

Calgary Claver

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gentlemen,

On conclusion of the May Annual General Meeting, I assumed the privilege and mantle of Club President. I sincerely appreciate the friendship, support, education and mentorship that I have received as I progressed through the Club Executive.

We lost another dear friend, Singer and Burnsian in Tommy Miller this summer. He will be missed. I would like to thank Gerry Wood, along with the Calgary Burns Club Singers who performed at his service.

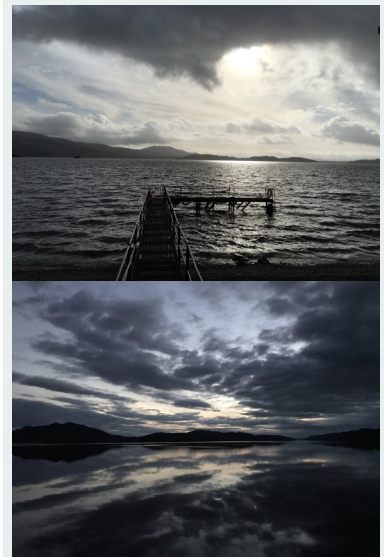
It has continued to be a busy year for most of us. We had a special visit and reception to meet the Robert Burns World Federation President Bobby Kane and his wife Karen on Thursday April 27th. A number of the club members then departed that weekend for the Robert Burns North America (RBANA) Conference hosted by the Medicine Hat Burns Club. I am pleased to acknowledge that following the RBANA Annual General Meeting, Henry Cairney joined their Board of Directors. Our members continue to be active and contribute outside of the local club.

It is gratifying for me to see and support the continued efforts to maintain relationships with our fellow Burns Clubs here in Alberta and abroad. Reciprocating attendance at events hosted by either the Edmonton or Medicine Hat Burns Clubs have proven successful and strengthen Robert Burns' legacy here in this province.

It is my intention to attend the Robert Burns World Federation Conference this September in Peebles with my wife Janet, and I have been asked by Jane Brown, Conference Convener, to do the reply to the toast to overseas guests at the inaugural dinner on the Saturday evening. I will very much enjoy the trip and conference. Hope to see a number of you there.

I look forward to reconvening our club meetings this September.

Trekker Armstrong



1. Loch Lomond
2. "Dolphins North" Evening
3. One of "The Kelpies"

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AGM 2017 HIGHLIGHTS (HENRY CAIRNEY)



New Life Member
Tony Grace



Passing The Gavel



Bobby Kane presentation



Members and Guests

It was an honour serving as president of the club in 2016/17, and I cannot believe how fast it went. I have already thanked a number of people for their help and support during that year. The following is a summary of the final chapter, the AGM:

Club President Henry Cairney opened the evening at 6:00pm, welcoming the members present, and our visitors from Scotland, RBWF President Bobby Kane and his wife Karen, and also RBWF Past President Jane Brown. Fun, fellowship and cocktails were enjoyed before the buffet meal was ready, and then the Company led by the Calgary Burns Club Singers under the direction of Ron Pratt sang *O Canada* followed by *Scots Wha Hae*. Keith Day as the Club's newest member recited The Selkirk Grace and then the company set to on a fine buffet supper. Following this the Singers performed *The Loch Tay Boat Song*, *O, Wert Thou In The Cauld Blast* and finally *O! Willie Brew'd A Peck O' Malt*, with the Company joining in the final chorus. Bobby Kane was then presented the "Burns Illustrated" book on behalf of the club.

The President then called for a brief recess and asked the members to reconvene for the AGM, at 8:00pm.

The formal meeting took place without any major issues, with the following points:

- Tony Grace awarded with life membership for his years of service and stalwart ambassador for the club.
- The new board of directors were appointed as follows:
 - * President – Trekker Armstrong
 - * 1st Vice President Jim Hutchens
 - * 2nd Vice President John Young
 - * Secretary Tony Grace
 - * Treasurer Paul Kane
 - * Communications Director Jamie Osborne
 - * Steward Maurice McAtamney
 - * Sponsorship Director/Director at Large Mark Rowe
 - * Entertainment Director Steven Nichol
 - * Past President (ex officio) Henry Cairney
- Annual dues were held to the same level as last year.
- The President's Gavel, the Club's Federation Charter, the President's Bronzed Burns Statue and the President's lapel pin to the newly elected President Trekker Armstrong
- Trekker Armstrong presented Henry Cairney with his Past President's plaque.
- Trekker Armstrong took the chair and thanked those present for electing him as the new President. With no new business the meeting was closed

I wish on behalf of the club, best wishes for the incoming season to the Board of Directors.

THE CARNIE GROUP (IAN DENNESS/TONY GRACE)

Such a Parcel of Rogues in a Nation

Burns wrote the song in 1791, but did not initially want to take credit for its writing as at that time he was working as an excise man and as such, it would have been politically dangerous for him to profess anti-Scotland/England Union opinions, especially around the time of the French Revolution and when government informers were active. Burns supported the ideals of the Revolution and often at that time published in the radical press either anonymously or under a pseudonym. The song first appeared in print in Johnson's *Musical Museum* of 1792, but was not attributed to Burns. Interestingly, the phrase 'Such a parcel of rogues in a nation' is first found in James Hogg's *The Jacobite Relics of Scotland* in a poem called "The Awkward Squad", which attacked the "thirty-one rogues" - the Scottish commissioners, who were alleged to have sold the nation out in 1707 at the Union of the Crowns and who were well rewarded with land and money for their treachery

Most people would agree that it is an oversimplification to claim the Union of England and Scotland (and hence the dissolution of the Scottish Parliament) was brought about by the commissioners being 'bought and sold for English gold', that is being bribed. I think we need to go back to the failure of the Darien colonization project as one of the root causes for moving to the Union. The Darien Scheme, being an unsuccessful attempt by certain wealthy Scots' merchants to make Scotland a world trading nation by establishing a colony called "New Caledonia" on the Isthmus of Panama on the Gulf of Darién in the late 1690s

It was recognized that a large number of Scotland's nobles and upper classes were almost bankrupted by the Darien fiasco. With the failure of the Scheme, the Scottish establishment realised that it could never be a major power on its own and that if it wanted to share the benefits of England's international trade and the growth of the **English Empire**, then its future would have to lie in unity with England.

Burns wrote to Mrs. Dunlop (10th April 1790) "What are all the boasted advantages which my country reaps from a certain Union that can counterbalance the annihilation of her independence and even her very name. (*At that time Scotland was known as North Britain.*) Nothing can reconcile me to the common terms **English** Ambassador, **English** Court. I believe in my conscience such ideas as My Country, her independence, her honour."

As to the Union of Parliaments, there was no turning back, and there are other letters in which Burns states that the document concerning the British constitution contains glorious principles, but that he is alarmed at the corruption between the executive power and the House of Commons, which has caused a great deviation from these original principles. He was still, therefore, fighting for the best for Scotland under the Union. This I believe is the true Burns. A man of honour who would not have sold Scotland for gold, who was prepared to accept the Union if the powers had stuck to the principles contained within, but who despised the corruption and the people who strayed from these principles of the constitution for their own benefits.

Could this be the reason why he produced the songs of Scotland for no monetary gain for himself? Many believe this was Burns' major patriotic task in life. He knew that a Nation without song had no soul, that a Nation without song would lose its identity and for that we should be thankful. Have you noticed that once the Scots started singing 'Flower of Scotland' at rugby and soccer games, the English became much more patriotic with their singing of their national anthem or in the case of rugby, 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot'

What else I find interesting in the material that I've read, is a trend towards Burns' writing more radical poems and songs to support his true feelings and ideals about nationalism, the rights and brotherhood of man and independence e.g. his support for the French revolution and American Independence with poems such as 'The Rights of Woman in 1792; A Fragment (Ballad of American War) in 1784; 'Ode to General Washington's Birthday in 1794; A Man's a Man in 1795 and the Slave's Lament in 1792 and less of the works aimed at his local audience for their enjoyment and titivation. To me he has kept alive the idea that there is such a thing as a Scottish Nation by his references to these other themes.

Prepared by Ian Denness for the Carnie Group

BURNS SONG (1795)

(GUDE ALE KEEPS MY HEART ABOON)

Chorus:

O gude ale comes and gude ale goes;
Gude ale gars me sell my hose,
Sell my hose, and pawn my shoon-
Gude ale keeps my heart aboon!

I had sax owsen in a pleugh,
And they drew a' weel enough:
I sell'd them a' just ane by ane-
Gude ale keeps the heart aboon!

(Chorus)

Gude ale hauds me bare and busy,
Gars me moop wi' the servant hizzie,
Stand i' the stool when I hae done-
Gude ale keeps the heart aboon!

(Chorus)

GREAT SCOT!

Colour photography

Those Kodak moments were only possible thanks to 19th-century Scottish scientist James Maxwell, who invented the "three-colour method". His theory, based on mixing red, green and blue colours of light, led him to present the world's first colour photograph – inevitably of a tartan ribbon – in 1861.



FUTURE SPEAKERS

2018 Jane Brown Past President RBWF
2019 Peter Hughes Past President RBWF
2020 Andy Harrower Director RBWF



WALLY HUNTER (JIM HOPE-ROSS)

(Wally's Daughter Lindsay)

Here is the picture of Dad's ashes and some whisky prior to being scattered near the ninth green at the golf course in Airdrie, Scotland. This was his first "home course"! I have childhood memories of myself and my two younger brothers being sent packing with Dad to "play golf" (we walked the course with Dad)! This was the compromise he came to with Mum; if he wanted to golf on the weekend, the kids went too! LOL

Audrey, Wally's wife was quick to point out the Dad's ashes are now scattered over his three favorite courses: Airdrie, Scotland, Airdrie, Alberta and the Mountainside Course at Fairmount BC.

My daughter and I were in Scotland in April to attend a family wedding.

cheers Lindsay



Jim Hutchens receiving "The Quill" from Jim McLaughlin

ENTERTAINMENT (JIM HUTCHENS)

The entertainment at our monthly meetings continues to be exceptional and varied, with members providing paper presentations, stories, songs, humor and poems.

March

- o In recognition of the Irish as it was close to St Patrick's day, Jim Hutchens opened with an Irish song "Mary of Dungloe"
- o George Muir gave us a humorous rendition of the rule changes which were needed in order to give the local population of the host city, Glasgow a fair and reasonable opportunity to be competitive during the Commonwealth in 2014.
- o Jim Little discussed the lineage of monarchs in Scotland from Robert Bruce 1, through the Stewarts, co-mingling with the Tudors, ultimately to produce Mary Queen of Scots and following her a succession of James's, eventually passing of the crown to Elizabeth, carefully suggested had only the second strongest claim to it. Jim then concluded with the song "The Four Marys".
- o Further humour was provided by Derek Larg and Sandy Paterson.
- o New member Don Humphries told the members about his life and how he came to be interested in things Scottish and why he joined the Club.
- o Maurice McAtamney sang two songs while accompanying himself on the guitar – "Annie McElvie" (learnt during his latest visit to Glasgow), and "Claire to Here."
- o Gordon McCulloch reintroduced us to the age old Hiring Fair and a song by the same title.

April Entertainment.

- o Ron Pratt and the Burns Singers opened and closed the evening's entertainment in usual fine form and enthusiasm.
 - o Paul Kane provided the background for and recited the Burn's poem My Bonny Bell. Paul noted that this work may have had traditional roots with reworking by Burns. There is a lingering question as to who was Bonny Bell. The version from Burns was written in 1791 and was first published in 1792.
 - o John Young painted a picture in prose of springtime while resting by a stream with his daughters in The Campsie Hills Sweet Afton as an example. It was noted that Burns wrote in a manner that his readers would draw on their own memories and experiences as they read Burn's works.
 - o The ever popular Bob Ferrier treated us to a recital of Mary of Argyle.
 - o Ron Budd of the Carnie Group spoke on one of Robert Burns's earliest romantic infatuations (1781) and courtship attempts. The young lady of Burn's attentions is not clearly identifiable from the records but from Burn's papers it appears he wrote to her on five occasions; the fourth letter being a marriage proposal and the fifth letter recording Burns dismay at receiving no response from who is now thought to be an Alison Begbie. It is now thought that Burns was not attracted to Alison for her looks but for the education she had been fortunate to have received. It is uncertain that Burns did ever meet Alison in person, but had observed her from afar.
- Burns immortalized this attempt at courtship by a poem Lass of Cessnock Banks.
- Ron concluded his talk by referring to the records about Burns that were published after Burn's death. These included his brother Gilbert comment's confirming Alison Begbie as the one that Burns was targeting. After Alison married and was in Glasgow in 1808, she was interviewed and at that time was able to remember the words of the Lass of Cessnock Banks. This information suggests that Alison Begbie was the woman that had Burns attention around 1781.
- o Humour for the evening was provided by Derek Larg and Sandy Paterson. Derek then introduced and recited a McGonagall poem (if we can call McGonagall's work poetry) The Castle of Mains by James McGonagall.

May Entertainment (Being our AGM, there was no formal entertainment)

However, the highlight of the year was the presentation of the Calgary Burns Club's annual poetry competition. This year's theme was "Departure".

The winner was Jim Hutchens for his entry "A Poet's Thoughts on Emigration."

As I complete my three-year tenure as The Club's Entertainment Director, I extend many thanks to all of our members who stepped forward at the asking and prepared a presentation with knowledge founded on research. Also to those who gave us their own brand of humour, song, story or recital.

RBANA 2017 (TONY GRACE)

During the last week end in April the Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA) held its annual AGM and Conference in Medicine Hat. The event was well supported by the Calgary Burns Club with some 10 members in attendance. Also present was the President of the Robert Burns World Federation Bobby Kane and his wife Karen who had attended a reception by the Calgary Club the night before.

The Conference started on the Friday morning with an optional round of golf, the weather not cooperating. That evening there was an informal ceilidh where attendees were encouraged to help entertain those present. The performances included songs by the Calgary Burns Club Singers.

Saturday was a full day with a City and Historic Sites Tour in the morning. After lunch there was a more serious tone to the day with a workshop on Surviving and Prospering in the New Age for the Burns' movement. Speakers (Henry Cairney, Ken Montgomery, Bobby Kane and Scott Montgomery), suggested possible scenarios to keep the movement attractive to a younger audience as well as describing how Clubs typically operate at the moment. This was followed by the AGM at which a proposal to update the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association was debated and passed. The afternoon concluded with the Jim Connor Quiz which was won by Leslie Strachan as has happened many times before. Leslie of course gave the Immortal Memory at our dinner in 2015. Henry Cairney was also voted in as a new Canadian Director for RBANA.

The day finished with a formal banquet in the form of a traditional Burns Supper. The Haggis was well and truly addressed by Andy Harrower, the Immortal Memory delivered in style by Jane Brown (who will give a repeat performance to us next January) and the Toast to Absent Friends from Leslie Strachan. Entertainment during the evening was provided in the form of Highland Dancing, songs by the Calgary Burns Club Singers and later by the Medicine Hat TarTones and the Pipes and Drums of the South Alberta Pipes and Drums. The evening concluded with a lament from Pipe Major Eric Kean and Auld Lang Syne.

On Sunday, following breakfast attendees had the option of attending a church service at the St. John's Presbyterian Church before setting out for home or to further explore Alberta. Promises were made to meet again next year in Philadelphia from April 20th to 22nd, 2018.

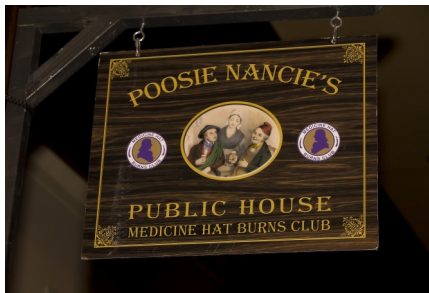
2017 RBANA PHOTOGRAPHS



Presidents & MHBC Guard



Jane's Guard "Friend"



Poosie Nancie's Bar



The "Tartones"



South Alberta Pipes & Drums

BURNS QUOTES

Some books are lies frae end to end,
And some great lies were never penn'd..."

Death and Dr. Hornbook, st. 1 (1787)

It's hardly in a body's pow'r,
To keep, at times, frae being sour.

Epistle to Davie, st. 2 (1786)

If naebody care for me,
I'll care for naebody.

I Hae a Wife o' my Ain (1788)

GREAT SCOT!

Chicken Tikka Masala

Glasgow chef Ali Ahmed Aslam lays claim to creating Britain's favourite dish, and the staple of a million takeaways. The proprietor of Shish Mahal restaurant, in the city's west end, was experimenting with condensed tomato soup, and threw in spices for sauce. And culinary history was made.





UP HELLY Aa (TONY GRACE)

For many years I have been intrigued by the Viking Festival Up Helly Aa held each January in Lerwick in the Shetland Islands. Part of the attraction has undoubtedly been the location – being in the northernmost part of the United Kingdom, as well as the time - January which is not the best time weather-wise to visit the Shetlands. Regardless Sheila and I decided that this year we would book to attend this Festival and reserved on a package deal which included some sight-seeing in the Islands as well as a return trip on the ferry from Aberdeen.

Although referred to as a Viking Festival, Up Helly Aa is relatively modern, with the emergence of Yuletide and New Year festivities post-dating the Napoleonic Wars. Initially an extremely rowdy, boisterous and dangerous event with most participants masked and with little structure and organization, it has gradually morphed into today's format. Today its timing has slipped to the end of January, a far more elaborate element of disguise called "guizing" has been adopted and the torchlight procession introduced. Along with these changes various Viking themes were added.

We arrived on the Monday only to discover that the hotel we were at was hosting an impromptu concert that evening of all the bands that would be playing in the various Halls the following night. This was a great introduction and start to the Festival for us, as music plays a central role in the event. Many years ago individuals kept open houses to welcome the guizers and their squads, but as the Festival and the numbers of attendees have grown, this has become impractical and people now cooperate to open large Halls throughout the town to provide entertainment for all, while continuing to welcome the squads.

The heart of the Festival is the squads and the procession. Each year the main Guizer is appointed – called the Guizer Jarl – and he is the lead character in the Festival. He has a Squad of about 50 helpers, and they spend all year preparing for the event including designing elaborate and exotic costumes they will wear. Eventually there will be about 50 squads each headed by a Squad Jarl. Each squad will decide on a theme for their costume although the Guizer Jarl's Squad is the only one that will be dressed as Vikings. Each squad also prepares an act or skit that they will eventually perform in each of the Halls they will visit on the night of the Festival. Also each year a replica Viking Ship is built and some thousand fence posts converted into torches by wrapping one end with sacking.

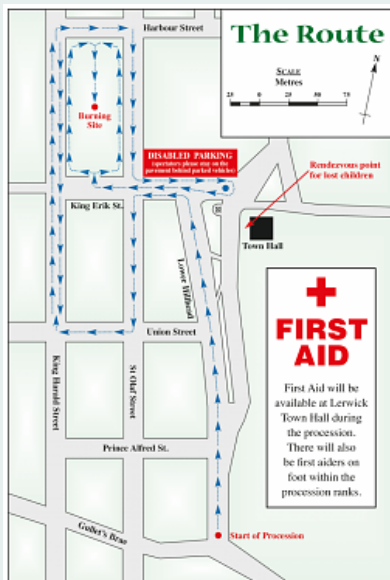
During the day of the Festival – the last Tuesday of January – the Guizer Jarl's Squad moves the longship down to the harbour, where the crowds can inspect it and take photographs. There are quite a few activities during the day as the various squads and bands move around the town. Then in the evening the procession begins. After nightfall a torchlight procession moves through the streets of the town with the Guizer Jarl's Squad leading the way and dragging the longship. Together with all the other squads they form the procession with each man - yes, no women after all they are Vikings, - carrying a flaming torch – they form an unforgettable sight, some one thousand men with their torches – smoky, sparks flying in the wind and the smell....

Eventually the designated burning spot is reached on a sports field, and the torchbearers form circles around it and sing the traditional **Up Helly Aa** song. After this the Guizer Jarl throws his flaming torch into the longship, followed by all the torches from all the guizers. This is the highlight of the evening as the flames from the thousand torches consume the longship. The ship is soon destroyed, and the guizers sing **The Norseman's Home** before moving on to the Halls and a night of partying. There were eleven Halls in use this year with each one holding a few hundred guests. Interspersed with the partying – dancing, drinking and socializing – entertainment is provided as the various squads visit the Halls to mingle with the guests and act out the prepared skits. With so many Squads and so many Halls this goes on throughout the night and past breakfast the next day – which is an official holiday in Lerwick.

We thoroughly enjoyed the Festival watching and taking part in as many of the activities as we could. It truly is a community event with many locals involved. The highlights undoubtedly were the procession and burning and the fun in the Halls afterwards. Unfortunately the weather was miserable as it rained continuously till after the burning but that dampened no-one's spirit or prevented people from enjoying the event. What else could you expect in the Shetlands in January?

Up Helly Aa 2018

Up Helly Aa will be next held on Tuesday 30th January 2018. Route through Lerwick as below:



EVENTS 2017 (JAMIE OSBORNE)

August 10 - Four Men & A Dog @ the Irish Cultural Society
 August 15 - McCusker Doyle, McGoldrick @ the Irish Cultural Society
 August 15-26 - GlobalFest
 September 2 - Calgary Highland Games
 September 2-3 - Canmore Highland Games
 September 6-10 - Spruce Meadows Masters
 September 12 - Calgary Burns Club Members Mtg
 September 23 - MHB Club Jolly Beggars Banquet
 October - MHB Club Jean Armour Night
 October 6-9 - Scots Gathering in Canmore
 October 10 - Calgary Burns Club Members Mtg
 November 14 - Calgary Burns Club Members Mtg
 November 17-19 - Spruce Meadows Christmas Market
 November 24-26 - Spruce Meadows Christmas Market
 December 1-3 - Spruce Meadows Christmas Market
 December 12 - Calgary Burns Club Members Mtg

THE CBC SINGERS (RON PRATT)

We were saddened with the loss of another one of our original members, Mr. Tom Miller on June 13th, and were pleased that a good representation of our group provided some musical numbers at Tom's service. Tom was a tough old trooper and never missed a performance when we sang at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 2009. He will be sorely missed at our practices and functions.

We also participated in the service for our founding Club member and club piper for many years, John Whitelock on May 1st.

During the quarter ended June 30th, we provided entertainment at two hospices, two seniors establishments and also our annual participation at the Water Valley Celtic Festival. Our efforts were very well received by all.

Our practice facilities at the Kensington Legion terminated on May 9th, on which day we provided an extended concert to the members in attendance. We were pleased that Jane Brown, manager of the Globe Inn in Dumfries and past president of the Robert Burns World Federation was also able to attend before returning to Scotland. We are hopeful that we can resume practice at the new Legion building after our summer recess, however, the new building is quite different in many respects and we will have to see if things work out or if we are faced with the challenge of finding other arrangements.

GERRY WOOD AWARD (IAN DENNESS)

"They've all contributed so much to Calgary's landscape," said Clay Riddell, executive chairman of Paramount Resources Ltd., who was part of the hall of fame selection committee.

"They are all community-minded people, philanthropists who help make this a great city."

Gerry Wood bought his first vehicle dealership in the southern Alberta community of Vulcan in 1979, and has been expanding ever since. The Wood Automotive Group is now one of the province's largest vehicle retailers, boasting six dealerships and a collision centre with more than 600 employees.

Wood said before the hall of fame luncheon that he was feeling "a little numb" about his induction into the elite group of Calgary business leaders. In an interview, he said one of the things his father taught him was "you've got to give to get."

For 30 years, him and his wife, Elaine, ran a golf tournament that raised millions to support people with Down syndrome.

"That was one of the most impressive things I've ever been a part of," Gerry said.

BURNS WORLD NEWS (TONY GRACE)

The Robert Burns World Federation (RBWF) is holding its annual Conference and AGM at the Peebles Hydro on September 8th – 10th. Its format will be as usual with registration on the Friday followed by an informal dinner and ceilidh. The AGM will be on the Saturday morning with a seminar in the afternoon. A formal banquet on Saturday evening will see the incoming President and Officers installed. Sunday morning will see a non-denominational church service in the hotel before the guests depart. It is still not too late to register – information is available on the Federation website – www.rbwf.org.uk/

This will be the third consecutive year that the Conference has been held at the Peebles Hydro which has a lovely setting in the Borders. Future events will be held at Irvine (2018); Glasgow (2019) and Dumfries (2020). I can strongly recommend Irvine next year – the Burns Club there has a wonderful display of Burns artifacts in its museum.

GREAT SCOT!

Dolly the Sheep

The world's first cloned mammal was created in 1996 by a team of experts at the Roslin Institute near Edinburgh. Dolly survived for six years, before she died from a lung disease. The world's most famous sheep is now on display at the National Museum of Scotland.



GERRY WOOD AWARD

Bill Yuill, left, Jane Shouldice, who accepted the award posthumously for her late husband Pat, Melissa Frum, president and CEO of Junior Achievement Southern Alberta, Gerry Wood and Patrick Daniel attend the Calgary Business Hall of Fame luncheon. Business leaders Yuill, Shouldice, Wood and Daniel have been recognized for their contributions to the city and for being "community-minded" people.



PEEBLES HYDRO

Three years to build and completed in 1881

TOMMY MILLER



November 10 1928 - Glasgow, Scotland

June 13 2017 - Calgary, Alberta

Tom Miller passed away on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at the age of 88 years. Tom was born in Glasgow, Scotland where he met his first wife and they had a daughter, Evelyn. After the passing of his first wife, Tom married his second wife Kathleen and had two additional children, Steven and Anne. Shortly after, the young family immigrated to Canada and settled in Toronto. After 12 years in Toronto the family moved west to Calgary and made it their permanent home. Tom was actively involved with the Toastmasters, was a lifetime member and past president of the Calgary Burns Club and a member of the Kensington Legion.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President; Trekker Armstrong

Past President: Henry Cairney

1st VP; Jim Hutchens

2nd VP: John Young

Secretary: Tony Grace

Communications: James Osborne

Steward: Maurice MacAtamney

Treasurer: Paul Kane

Sponsorship: Mark Rowe

Director At Large: Mark Rowe

Entertainment: Stephen Nichol

MEMBERSHIP NEWS (HENRY CAIRNEY)

We were extremely saddened to lose one of our Life Members and dear friend, Tommy Miller, on June 13th. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of Tommy's Family. A large number of Club Members attended a lovely and very emotional celebration of his life, but typical of Tommy, he had the last word from afar through his comments to his family prior to his passing.

Our president Trekker Armstrong lost his mum Trudy on July 12th after a long battle with illness. The club extends their deepest sympathy to Trekker and all the family.

Since the last Claver submission there have been changes in Membership and we currently have 12 Life, 36 Full and 12 Associate Members. We have one letter in our possession for membership which will be discussed in September.

"THE MAKING OF RABBIE BURNS (PAUL ARMSTRONG)"



I expect that all of you, in some way or another, having experienced the same thrill as I have on entering Macleod Hall on the night of the big dinner and seeing the stretch of tables. In the middle of each set table is the white statue of Robert Burns set off by the black tablecloth! It is my intention to chronicle the history of our statue and this article will serve as the introduction to the piece that I will publish in the next Claver. I am collecting information so that we may preserve the history of this very important feature of our dinners and one that, I believe, is unique to them.

The statues were featured at the first dinner after the Club received its charter from the Robert Burns World Federation in 1976 on an initiative of the Executive of the time, but more on this in the next installment.

We are now in the process of pouring the statues for the 2018 dinner and, if we are to continue this important project, we need members to volunteer to help with their production. We need people to finish the statues that require filling bubble holes in the statue and then sanding each one in preparation for painting, which is done between Christmas and New Year. We are also in need of boxes for transporting them and the best ones are the ones that hold 1 litre wine bottles as the ones that hold regular wine bottles are not tall enough and risk damage to the statues. If you have any questions or wish to volunteer please contact Tony Grace or me.

Please volunteer, don't wait for the "Press Gang"!

Look for the next installment in the Winter issue of the Calgary Burns Club Claver.

CBC GOLF OUTING (GEORGE MUIR)

The annual golf outing was held at Woodside Golf Club in Airdrie on Jul 23rd. The thirty two participants of twelve members and twenty friends and family enjoyed the 28 degree sunny day. Following the game they gathered in the clubhouse for food, drink and the prize giving. Major trophies went to Bill Lawson for the low gross of 87 and the President's Putter to Sandy Paterson for the lowest number of putts.



HAVE A CHUCKLE (VARIOUS)

(For those in their twilight years with a birthday!!)

The Golden Years

The Golden years are here at last.
I cannot see, I cannot pee.
I cannot chew, I cannot screw.
My memory shrinks, my hearing stinks.
No sense of smell, I look like hell.
The Golden years have come at last.
The Golden years can kiss my ***.

Author unknown, but probably on the far side of 60.....

Bonnie Charlie's Noo Awa

It is a little known fact that when Bonnie Prince Charlie died his bones were returned to Glenfinnan, where he raised his standard. At the time a shepherd was building a dry stane dyke and hid Prince Charlie's remains in the stones. This is the background story behind the song "Bonnie Charlie's noo a wa'!!"

Sandy Paterson

Bill Lawson

Gowfin' Freends

GREAT SCOT!

Golf

Scotland is the birthplace of golf – with the first written record in 1457, when James II banned it as an unwelcome distraction from learning archery. Since then, it's given us plus fours, Pringle jumpers and Tiger Woods's colourful private life. The Old Course at St Andrews dates to the 16th century. Fore!



BRIEF NEWS

- The "Quill" poetry competition for 2017 was won by Jim Hutchens
- Tony Grace is digitizing past minutes of the club
- Henry Cairney is digitizing past dinner audio tapes and singers taped audio music
- Statue production still needs volunteer's
- Medicine Hat Burns Club Jolly Beggars in September
- St Andrews evening in November at the Danish Canadian Club

CELEBRATING SCOTLANDS PAST (STEPHEN NICHOL)

The Calgary Burns Club visit to the Edmonton Burns Club

Burns Dinner; 27th February, 2017



Robert Burns Statue
Edmonton 2017
(Henry, Paul and Trekker)



Long Shanks King
Edward I of England

The Selkirk Grace

In the distant Scottish outpost of Calgary, where wayward Scots are prone to gather, word filtered through that there was like-minded

people to be found in Selkirk Forest. A small number of the Calgary band, including one called Nichol, decided to seek out these refugees of Scotland's past and when word came out that a winter gathering was being planned in Selkirk Forest, the Calgarians left the comfort of their hearths and travelled in search of these refugees. With a timely passage of travel, the Calgarians located this gathering of like-minded enthusiasts preparing to celebrate the bard of Scotland's anniversary of his birth.

Some hae meat and canna eat,

Montgomery, the leader of the merry band, greeted these Calgary travellers and soon they were enjoying the warmth of the fires of good fellowship. Words of welcome, drinks, and food, came freely amongst the sounds of pipes and drums. The poetry of Burns was heard and tall tales that appeal to the Scottish mind were shared. The Calgarians sung songs that the short lived Burns had touched and composed. At a special moment, a lone piper entered the gathering, slow playing on a set of pipes that once were heard by the 42nd Regiment of the Foot and had been played during the battles at Waterloo. Now these same pipes would have once been heard by one Private John Beattie of the 42nd Regiment of the Foot, who had fought and been maimed at Waterloo.

On this night, two centuries later, it was Beattie's relic, Nichol, who was listening to these same pipes.

And some wad eat that want it

Now Nichol and Montgomery share a rare link with Scotland's past, for they can reach across a 700 year passage of time and shake the hands of their Lowland ancestors. Ancestors, who in 1291, at Long Shanks' bidding, attached their seals to Long Shanks' "Ragman Roll" and were the Lowland pioneers who brought with them, the early form of what is now the universal English language.

These days Long Shanks spends his time in London, in the company of the British Kings and Queens who have succeeded him, and he still likes to claim that he is the "Hammer of the Scots"; a romantic vision of Scotland that many like to grasp. But the real Scotland, that which has followed after Long Shanks; that which was forged by the moulding and wroughting by the Church of Rome, tempered by the Protestant cause and defined by the common mindset that comes with the golden shackles of the English language; is the true Scotland

But we hae meat and we can eat,

When Long Shanks' is boasting that it he who is the "Hammer of the Scots", it is the relics of the Lowland pioneers who can respond that they are the descendants of the ones who conquered the minds of the Scots. And for sure, a hammered Scot is a lesser prize than the Scots' conquered minds. And lets close with a thought for Robbie Burns and his way with words.

Robbie Burns can be counted amongst the few that conquered minds across the succeeding generations and beyond Scotland's borders. Surely, Long Shank's envy should be enough to silence his boasting

Sae let the Lord be thankit

Amen

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CELEBRATING SCOTLANDS PAST (CONTINUED)

Notes for “Celebrating Scotland’s Past” Item

Selkirk Forest:

During the Middle Ages, Selkirkshire was forested and not regularly occupied by people. It was known as a place where banished men would go to avoid the administrative and religious authorities. Scots wanting to avoid the English armies would also hide out in Selkirk Forest.

The Selkirk Grace thus makes reference to the hardships that arose with those who had to seek refuge in Selkirk Forest. In this item, Selkirk Forest is serving as a metaphor for Edmonton and those of Scottish descent who have gone from Scotland seeking better lives.

Conquered Minds:

This term is a description for the collective thinking and beliefs of a group of people. It is the reflections of their history, religion, languages and the landscape that the group occupies.

There is a contradiction of the term depending whether it is being seen from the viewpoint of the usurper or the occupiers. The term conjures the conflict that exists between a usurper and the occupiers.

The Selkirk Grace:

This item was first heard by Robert Burns when he visited Ettrick, Selkirkshire and where he spent a night. Burns made some modifications to the words and then made use of it as a metaphor for the social conditions that existed in Burn’s time.

In this piece the “The Selkirk Grace” is being used as a metaphor for the conditions that exist for current “Scotland Peoples” and it has been incorporated into the piece in order to create a tension between Scotland’s past and its present.

John Beattie (1762-1817):

Born in Castleton Parish, Roxburghshire; at 18 years of age, enlisted the army; in 1802 he joined the 42nd Regiment of the Foot (later this regiment was renamed the Black Watch); served at Waterloo and was maimed on 16th June, 1815 during the Battle of Quatre-Bras.

In the early hours of the morning of the 16th June, 1815 the 42nd Regiment of the Foot marched out of Brussels for Quatre-Bras, some 50km south of Brussels. The historical record notes that the Regiment marched to the tune of “Hieland Laddie”. Arriving at Quatre-Bras at about 3pm, the Regiment entered into a five hour battle with Napoleon’s army.

Beattie’s Regiment would begin that day with 526 able bodied men and end the day with 238 able bodied men. John Beattie, with wounds to his leg and head, was invalided to the Chelsea Hospital, London and died 28th July, 1817.

Selkirk Grace (1793)

Some hae meat and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat and we can eat,
And sae the Lord be thanket.

Grace After Dinner (1793)

Lord, we thank, and thee adore,
For temporal gifts we little merit;
At present we will ask no more-
Let William Hislop give the spirit

Grace Before and After Dinner (1793)

O Lord, when hunger pinches sore,
Do thou stand us in stead,
And send us, from thy bounteous store,
A tup or wether head! Amen.

O Lord, since we have feasted thus,
Which we so little merit,
Let Meg now take away the flesh,
And Jock bring in the spirit! Amen

GREAT SCOT!

First World Cup

Scotland at least managed to qualify for the first World Cup – by organising it themselves. In 1909, 20 years before the official Fifa tournament, Scotsman Sir Thomas Lipton, of Lipton’s Tea, organised the Sir Thomas Lipton Trophy in Turin, where international club teams represented their countries. West Auckland represented England, who won in 1909. It’s been all downhill since then.



BURNS CROSSWORD 1 (HENRY CAIRNEY)

GREAT SCOT!

Hogmanay

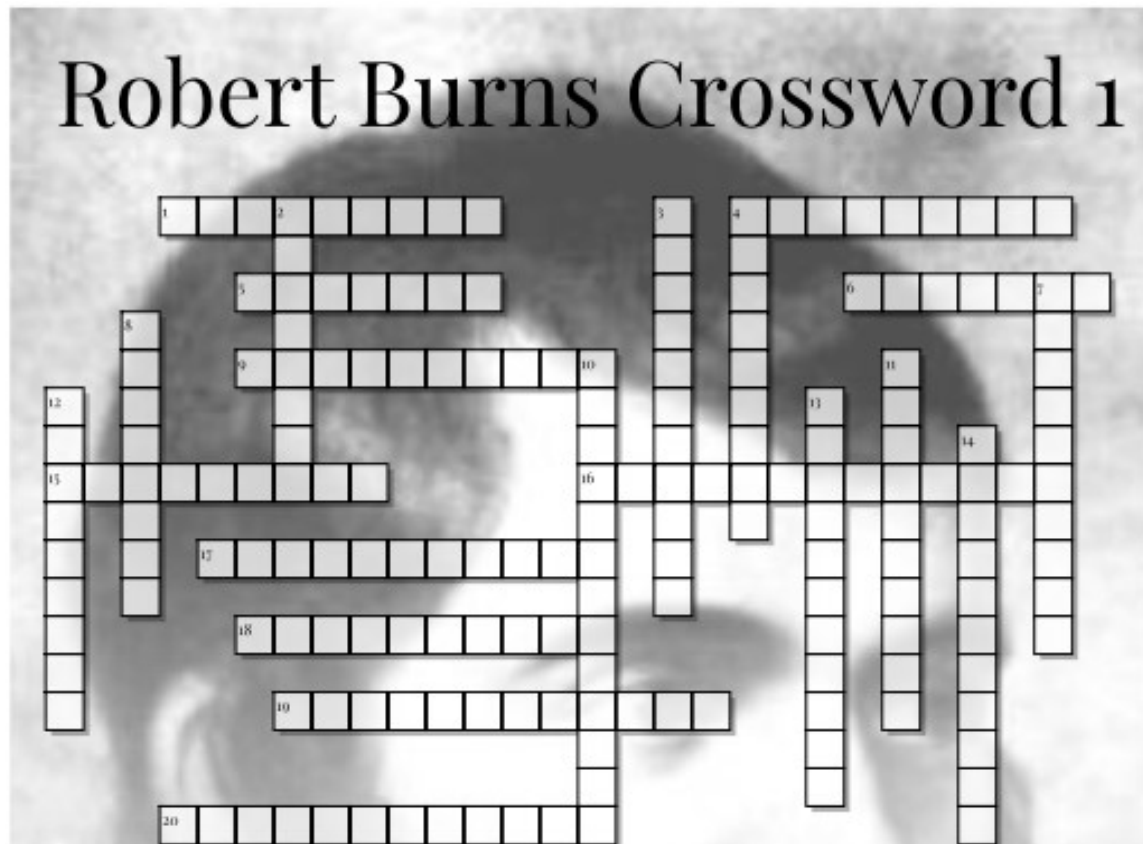
Well, the Scots can't take the credit for inventing New Year's Eve, which is what Hogmanay means, but they do know how to have a party. Customs for the annual bean feast vary throughout Scotland, ranging from swinging a fireball through town in Stonehaven, to "first-footing", crossing a friend's threshold with a symbolic gift, such as a piece of coal or salt. Don't ask.



GREAT SCOT!

Hypnotism

From losing weight to giving up smoking and Paul McKenna stage shows, this just won't go away. The Kinross-born surgeon James Braid was the first to experiment with hypnotism, using candles to get people into a trance-like state. And, presumably, eat an onion while clucking like a hen.



ACROSS

- 1 Ayrshire toon
- 4 Bachelors only!
- 5 Portrait mannie!
- 6 A toon tae grace them a'!
- 9 A famous edition
- 15 Failed Farm!
- 16 Edinburgh doctor re: a 'Tall' 'Paterson' & 'Gerry'!
- 17 Scotia's anthem

- 18 Rabbies dear wife
- 19 Rabbies uncle frae Montrose
- 20 Goodbye the world o'er

DOWN

- 2 One of many conquests!
- 3 Ooooo Scary!
- 4 Sleekit!

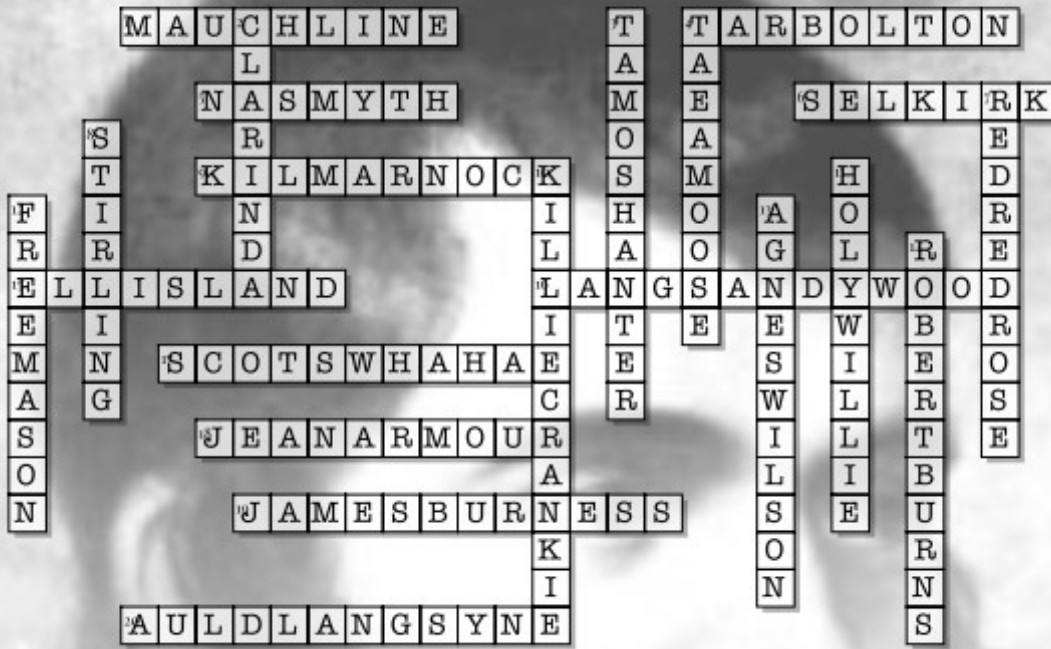
- 7 A flooer in a sang!

- 8 Burns visited 26/08/1787

- 10 A battle in a song
- 11 Swiss cheese of a reverend!
- 12 A Burns secret!
- 13 The alleged 'tozie drab' in the "Jolly Beggars"!
- 14 Our bard

BURNS CROSSWORD (SOLUTION)

Robert Burns Crossword 1



MAUCHLINE VIADUCT

The stone bridge was begun in March 1846 and the last stone placed on 2 March 1848

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 April newsletter, please e-mail the compiler and editor, Henry Cairney at:

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REFERENCE

GREAT SCOT! : The Independant



Scots Word's

Jalouse: "Guess"
Jobbery: "Squint"
Morra: "Tomorrow"
Puggle: "Tired"
Rammy: "Noisy Fight"
Snell: "Very Cold Weather"
Spurtle: "Wooden Spoon"
Stank: "Drain"
Stooshie: "Commotion"
Thrapple: "Throat"