

Calgary Claver

Spring 2022 Volume 7, Issue 1



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gentlemen,

This is my last message as President of the Calgary Burns Club and, for the second year in a row, we continued to meet virtually, during Covid peaks. Fortunately, we were able to meet in-person in November and December 2021, and March 2022. We expect to continue with in person meetings in, April, and May. The virtual meetings enabled the Club members to get together to enjoy entertainment, some socialization, and conduct necessary Club business, but I must say the attendance and energy levels at our in-person meetings was astounding.

It has been a tumultuous year, with the rapid changing of Covid regulations and variants, causing the cancellation of both St. Andrews Night and then Annual Burns Dinner on short notice. Some members had an informal St. Andrews celebration, and the Club a Virtual Burns Tribute on January 25, 2022, which was attended by 25 members. At the tribute, those attending shared a Burns poem and song, lifted a dram to Rabbie, then sang along to Absent Friends and Auld Lang Syne. Watching Absent Friends was especially poignant this year, due to the passing of Andy Burnett in November 2021.

The reception for outgoing RBWF President Henry Cairney, was also postponed but was rescheduled and held on March 29th.

The Ukraine conflict has added considerable uncertainty to world stability, but our members stepped up and generously donated over \$1400 to support Ukrainian humanitarian relief at our March members meeting. The Club added another \$1000. Thank you all for your generosity and compassion.

Unfortunately, the RBANA conference planned for Calgary in May 2022, was also cancelled due to the uncertainty of travel restrictions and timing of future Covid peaks. All the cancelled events have been rescheduled for 2023, at minimal financial cost to the Club. We are now planning for a barbeque on June 25,2022. If all goes well the Calgary Burns Club Singers are heading to Scotland to perform at the Kirkcudbright tattoo and other venues, then heading to the RBWF AGM and conference in Dumfries in early September 2022.

I would like to thank all the Club Members who worked tirelessly to organize meeting entertainment, provide medical advice, and plan the cancelled events. Executing our events involves a significant behind the scenes team effort. A lot of work was put in and your efforts are appreciated and recognized.

In closing I would like to give a special thanks to the Board. In turbulent times, the Board had to act quickly and decisively, several times, to consider Covid restriction changes and their impact on major Club events. The decisions were always made with the intention of protecting the health of Club members, the Club's reputation, and reducing risk to the Club's financial position. Our new Board will be installed at our AGM on May 10, 2022, and I will end by wishing the incoming Board success for the coming year and you and all your families, a safe, restful, and happy summer.

It has been an honour to serve as your president.

Kindest regards

Brian R. Cumming

President Calgary Burns Club









1. Ukraine Flag Kyiv 2. Highland Mary Grave Greenock 3. Italian Chapel Orkney Isles

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CBC President's Message 1
RBWF President's Message 2
RBANA President's Message 2
1st VP Report
CBC Singers 3
CBC Donations 3
Burns World 4
CBC Website 4
CBC Communications
Membership News5
CBC Virtual Dinner
GOV Burns Message7
Whisky Dispute Resolved 7
Gerry Wood
The Carnie Group 10/11
Jack Whyte and the CBC 12/13
Burns Wordsearch 5 14
Burns Wordsearch 4 Solution 15

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- In the next edition 14

ORIGINAL POEM

Eternal Robert Burns

So all these years we've been alive, and learned about a man, Wha came from bonny Ayrshire, and made us all a fan. He spoke of many, many things, that we can all relate, Which we will surely cherish till we enter Heaven's gate.

(Chorus) Robert Burns, Robert Burns, the man frae Alloway, Respect and love the world o'er, that much we all can say

This modern age is complex, children just expect so much, But in my day of simple things, your talent is to search. Earth rain and fire and your desire, were captured in your prose, Frae simple grace to Auld Lang Syne, the bard he did compose. (Chorus)

I chanced upon a critic of your work in a saloon,

But proving it was difficult, wae 10 pints in this loon.

I thocht he was misleading, when he spouted another line,

But then I realized, he needed much more time. (Chorus)

So think of situations that you once came upon,

A mouse, a louse, a minister, but maybe once a swan.

So many things tae pen a verse, ye wrote along the way,

And we can now remember, the things ye used tae say.

(Chorus) and finish.

Henry Cairney © April 2013

RBWF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (HENRY CAIRNEY)



This is my last message as President of the RBWF and again it has been a very quiet year due to the Pandemic, but have made the best of what was in my control. The conference in Dumfries is well under way and many thanks to the Conference team led by Events Convenor Ian McIntyre for their hard work. With the CBC Singers coming over on a trip, it will be a busy but enjoyable time for all. The process for nominations for the board will be communicated soon and will be as any normal year where an actual AGM/Conference will take place during the Weekend of Friday 9th September. I thank the board for their support in the last year and especially Margaretann for her hard work keeping the office in check. Last but not least, thank you to all the members for keeping this prestigious Federation going.

Henry Cairney, President of the Robert Burns World Federation

RBANA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (HENRY CAIRNEY)



Again sounding like a broken record, my last message as President of RBANA. Similar to many other organizations many events were cancelled through North America. The Conference scheduled for May also was postponed due to concerns on travel and Covid-19 waves. We are now having a virtual Ceilidh and AGM in place and a big thanks to Ronnie O'Byrne and Paul Kennedy for their efforts in putting the Ceilidh together as I know it was a lot of work, but looks like a very entertaining event. The nominations are in for the new board and I am pleased to say all positions look like being filled. We also have a few board members stepping down this year namely, Ronnie O'Byrne Canadian East Director, Mathew Hill Secretary/Treasurer, and Colin Harris Canadian Central Director. We thank them all for their service to RBANA. We, unfortunately, since my last message found out that Irene Boyd, wife of RBANA Past President Robert Boyd passed away in January 2022. We sent our condolences to Robert and family. I wish everyone a safe and hopefully more social year ahead.

Henry Cairney, President, RBANA

2ND VP REPORT (ROB PINKERTON)

Unfortunately, our traditional St. Andrews Night event was impacted by the evolving COVID-19 situation in October. As planned the event had external performers and significant costs associated with it if we did not meet a minimum spend at the venue. Consultation with the membership, as well as polling, indicated that the event would have operated at a significant deficit due to low attendance, so the Board made the decision to cancel.

As luck would have it, as we entered November the COVID situation improved, and we were able to have a small gathering of Burns Club members at the Danish Canadian Club organized at short notice. I would like to thank Ron Pratt and the CBC Singers for providing entertainment at the event. Special thanks go out to Tony Grace for sharing his entertaining stories of his time as a student at St. Andrews University. This gathering was smaller than usual with 27 people in attendance. Both my wife and I had a lot of fun at this informal event, it was great to have a chance to get out and see some fellow Burnsians and their significant others for the first time in almost 2 years.

Planning is underway for a Summer BBQ event on the evening of June 25th 2022 and it is my hope that you will all be able to join us!

I hope that we can return to a sense of normalcy in the latter half of 2022 and start our regular schedule of events.

We are provisionally re-booked for November 25th 2022

Rob Pinkerton 2nd VP Calgary Burns Club

CBC SINGERS (RON PRATT)

The singers started some controlled practices at Langdon during the summer-fall and then resumed full practice sessions at the Danish Canadian Club in January. We are truly appreciative of their accommodation.

We participated in one sunrise ceremony at the Field of Crosses in November, and managed to provide entertainment to a couple of Christmas concerts in December and a handful of Burns celebrations in January. Some of these required masking restrictions but were all well received.

We participated in the Spring Music Fling at the Military Museums in late April and looking ahead, we are encouraged by a busy agenda for the next six months with a potential fund raising ceilidh, the Water Valley Celtic Music Festival in June and intensive rehearsals for our Scotland visit in August and September. Scheduled engagements are already confirmed for Kirkcudbright, Irvine, Kilmarnock, Glasgow and Dumfries.

Respectfully.....Ron Pratt

CALGARY BURNS CLUB DONATIONS (BRIAN CUMMING)

The Calgary Burns Club had its first face to face meeting for 2021 on November 9 2021, at the Danish Canadian Club. This was the first in person meeting the Club had held since March 10,2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. At the meeting, in addition to enjoying the wonderful Remembrance Day themed entertainment program, the 35 members present generously donated \$1000 to veteran's food banks. The Club matched the funds and both the Veterans Food Bank of Calgary and the Veterans Association Food Bank each received \$1000.

At the March 8, 2022, members meeting, after a request for donations to the Red Cross Ukrainian Crisis Appeal to assist those whose lives have been terribly disrupted by war in Ukraine, members again generously dipped into their pockets to fill visiting Ronnie O'Byrne's new Calgary White Hat. Including later contributions from members who were not at the meeting, \$1415 was raised. The Club added another \$1000 for a total donation \$2415.

The generosity of Club members is inspiring and makes me proud to be associated with this Club.

Thanks to you all for supporting these worthy causes.

BURNS SONG

Handsome Nell (1779)

O once I lov'd a bonie lass, Ay, and I love her still; And whilst that virtue warms my breast, I'll love my handsome Nell.

As bonie lasses I hae seen, And mony full as braw; But, for a modest gracefu' mien, The like I never saw.

A bonie lass, I will confess, Is pleasant to the e'e; But, without some better qualities, She's no a lass for me.

But Nelly's looks are blythe and sweet, And what is best of a', Her reputation is complete, And fair without a flaw.

She dresses aye sae clean and neat, Both decent and genteel; And then there's something in her gait Gars ony dress look weel.

A gaudy dress and gentle air May slightly touch the heart; But it's innocence and modesty That polishes the dart.

'Tis this in Nelly pleases me, 'Tis this enchants my soul; For absolutely in my breast She reigns without control.

FAMOUS CANADIANS

Jim Carrey – a Canadian-American actor, comedian, writer, producer, author, and artist, known for his slapstick performances

Celine Dion – a Canadian singer, renowned for her powerfully skilled vocals, and the best-selling Canadian recording artist

Avril Lavigne – a Canadian singer, songwriter, and actress

Mike Myers – a Canadian actor, comedian, screenwriter, producer, and director

BURNS POEM

I Love My Love In Secret (1789)

My Sandy gied to me a ring, Was a' beset wi' diamonds fine; But I gied him a far better thing, I gied my heart in pledge o' his ring.

Chorus.-My Sandy O, my Sandy O, My bonie, bonie Sandy O; Tho' the love that I owe To thee I dare na show, Yet I love my love in secret, my Sandy O.

My Sandy brak a piece o' gowd, While down his cheeks the saut tears row'd; He took a hauf, and gied it to me, And I'll keep it till the hour I die. My Sandy O, &c.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020/2021

Executive

President: Brian Cumming 1st VP: Charlie Malone 2nd VP: Rob Pinkerton Secretary: Tony Grace Treasurer: Stuart Chalmers <u>Non-Executive</u> Past President: Henry Cairney

Communications: Trekker Armstrong Director At Large: Sandy Paterson Director At Large: Gerry Wood

Director At Large: Hugh McFadzean Director At Large: David Currie

Director At Large: David

Director At Large: Kyle Scott

Ex-Officio

Entertainment: Jim Little/Maurice MacAtamney Steward: Don Humphreys Website: Paul Armstrong

FUTURE EVENTS

*Scotland Trip Fundraiser June 17 *Summer BBQ June 25 * * St Andrews Event TBA*

BURNS WORLD (TONY GRACE)

The Calgary Burns Club has had another limited and at times frustrating year. We have had to cancel our usual celebration of St. Andrews as well as the traditional January Dinner and have decided to hold a summer BBQ in place of the normal Ladies appreciation event in the spring. Meantime the Board has continued to meet using Zoom and the Club meetings have of course been a mixture of virtual and face-to-face meetings. The Club held a reception to host Club Member Henry Cairney also the RBWF President. A pleasant evening was had by all. It is to be hoped that the days of virtual meetings are passed and both the regular April meeting as well as the AGM in May will be face-to-face.

RBANA has been similarly affected by the Covid restrictions and has been forced to cancel its AGM which was due to be held at the Delta Hotel Calgary South here in May, mainly due to concerns over cross-border travel requirements. Instead RBANA plan to hold a virtual AGM on 14th 2022 to include recorded entertainment. The 2023 RBANA AGM will be held at the Delta Hotel Calgary South in May of 2023.

The Robert Burns World Federation Annual Conference and AGM is still planned for September 9th – 11th 2022 in Dumfries. There will be a Ceilidh on the Thursday and the Singers have been asked to perform at that which will be the last stop in the Singers trip. The Federation business will be conducted on the Saturday, concluding with the formal banquet on the Saturday evening at which Henry Cairney will pass the President's chain of office to his successor.

Before singing at the Ceilidh, the Singers will be performing at the Kirkcudbright Tattoo followed up by concerts to the Glasgow Burns Clubs and the Irvine Burns Club.

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

THE CBC WEBSITE (PAUL ARMSTRONG)

The Calgary Burns Club website continues to be a useful tool for the dissemination of information both to Club members and the public. We have made a few Improvements recently.

- The Upcoming Events page is regularly updated with current information.
- The Papers tab is updated with new material from the Carnie Group as well as papers presented at Club meetings and submitted to the Webmaster for publication.
- The In Memoriam page has been added to the About Us tab to allow for wider availability of this information to the public as well as members and family members. This information is readily available in the public domain.
- Information regarding the upcoming Singers' Trip to Scotland has been added to and the events and dates have been included in the Singers' calendar.

We welcome any comments or suggestions for material to be published on the website with the proviso that the President has the final say regarding what is published.

Dr. C. P. Armstrong, Webmaster

CBC COMMUNICATIONS (TREKKER ARMSTRONG)

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a consideration for our Annual Burns Supper and in-person members' meetings. Unfortunately, the Burns Supper had to become a virtual club event this year. Thank you to all who have accommodated what can be last minute changes.

As Communication Convener I am tasked to schedule and technically host the zoom get togethers. As well, the Club's Carnie group embraced virtual meetings which the Convener assisted in scheduling and initiating hosting.

We continue to receive regular information from RBWF and RBANA which is forwarded to our members as appropriate.

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 communication.

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].

Members can send items, that may be of interest to the Club, to the above email address for the Communications Convener to distribute. The Communication Convener reserves the right to decide the appropriateness of these and if there is any question they will be forwarded to the President for a decision.

The Communication Convener is now utilizing the Club's YouTube account for videos that were once sent by email. YouTube also provides a platform for the Calgary Burns Club to leverage Social Media, not only for its members but also abroad.

Trekker Armstrong Communications Convener



GARY O'CONNOR

MEMBERSHIP NEWS (HENRY CAIRNEY)

Membership has remained at the same numbers since the last Claver, we unfortunately lost club member Andy Burnett who passed in December 2021, we sent our deepest condolences and donated to the Grace Presbyterian Church, then Gary O'Connor joined in December 2021 becoming a full Member:

34 Full Members 13 Life Members 1 Honorary Member 5 Associate Members 5 Out of Town Associate Members TOTAL= 58

Henry Cairney Immediate Past President

BURNS POEM

Lines Written In Friars'-Carse Hermitage (1788)

Thou whom chance may hither lead, Be thou clad in russet weed, Be thou deckt in silken stole, Grave these maxims on thy soul.

Life is but a day at most, Sprung from night, in darkness lost: Hope not sunshine every hour, Fear not clouds will always lour.

Happiness is but a name, Make content and ease thy aim, Ambition is a meteor-gleam; Fame, an idle restless dream;

Peace, the tend'rest flow'r of spring; Pleasures, insects on the wing; Those that sip the dew alone-Make the butterflies thy own; Those that would the bloom devour-Crush the locusts, save the flower.

For the future be prepar'd, Guard wherever thou can'st guard; But thy utmost duly done, Welcome what thou can'st not shun. Follies past, give thou to air, Make their consequence thy care: Keep the name of Man in mind, And dishonour not thy kind. Reverence with lowly heart Him, whose wondrous work thou art; Keep His Goodness still in view, Thy trust, and thy example, too.

Stranger, go! Heaven be thy guide! Quod the Beadsman of Nidside.

FAMOUS CANADIANS

William Shatner – a Canadian actor, author, producer, director, screenwriter, and singer who became a cultural icon for his portrayal of Captain James T. Kirk in the Star Trek

Ryan Reynolds – a Canadian-American actor, film producer, and entrepreneur

Michael J. Fox – a Canadian-American actor, comedian, author, film producer, and activist with a film and television

BURNS SONG

Does Haughty Gaul Invasion Threat (1795)

Does haughty Gaul invasion threat? Then let the louns beware, Sir; There's wooden walls upon our seas, And volunteers on shore, Sir: The Nith shall run to Corsincon, And Criffel sink in Solway, Ere we permit a Foreign Foe On British ground to rally! We'll ne'er permit a Foreign Foe On British ground to rally!

O let us not, like snarling curs, In wrangling be divided, Till, slap! come in an unco loun, And wi' a rung decide it! Be Britain still to Britain true, Amang ourselves united; For never but by British hands Maun British wrangs be righted! No! never but by British hands Shall British wrangs be righted!

The Kettle o' the Kirk and State, Perhaps a clout may fail in't; But deil a foreign tinkler loun Shall ever ca'a nail in't. Our father's blude the Kettle bought, And wha wad dare to spoil it; By Heav'ns! the sacrilegious dog Shall fuel be to boil it! By Heav'ns! the sacrilegious dog Shall fuel be to boil it!

The wretch that would a tyrant own, And the wretch, his true-born brother, Who would set the Mob aboon the Throne, May they be damn'd together! Who will not sing "God save the King," Shall hang as high's the steeple; But while we sing "God save the King," We'll ne'er forget The People! But while we sing "God save the King," We'll ne'er forget The People!

SCOTS PROVERB: Be happy while yur livin', 'cause yur a lang time deed

Roughly translated: Self-explanatory.

CBC 2022 VIRTUAL DINNER (CHARLIE MALONE)

As I pen this article for the Calgary Claver in my current role as 1st Vice President and Burns Supper Convenor I feel very like a "*Wee, sleekit, cowrin, tim'rous beastie*" and sense of déjà vu as "*The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men Gang aft agley*".

This time last year I was feeling the same way when I penned a similar article in my previous role as 2nd Vice President and Convenor of the St. Andrew's dinner. Reflecting on this I hope and I pray my successors in the Vice President roles do in fact deliver "*The best-laid schemes*" *in the years to come.*

Anyway, now to the business in the past 12 months. In the summer of 2021 the forty-sixth annual Burns Supper was scheduled for Friday 21st January 2022 in person at the Westin Hotel Downtown, Calgary. Throughout late October and into early December 2021 with the Covid case count tailing off from the most recent wave, confidence was returning that the Supper could be held. This confidence was validated by consulting the CBC members and the regular guests from prior Suppers. With this renewed confidence detailed plans were put in place with our trusted partners in delivering the Supper including, but not limited to, the speakers, the entertainment, the menu, wine and whisky selection, the ordering of the commemorative glasses, the printing of tickets and the drafting of the commemorative programme.

However, from mid-December onwards it became apparent that the Covid case count was rising and was predicted to peak in the middle of January 2022. In response the CBC Board of Directors in late December took the decision to cancel the in person 2022 Burns Supper. Through very diligent work of the Club members with our trusted partners there were negligible regret costs to the Club.

In early January 2022 it was decided to hold a virtual get together on Tuesday 25th January 2022. As there was limited time to plan, a simple programme of events was created and the invitation was limited to CBC members. The programme was limited to just over one hour centered around a toast to Robert Burns and a toast to Absent Friends. The short programme was closed with "*Auld Lang Syne*" followed by an informal Open Microphone Chat on Zoom.

To close I sincerely hope that Zoom can in the proverbial context "Zoom" off out of the way for future Burns Suppers, and we can get back to delivering "The best-laid schemes"!

Charlie Malone, 1st Vice President and Burns Supper Convenor



ALBERTA GOV BURNS MESSAGE (HENRY CAIRNEY)

Robert Burns Day: Joint statement

Minister of Culture Ron Orr and Associate Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism Muhammad Yaseen issued the following statement on Robert Burns Day:

"Tonight, here in Alberta and around the world, people of Scottish heritage and poetry lovers of every lineage will raise a toast to the life and works of Robert Burns.

"Scotland's 'ploughman poet' was an author of great technique and prodigious intellect, who wowed the literary establishment and ordinary folk alike. He breathed new life into Scottish folk tradition, wrote stirring traditional ballads, romantic songs and pointed satires proclaiming his intolerance of injustice.

"From curling to bagpipes, the threads of Scottish culture are woven deeply into Alberta's heritage. We owe a great deal of this province's success to the people of Scottish heritage who have helped grow Alberta from the early days of its creation until now.

"The first premier of Alberta, Alexander Rutherford, was the son of Scottish immigrants. He gave us the foundation for our government, school system and infrastructure. Airdrie, Banff and Calgary are named after places in Scotland that immigrants left behind to build a new life here. We even have a provincial tartan that reflects our shared heritage – the beauty of our green forests, golden wheat, blue skies and pink roses.

"On this Burns Night, we join Albertans in celebrating the legacy of this legendary poet and all the elements of Scottish culture that have enriched our province and the rest of the world.

"Despite his short life, Burns had a zest for living that endures in his timeless works. To all seeking the light of his literary spirit in a traditional Burns supper on this January evening, we wish you sláinte mhath!"

I contacted the Minister on behalf of Burnsians worldwide and received the following response:

Dear Henry,

Thank you for you for your email. We are pleased that you enjoyed the Robert Burns Day statement from Minister Orr and Associate Minister Yaseen. Your email has been shared with Associate Minister Yaseen's office for his awareness.

Regards,

Office of the Minister

Ministry of Culture and Status of Women

WHISKY DISPUTE RESOLVED

Graeme Macaloney the owner of the Caledonia Distillery on Vancouver Island, has resolved the legal action in 2021 against him by the Scotch Whisky Association with a compromise. Graeme advised me he is relieved it is all over and looking forward to bring his business back to full operation. We wish him all the best going forward as he does make very good whisky!

Henry Cairney

https://victoriacaledonian.com/



Left to Right: Graeme Macaloney with Dr Jim Swan (Maturation Expert) and Mike Nicolson (Master Distiller)

BURNS EPISTLE

Epistle To Colonel De Peyster (1795)

My honor'd Colonel, deep I feel Your interest in the Poet's weal; Ah! now sma' heart hae I to speel The steep Parnassus, Surrounded thus by bolus pill, And potion glasses.

O what a canty world were it, Would pain and care and sickness spare it; And Fortune favour worth and merit As they deserve; And aye rowth o' roast-beef and claret,

Syne, wha wad starve? Dame Life, tho' fiction out may trick her

And in paste gems and frippery deck her; Oh! flickering, feeble, and unsicker I've found her still, Aye wavering like the willow-wicker, 'Tween good and ill.

Then that curst carmagnole, auld Satan, Watches like baudrons by a ratton Our sinfu' saul to get a claut on, Wi' felon ire; Syne, whip! his tail ye'll ne'er cast saut on, He's aff like fire.

Ah Nick! ah Nick! it is na fair, First showing us the tempting ware, Bright wines, and bonie lasses rare, To put us daft Syne weave, unseen, thy spider snare O hell's damned waft.

Poor Man, the flie, aft bizzes by, And aft, as chance he comes thee nigh, Thy damn'd auld elbow yeuks wi'joy And hellish pleasure! Already in thy fancy's eye, Thy sicker treasure.

Soon, heels o'er gowdie, in he gangs, And, like a sheep-head on a tangs, Thy girning laugh enjoys his pangs, And murdering wrestle, As, dangling in the wind, he hangs, A gibbet's tassel.

But lest you think I am uncivil To plague you with this draunting drivel Abjuring a' intentions evil, I quat my pen, The Lord preserve us frae the devil! Amen! Amen!



Gerry Wood



Gerry and Andy Hay



From left Rory, Elaine, Gerry, Megan, Amy and Cailean



Gerry with Jackie Stewart

GERRY WOOD (HENRY CAIRNEY)

It is my absolute pleasure to profile Life Member Gerry Wood who has been a mainstay of the Calgary Burns Club since joining in 1977, and we are very thankful in having him as a member. Having had many chats with Gerry since I joined the club, I class him as a good friend also, and he enthuses the Calgary Burns Club in those discussions. Gerry quotes: *"We had fantastic fun in the early days and many a social dram held with people like Andy Hay and Jack Whyte to quote a few"*.

Gerry is married to Elaine, their children are daughter Megan, sons Rory & Cailean who is married to Amy and they have two children Presley & Theo

Gerry was born in Glasgow but also lived in Helensburgh Scotland, and studied Marketing and Merchandising at Stow College in Glasgow and their motto was "You're Tomorrow", Gerry certainly lived in that manner.

Gerry initially worked with his father James Wood, a Ford Dealer, where he was initially involved in converting vehicles to hand-control for disabled drivers, as well as with his company "Wood's Agencies", who were manufacturers' agents for electrical and allied products. Gerry said: "*My father had a great influence in my early years, teaching me to be innovative, creative, and unafraid of being a pioneer*".

Gerry immigrated to Canada in 1969 where he initially drove garbage truck in Guelph, ON. Gerry said: *"My driving style was more like my idol Jackie Stewart the famous formula 1 racing driver in style"*.

Gerry's career took a firm hold in Calgary shortly after, in joining a local Ford dealership in Maclin Ford in 1969 initially as a Sales Representative, and then 5 years as the New Vehicles Sales Manager. During this time he learned the 'North American way", and enjoyed every minute.

Gerry Wood has spent his entire career in the automotive industry, working with people and continued with his father's philosophical and innovative ways and the Marketing skills learned, Gerry continued to grow as a well respected businessman navigating his future life achievements and contributions in Canada.

In 1979 after examining several options, Gerry bought a small GM dealership in Vulcan, AB. He spent 5 years developing it into a viable operation. This allowed him to prepare for his next step, which was to take on a struggling large dealership in south Calgary. The renaming of the dealership from Southridge to Woodridge witnessed a dramatic marketing story in Calgary. Within months Gerry and his team launched a strong rebound to prosperity. The results were clearly evident when Woodridge recorded the highest sales volume of new Mercury cars in Canada in 1984. The following year marked a dramatic milestone when Woodridge outsold all Mercury and Ford franchise dealers in the nation and for the past 10 years it has been one of Canada's leading Ford Lincoln dealerships.

In the following two decades Gerry expanded his business enterprises, and the results of this are impressive to say the least where the Wood Automotive Group has pioneered and fine-tuned customer and marketing initiatives, the concepts of vehicle leasing, cost effective and excellent service, and a commitment to life-long relationships. These are values worthy of his nomination to the Immigrant Award.

Gerry has built an organization that is driven to be progressive and a leader with the Wood Automotive Group providing outstanding employment opportunities in the Calgary area and now has over 600 employees, demonstrating an integrated workforce including numerous nationalities. He assists and helps individuals from all walks of life on a daily basis, and if there is something he cannot do personally, he searches for an answer through his many contacts to achieve the correct result. This is part of the strengths that Gerry continually demonstrates.

As a recognized leader in the Canadian Automotive Sector, Gerry has accepted many key appointments in local, provincial and national associations. As part of executive bodies, he represents the Canadian automotive dealers in both manufacturing and government bodies.

Gerry is highly active in the Calgary and Okotoks communities where his involvement entails organizations such as the Inclusion Alberta, The Calgary Burns Club, Mustard Seed, and The Salvation Army. The Woodridge Charity Golf Tournament celebrated its 30th and final year in 2015 and with the tireless efforts and hard work of his wife Elaine, has raised almost 4 million dollars in funding towards the building of the PREP School and programs for individuals with Down syndrome. Gerry has furthered his commitment to supporting children's charity as a major sponsor of the Shaw Charity Classic Golf Tournament and the creation of the Wood Automotive Group Kid Hero of the Month Award in support of KidSport and Comrie's Sports Equipment Bank.

GERRY WOOD (CONTINUED)

Gerry's awards are many going back to the 1980's and include but are not limited to the Rotary Club International Integrity Award, Inducted into the Calgary Business Hall of Fame and in 2018 received the Order of Canada, impressive to say the least!

Over the past few decades, Gerry has been an active member of many boards and committees which include multiple positions in the Canadian Automobile Dealers Association culminating as Chairman, the Co-Auto Dealers Association of Alberta, the Ford & Mercury Advertising Association, Board of Directors of Down Syndrome Research Foundation and many more. Gerry is a current member of the Calgary Burns Club Board of Directors.

Gerry's charity work is outstanding in the community, and his benevolence in giving so much back is outstanding and worthy of listing in full

CHARITIES

- Salvation Army Advisory Board
- Woodridge Charity Golf Tournament committee member and founder 30 years, raising close to \$4 million to support Down Syndrome research, education, the PREP program and building the Woodridge PREP Centre/School for individuals with down syndrome & their families
- Children's Wish Foundation
- United Way
- Inclusion Alberta
- Foothills Country Hospice Society
- Partnered Wood Automotive Group and 7 dealerships with KidSport & Comrie's Sports Equipment Bank
- Foothills Search & Rescue
- Special Olympics Calgary
- Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada
- Alberta Children's Hospital
- Ronald McDonald House
- Calgary Dream Centre
- Military Family Resource Centre
- Shriners Hospital for Children
- Breast Cancer Society of Canada
- Alzheimer Society of Calgary
- Libin Cardiovascular Institute of Alberta
- Alberta Cancer Foundation
- Kids Cancer Care
- Stars Air Ambulance
- Edmonton Down Syndrome Society
- Heart & Stroke Foundation
- Bethany Care Foundation
- Calgary Flames Foundation
- The Mustard Seed
- Calgary Drop-In Centre

In conclusion, as we can see, Gerry is a well respected person within the community and still very active within it. He is a very generous philanthropist to many great causes. He is a superb supporter of the Calgary Burns Club in many ways, including our Annual Burns Supper and provides new views and perspectives on where the clubs future lies. As we head towards the 50th anniversary of the Calgary Burns Club in 2026 it is important we keep our tradition as well as understanding the future and having good standing members like Gerry is paramount. Gerry quoted when we met last: *"Henry, you guys do so much for the club and I really appreciate all the time and effort you all contribute"*. Well Gerry, back at you because I assure you, we are proud, thankful and very lucky to have someone like yourself who has given so much to so many and keeps the profile of the Calgary Burns Club very high in the community and worldwide. Thank you!

Henry Cairney

Gerry and Elaine at Big 4 Groundbreaking Day for Taza Park



Gerry and Stuart Chalmers at the Woodridge Charity Golf Tournament



An early CBC Burns Supper



Rory, Gerry and Cailean at the CBC Burns Supper





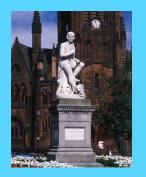
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MIDSTEEPLE



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH



ROBERT BURNS STATUE WITH LUATH

THE CARNIE GROUP (JIM MCLAUGHLIN)

Dumfries Queen Of The South (The town and it's association with Robert Burns)

Dumfries, sometimes fondly referred to as the Queen of the South, is nestled in the verdant southern uplands of southwest Scotland, a lovely market town located about nine miles inland from the Solway Firth and connected to it by the River Nith and its estuary. In Burns's time it also functioned as an important inland port for excisable goods, which largely explains why he found a placement there as an Excise Officer. It was originally established in its present location to take advantage of the river and its many natural fords, as well as its proximity to the sea. Also, the elevation at that point made it suited to the building of fortifications for its defence. By 1100 A.D. it was an established village and grew rapidly over the next Century or so to become SW Scotland's most important urban centre, being granted a royal charter in 1186.

The town is associated with many important events in Scotland's oft-violent history, including the internecine raids by the Border Reivers over a period of four hundred years, made worse in 1306 by Robert the Bruce's infamous involvement in the murder of John 'The Red' Comyn, his chief rival for the throne of Scotland, which took place in the Chapel of Greyfriars Monastery in Dumfries. This helped to provoke the wars of succession and endless battles with England, whose kings sought to fill the power void created in the wake of these internal conflicts.

Robert Burns had visited Dumfries in early 1787 as part of his tour of the Scottish Borders. He stayed for three days and was given a warm reception by the townsfolk, even being made an Honorary Burgess by the magistrates. He was impressed by the town, which likely explains his eagerness later to take up his first Excise position there, which he did in September 1789. Prior to that in May of 1788, and just after receiving his Commission to the Excise Service, he acquired a lease on Ellisland Farm, some six miles from Dumfries. He had not yet been offered a post, but was confident that he could rely on his influential political contacts to obtain one within the Upper Nithsdale Division that included Ellisland; this did come to pass in September 1789.

He farmed Ellisland for nearly three years, and following a much-sought-after transfer to an excise posting within the confines of Dumfries, found himself regularly 'commuting' into the town on horseback. He relocated there with his family in November 1791, settling for a small apartment on the Wee Vennel (now Bank Street), better known then as the Stinking Vennel... so, not a salubrious part of the town. In May 1793, the family moved to a much larger two-story sandstone house on Mill Hole Brae, later renamed Mill Street, and finally Burns Street as it is known today. Burns's time in Dumfries was packed with many events, while continuing to write prolifically despite the onset of declining health, particularly during the last year of his life.

Like most towns and cities, Dumfries has changed greatly over the 226 years since Burns walked its streets, and yet there is still much that would be familiar to him. If the poet were to be granted a brief reincarnation, he would still be able to enjoy an ale in his favourite tavern, The Globe Inn, where he frequently lodged while still living at Ellisland, but having taken up his new posting in the town. He was generally given the same room on the upper floor that he would no doubt be pleased to visit again, and that has been preserved to this day in the same condition it was during his brief sojourns. It would bring back both fond and embarrassing memories of his times there. In early 1792, it was the room where he 'entertained' the Inn's eighteen-year-old barmaid, Anna Park, who happened to be the landlord's niece. This resulted in the birth of their 'wee dochter', Elizabeth, awkwardly timed as she drew her first breath just nine days before his faithful wife Jean delivered their son, Maxwell.

Turning his back on those conflicting memories, upon exiting the Globe and stepping into the High Street just a short distance away, he would behold the Midsteeple where his body lay in state until the day of his funeral on July 25th, 1796. The six-storey municipal building was constructed for the princely sum of £1700, and completed in 1707. It is still parked incongruously in the middle of the divided High Street, largely unchanged in appearance. Although he would have no personal memory of the spectacle of his funeral cortege proceeding down the High Street on its way to St. Michael's Churchyard, might we not treat him to an ethereal re-enactment of that very scene? Reportedly, some 10,000 mourners crowded the High Street to witness this immensely sad and historic event. Most of his fellow members of the Dumfries Volunteers attended; Burns was a proud original member of this contingent of Dad's-Army-like stalwarts, formed eighteen months earlier to confront Napoleon's army should the dastardly Frenchie dare to invade their native land. The Volunteer members and a contingent of soldiers accompanied the body all the way to St. Michael's.

THE CARNIE GROUP (CONTINUED)

Hopefully the image of that sad event would not deter him from taking a short walk towards the Midsteeple, proceeding on through Queensberry Square that served as a parade ground for the Volunteers, then onwards towards Friars Vennel where, in the middle of a small roundabout facing Greyfriars Church, he would come face to face with his own image. This is a charmingly sculpted and raised statue, dressed in rustic cotter's attire, relaxing against the trunk of a tree with his faithful dog Luath resting its head on its master's foot.

From there, a walk down Friars Vennel would take him to the Whitesands and the river, just a stones-throw from his first Dumfries home which is still there on the Wee Vennel mentioned earlier. To his right, not far upstream, he would take in the so-called New Brig, completed in 1794 during his time in Dumfries. But almost facing him he would be pleased and perhaps surprised to see that the familiar Devorgilla Bridge (the 'Auld Brig') dating from 1431, and the oldest surviving multi-arched bridge in Scotland, still spans the Nith joining Dumfries and Maxwelltown, the latter in his day being considered a lawless village named Bridgend, or more colloquially 'Brig'en'. The Old Bridge House - a hostelry he also frequented, and now a museum - still stands, figuratively serving as an anchor for the Maxwelltown end of the bridge.

The familiar sound of the still-turbulent Weir would summons him to proceed further downstream, taking him within sight of St Michael's Street. But on the way, he would be drawn into Shakespeare Street to check out The Theatre Royal, the first dedicated theatre in the south of Scotland which was constructed during his time in Dumfries and opened on September 29th, 1792. Earlier performances by itinerant groups of players had been performed in the town's old Assembly Rooms. Burns had become an enthusiastic attendee, and befriended the founder and manager of the newly constructed Theatre Royal, George Sutherland. He even composed two poetical 'Prologues' in early 1791, one of which was performed by Sutherland himself and the second by his wife, both to great applause by the audiences. He later provided several other prologues, most being performed in the new theatre. On November 26, 1792, the esteemed London actress, Miss Louisa Fontanelle, recited Burns' **The Rights of Woman** as a signature piece of her benefit night, and helped establish the poet as one of the era's leading feminists.

His feelings of nostalgia at this posthumous visit to an old haunt that had meant so much to him during his Dumfries years would stay with him as he retraced his steps back towards St. Michael's Street, that led to the imposing St. Michael's Church. But first he'd want to stop by his last home at 24 Mill Hole Brae. He'd be delighted to see that the house itself has been meticulously preserved since his final days there with his beloved Jean and his children, and proud that the street has been renamed Burns Street. He might gaze at the steep hill leading up to the house, likely remembering the time when he could barely manage the last few steps up to his front door after returning from a kill-or-cure visit to Brow Well and the frigid sea bathings dangerously prescribed by his physician, Dr Maxwell. This medical folly almost certainly hastened his premature demise less than a week later.

Leaving the house on Burns Street, not much more than a couple of minutes walk would take him to St Michael's Church and its surrounding ancient burial ground where he would have attended the funerals of some of his friends and acquaintances. He'd want to stroll around the graveyard and look at their headstones, and those of other friends who outlived him. How bittersweet he would find these encounters, and in his meanderings he'd be sure to happen upon a plot that is railed off with a plaque displaying the message: 'Site of Original Grave of Robert Burns'. While pondering that anomaly, he could scarcely help noticing a brilliant, white domed Mausoleum that he would discover marked his own final resting place, and that of most of his immediate family.

We should leave our spirit-Bard there, agog at the sight of this Romanesque tomb that houses a massive, sculpted image of himself at the plough, gazing up at his imaginary 'Coila Muse' and overlooking the lettered slabs that cover the mortal remains of his loved ones...and those of himself, although 'immortal' remains would more aptly describe those of Scotland's National Bard.

Prepared for the Carnie Group by Jim McLaughlin (All photographs provided by Jim McLaughlin)



The Auld Brig



Theatre Royal



Robert Burns House



Robert Burns Mausoleum

BURNS POEM

Awa' Whigs Awa' (1789)

Chorus.-Awa' Whigs, awa'! Awa' Whigs, awa'! Ye're but a pack o' traitor louns, Ye'll do nae gude at a'.

Our thrissles flourish'd fresh and fair, And bonie bloom'd our roses; But Whigs cam' like a frost in June, An' wither'd a' our posies. Awa' Whigs, &c.

Our ancient crown's fa'en in the dust-Deil blin' them wi' the stoure o't! An' write their names in his black beuk, Wha gae the Whigs the power o't. Awa' Whigs, &c.

Our sad decay in church and state Surpasses my descriving: The Whigs cam' o'er us for a curse, An' we hae done wi' thriving. Awa' Whigs, &c.

Grim vengeance lang has taen a nap, But we may see him wauken: Gude help the day when royal heads Are hunted like a maukin! Awa' Whigs, &c.

BURNS SONG

Anna Thy Charms (1788)

Anna, thy charms my bosom fire, And waste my soul with care; But ah! how bootless to admire, When fated to despair!

Yet in thy presence, lovely Fair, To hope may be forgiven; For sure 'twere impious to despair So much in sight of Heaven.

JACK WHYTE AND THE CALGARY BURNS CLUB (GROUP CONTRIBUTION)

Jack Whyte was one of the seven founding members of the Calgary Burns Club along with Alistair Ross, John Whitelock, Jock Thompson, Andy Gibson, Bob Watson, and Graham Underwood. The club was granted its charter in Kilmarnock on June 19, 1976. Jack was appointed the Club Bard and was an active member until he moved to Vancouver in 1985. As a consummate performer, he insisted on memorization and multiple dress rehearsals for Club members performing any part at Club functions.

Jack was born on March 15, 1940, in Johnstone, Renfrewshire, Scotland, the eldest of eleven children born to Francis (Frank) and Sarah (Sadie, nee Gronan) Whyte. Frank was blinded on D-Day in 1944. It was Jack's job to read aloud to his father, including Gray's Anatomy and other textbooks, while Frank retrained as a physiotherapist. Jack also credited three of his primary school teachers for fostering his love of English.

The entire family moved to England in the 1950s and Jack studied there and in France. He studied English and Drama at St. Mary's College in Twickenham (London) and taught Speech and Drama for five years in England.

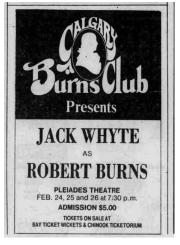
Jack accepted a post in Athabasca as a teacher of English and French and immigrated to Alberta with his wife Helena and their two young children in 1967. They lost everything in November to a fire that started in the local cinema below their suite. The town rallied around, and they were offered a new apartment the following day.

During that first year in Athabasca, Jack's colleagues entered him in a contest to sing at the Calgary Stampede. He auditioned for the Grandstand Show in his kilt and got his break, opening the Grandstand Show in 1968. He attracted the attention of agents eager to represent him and his career as a professional singer, musician, actor, and entertainer was launched. He moved to Calgary in 1969; his marriage to Helena was dissolved.

Throughout the 1970s, Jack performed live in local lounges, on television, and in concert. His rich bass voice could tackle any genre with ease: Scottish standards, folk music, sacred music, calypso, love ballads, the Great American Songbook, and so on. He kept his audiences spellbound. He made four appearances on "Minstrel's Gallery," a local Calgary programme. He was part of the Scottish pavilion at the Red Deer Folk Festival a number of times and, being a devoted Burnsian, took part in Burns nights across southern Alberta.

In February 1975, Jack sang to a full house at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. It was a Scottish evening, part of "Century Calgary," a year-long celebration of Calgary's 100th birthday. The concert also featured Scottish country dancers, Highland dancers, and pipes and drums.

Later the same year, he wrote and launched a one-man show called "Rantin' Rovin' Robin – A Night with Robert Burns." The two-hour biographical show, performed while dressed as Burns, was a mixture of monologue, poetry, and song. It debuted on October 1 at the QR Centre and ran for three more days before he took the show across Canada. The show was recorded onto vinyl in 1977, sponsored and produced by the Calgary Burns Club. The Club sponsored a three-day run of the show in February 1978.





Jack As He Portrayed Burns

JACK WHYTE AND THE CALGARY BURNS CLUB (CONTINUED)

In 1976 Jack married Beverley Martin, whom he had met while performing in Red Deer about 5 years prior. They were devoted to each other for 50 years.

Jack wrote a variety show for CBC that year, "The Maple & The Thistle" that was filmed in Vancouver. It starred Andy Stewart and featured Catherine McKinnon, Bill Hosie of Victoria, with Jack portraying Burns. A portion of it can be viewed (at time of writing) on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=n1hbLREW15c

In 1978 Jack and Sandy Paterson collaborated on a treatment for television entitled "The Darien Dream", commissioned by the Bibby Film Group in Edmonton, focussing on a section of a circumnavigation of the world commemorating the 400th anniversary of Sir Francis Drake's round-the-world voyage. (Patron, HRH Prince Charles, under the auspices of the U.K.'s Scientific Exploration Society and the Explorers Club of New York.) A major project of the voyage on a 150-ton brigantine manned by young people from around the world took place in Caledonia Bay, Darien, Panama. This was the site of the ill-fated Scottish Darien Colony established in 1698, where the Scots had built a fort and a settlement, "New Edinburgh." Jack imagined a narrator, dressed as a colonist, moving among the young people excavating the fort and environs, and relating the tragic story of the Scots colonists beset by disease, rancour, poor leadership, an antagonistic English-governed Jamaica, and battles with the Spanish, before the abandonment of the colony in 1701. The story was incorporated into a successful film, "The Eye of the Wind," shown around the world.

By the 1980s, he was working in advertising as a copywriter and speech writer, which led to working for Johnston Terminals in Vancouver in corporate communications. He and Beverley moved to North Vancouver in 1985. He had been writing for his own pleasure for years, as he had free time during the day while working as an entertainer at night. By 1988 he was working on his fourth 1000-page manuscript yet none of his work had been seen. Beverly encouraged him to find a publisher. Penguin Canada welcomed Jack on board. His first series of novels on the Arthurian legends were bestsellers in Canada, but once they were picked up by an American publisher, he was able to retire from the corporate world. Jack and Beverley moved to the B.C. interior, where Jack was able to continue his writing career and golf to his heart's content.

Jack is credited with twenty-three books of prose and poetry, at least fifteen of which were epic historical works. There are nine novels in The Arthurian Saga, three in the Templars Series, and three in the Guardians Series, about three heroes of the first Scottish war of independence. The Forest Laird is about William Wallace; The Renegade, about Robert the Bruce; and The Guardian, about Andrew Murray.

He also wrote the poem A Toast to Canada in 1974, an ode to his adopted country. The last stanza is below. Jack recorded and performed the entire poem for the Calgary Burns Club's 2021 virtual Burns Dinner.

"Each lad and lass, tak' up your glass And let your mind's eye roam Across this country, proud and vast Our Canada. Our Home."

Jack was the Regimental Bard of the Calgary Highlanders, and sang and performed with several hundred pipers and drummers at the CNE in Toronto. He was immensely proud of his association with the Calgary Highlanders, and most particularly of the three poems that he wrote to mark the regiment's battle honours over the course of its first hundred years of existence. He performed Kandahar, the third and last of those poems at the Grand Highland Military Ball in 2010.

Jack Whyte died in Kelowna, B.C. on February 22, 2021 of liver cancer, with Beverley at his side. He also left two children, three step-children, four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and eight siblings in England.

With contributions from:

Gerry Wood	Alexander Patterson
Stuart Chalmers	Jim Osborne
Janet Johnson	Carrie Pinkerton
Brian Cumming	

BURNS EPITAPH

Epitaph On John Rankine (1784)

Ae day, as Death, that gruesome carl, Was driving to the tither warl' A mixtie-maxtie motley squad, And mony a guilt-bespotted lad-Black gowns of each denomination, And thieves of every rank and station, From him that wears the star and garter, To him that wintles in a halter: Ashamed himself to see the wretches, He mutters, glowrin at the bitches,

"By God I'll not be seen behint them, Nor 'mang the sp'ritual core present them, Without, at least, ae honest man, To grace this damn'd infernal clan!" By Adamhill a glance he threw, "Lord God!" quoth he, "I have it now; There's just the man I want, i' faith!" And quickly stoppit Rankine's breath.

BURNS SONG

The Banks O' Doon (1791)

Ye banks and braes o' bonie Doon, How can ye bloom sae fresh and fair? How can ye chant, ye little birds, And I sae weary fu' o' care! Thou'll break my heart, thou warbling bird, That wantons thro' the flowering thorn: Thou minds me o' departed joys, Departed never to return.

Aft hae I rov'd by Bonie Doon, To see the rose and woodbine twine: And ilka bird sang o' its Luve, And fondly sae did I o' mine; Wi' lightsome heart I pu'd a rose, Fu' sweet upon its thorny tree! And my fause Luver staw my rose, But ah! he left the thorn wi' me.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

2023 Ian McIntyre Past President RBWF 2024 Club Member Gordon McCulloch 2025 T.B.A.

BURNS SONNET Addressed to Robert Graham, Esq. of Fintry (1789)

I call no Goddess to inspire my strains, A fabled Muse may suit a bard that feigns: Friend of my life! my ardent spirit burns, And all the tribute of my heart returns, For boons accorded, goodness ever new, The gift still dearer, as the giver you. Thou orb of day! thou other paler light! And all ye many sparkling stars of night! If aught that giver from my mind efface, If I that giver's bounty e'er disgrace, Then roll to me along your wand'ring spheres,

Only to number out a villain's years! I lay my hand upon my swelling breast, And grateful would, but cannot speak the rest.

OLD SCOTS PROVERB

"Lang may yer lum reek, wi' someone else's coal!"

Roughly translated means: *Have a long life economically!..*

IN THE NEXT EDITON

1) Profile of Jim Osborne

APPRECIATION

I would like to give thanks to both Ron Budd and Ian Denness for their work in proof reading and feedback with this edition of the Claver. Ron and Ian have been very vigilant in ensuring the grammatical quality is kept to a high standard.

Henry Cairney

BURNS WORDSEARCH 5 (HENRY CAIRNEY)

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Inside This Edition

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CARMAGNOLE	HIGHLANDMARY	UKRAINE
CANTY	JACKWHYTE	VENNEL
CORSINCON	JOHNSTON	VETERANS
DARIENDREAM	KIRKCUDBRIGHT	VOLUNTEERS
DEVORGILLA	MIDSTEEPLE	
DRAUNTING	NITHSDALE	
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Some Scottish Humour

A guy walks into an antiques shop and says: "How much for the set of antlers?"

"Two hundred quid," says the bloke behind the counter. "That's affa deer," says the guy.

Did you hear about the fella who liked eating bricks and cement? He's awa' noo.

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started her class by saying, "Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!"

After a few seconds, wee Hamish stood up. The teacher said, "Do you think you're stupid, Hamish?"

"No, Ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!"



THE CALGARY CLAVER

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