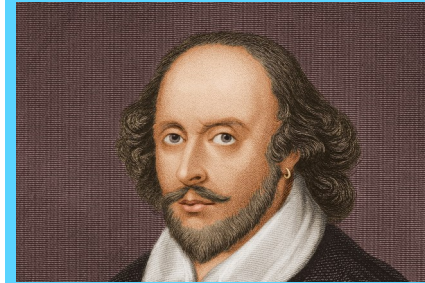
“I could not look on death, which being known,
Men lead me to him, blindfold and alone.”

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) suffered from the effects of Scotland's climate and to help his weakness and save him from ill health he travelled to the Pacific. There he counted on living in a warmer climate and that would help him escape from the effects of Scotland's cool damp climate. Stevenson wrote an Epitaph for himself:

(Continued on page 13)



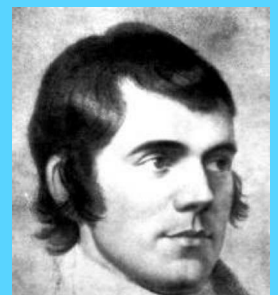
Simonides



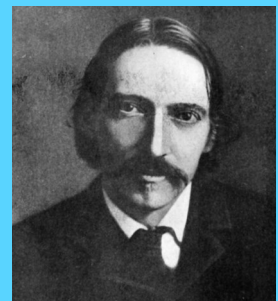
William Shakespeare



Samuel Taylor Coleridge



Robert Burns



Robert Louis Stevenson

EPITAPHS FROM ALL SEASONS (CONTINUED)

This is the epitaph at Stephenson's grave, on his gravestone, at Vailima, Samoa.

"Here he lies where he longed to be
Under the wide and starry sky
Dig the grave and let me lie
Glad did I live and gladly die
And I laid me down with a will
This be the verse you grave for me;
Here he lies where he long to be
Home is the sailor, home from the sea
And the hunter, home from the hill.

Edith Cavell (1865-1915) was executed by a German firing squad in Belgium for assisting British WWI soldiers, who were patients at Cavell's hospital, to return to England and escape imprisonment in a German POW camp.

As Edith Cavell was waiting for the death sentence to be carried out one of her last visitors spoke with her and heard her say:

"Patriotism is not enough.
I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone".

In the Canadian Rockies Edith Cavell has another memorial in her name, a peak that is known as Mount Edith Cavell within Jasper National Park.

Of all the epitaphs I have seen, there is one that stands apart from all the others as the most haunting. This was the cruel words used by the WW2 nazis at the entrance to many of the German concentration camps. In German these words were: "Arbeit macht freu" and which in English is:

" Work sets you free! "

These words are a cynical epitaph for victims of the nazis regime that defines the 19th century and burdens and reminds the generation that have followed since, of the price paid for Nazis domination.

Charles Lindbergh (1902-1974), the famous United States aviator used a quote from the bible as his epitaph.

" If I take the wings of the morning,
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea "

Lindbergh died of Lymphoma and is buried within the sound of the sea at the Palapala Ho'Omau Cemetery; Kipahulu, Maui, Hawaii.

By Stephen Nichol
March, 2023
Edited by James Bonner
April, 2023

BURNS EPITAPH

Epitaph For James Smith (1785)

Lament him, Mauchline husbands a',
He aften did assist ye;
For had ye staid hale weeks awa,
Your wives they ne'er had miss'd ye.

Ye Mauchline bairns, as on ye press
To school in bands thegither,
O tread ye lightly on his grass, -
Perhaps he was your father!



Edith Cavell



Charles Lindbergh

BURNS SONG

Had I A Cave (1793)

Had I a cave on some wild distant
shore,
Where the winds howl to the
wave's dashing roar:
There would I weep my woes,
There seek my lost repose,
Till grief my eyes should close,
Ne'er to wake more!

Falsest of womankind, can'st thou
declare
All thy fond, plighted vows fleeting
as air!
To thy new lover hie,
Laugh o'er thy perjury;
Then in thy bosom try
What peace is there!

BURNS WORDSEARCH 6 (*****)

N	J	J	S	U	L	F	K	N	A	I	D	A	N	A	C	M	R	E	I	V	E	R	Y	Z
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A	P	Z	J	T	A	R	T	A	N	Q	B	G	N	D	R	C	B	X	S	Y	A	W	L	T

In This Edition

STAMPEDE	COVID	GLASS
LIGHTNING	KIRKCUDBRIGHT	BORDER
WINTER	DUMFRIES	LANGHOME
SNOW	WEBSITE	KINMONT
PRESIDENT	COMMUNICATION	WILLIE
RBWF	BARBEQUE	NATURE
RBANA	CANADIAN	FOND
CALGARY	IMPERIAL	KISS
AMERICA	BACHELOR	FAUNA
ALBERTA	SASKATCHEWAN	FLORA
TARTAN	MINSTRELSY	WOUNDED
SINGERS	REIVER	HARE
CARNIE	PARTING	TRUST

FUTURE SPEAKERS

2024 Club Member Gordon McCulloch
2025 Ronnie O'Byrne
2026 T.B.A

BURNS POEM Address To The Shade Of Thomson (1791)

While virgin Spring by Eden's flood,
Unfolds her tender mantle green,
Or pranks the sod in frolic mood,
Or tunes Eolian strains between.

While Summer, with a matron grace,
Retreats to Dryburgh's cooling shade,
Yet oft, delighted, stops to trace
The progress of the spiky blade.

While Autumn, benefactor kind,
By Tweed erects his aged head,
And sees, with self-approving mind,
Each creature on his bounty fed.

While maniac Winter rages o'er
The hills whence classic Yarrow flows,
Rousing the turbid torrent's roar,
Or sweeping, wild, a waste of snows.

So long, sweet Poet of the year!
Shall bloom that wreath thou well hast
won;
While Scotia, with exulting tear,
Proclaims that Thomson was her son.

IN THE NEXT EDITION

1) Profile of **Stuart Chalmers**

APPRECIATION

I would like to give thanks to Ron Budd for his work in proof reading and feedback with this edition of the Claver. Ron has been extremely vigilant in ensuring the grammatical quality is kept to a high standard.

Henry Cairney

BURNS WORDSEARCH 6 (SOLUTION)



THE CALGARY CLAVER

Thank you to all contributors.

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

henrycairney7@gmail.com

Compiler, publisher and Editor-in chief: Henry Cairney
Co-editor for this edition: Charlie Malone

Proof Reader & Editor: Ron Budd

****The Editors wish to apologize for the lateness of this edition which was due to unforeseen events****

Calgary Claver
The Calgary Burns Club
Box 1028,
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Calgary, Alberta T2G 0A6

E-mail: calgaryburnsclub.com

Deadline for the Fall edition of the Calgary Claver is:

****October 14th 2023****

“Scottish Facts”

Credited to Hannah Furness
from the Telegraph 11th January
2012

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.

N	J	J	S	U	L	F	K	N	A	I	D	A	N	A	C	M	R	E	I	V	E	R	Y	Z
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O	Q	X	A	B	I	Q	Y	E	A	L	B	E	R	T	A	E	D	S	S	E	B	B	A	G
W	G	H	Q	F	R	K	U	K	Z	T	S	U	R	T	D	R	W	N	T	M	Z	R	T	N
E	U	I	K	M	C	A	I	J	F	Y	H	Z	E	U	O	I	I	E	R	A	H	I	U	I
M	N	B	F	A	G	T	B	P	X	T	B	P	M	Q	H	W	R	D	E	E	M	G	R	N
O	A	A	A	I	N	N	G	I	P	Y	U	F	A	R	O	L	F	U	L	H	C	H	E	T
H	W	N	C	X	B	P	C	X	R	M	R	S	A	S	N	T	A	S	S	T	X	T	B	H
G	E	A	Q	V	Z	B	H	A	R	I	U	V	W	L	H	Z	V	Y	Q	Z	R	O	G	
N	H	B	W	E	B	S	I	T	E	S	U	T	S	I	N	G	E	R	S	M	R	T	A	I
A	C	R	P	I	A	T	F	S	S	A	L	G	P	V	A	S	E	M	D	A	Q	B	Y	L
L	T	I	C	U	L	B	L	T	N	E	D	I	S	E	R	P	A	N	U	A	F	B	X	X
C	A	B	A	E	F	L	H	W	I	R	I	P	I	H	K	E	D	E	P	M	A	T	S	R
A	K	P	G	Q	G	G	I	Q	D	A	N	A	Y	B	N	E	T	L	Q	S	Q	I	Z	S
C	S	R	D	P	Q	V	L	E	H	H	D	R	V	S	J	I	Q	H	H	M	N	L	E	U
G	A	T	P	D	Z	R	L	V	G	Q	R	T	A	H	S	N	O	T	N	O	M	N	I	K
J	S	K	I	S	S	M	R	Z	L	V	J	I	Z	S	G	R	R	X	M	E	E	E	F	D
F	L	J	B	R	O	L	E	H	C	A	B	N	O	I	T	A	C	I	N	U	M	M	O	C
A	P	Z	J	T	A	R	T	A	N	Q	B	G	N	D	R	C	B	X	S	Y	A	W	L	T

Some Scottish Humour

A Scotsman was invited for a visit to the home of his Canadian friend. Soon after the Scotsman arrived, he glanced out the window to see a huge beast just outside. He pointed, and asked his Canadian friend, "Och, lad, what's that?" The Canadian replied, "Oh, that's a moose." The Scotsman stared in disbelief, and replied, "That's a moose?! Well, how big are yer cats around here?"

A Scotsman walked into a supermarket with his zipper down. A lady cashier walked up to him and said, "Your barracks door is open." This is not a phrase we Scotsmen normally use so he went on his way looking a bit puzzled. When he was about done shopping, a man came up and said, "Your fly is open."

He zipped up and finished his shopping. He then intentionally got in the line to check out where the lady was who told him about his "barracks door." He was planning to have a little fun with her. When he reached her counter he said, "When you saw my barracks door open did you see a Scottish soldier standing in there at attention?"

The lady thought for a moment and said, "No, no. I didn't. All I saw was a disabled veteran sitting on two duffle bags!!!"