

# Calgary Claver

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello all.

Following my installation as President of The Calgary Burns Club in May 2018 at The Club's AGM, I must say I am looking forward to working with my fellow Board members in delivering another successful year for our membership at our monthly meetings and to our members and guests at our major events.

The Club not only remembers the life, times and works of Scotland's National Bard, we also are committed to the promotion of Scottish Culture within Calgary through hosting Scottish cultural events, and supporting other Scottish groups within our community.

In supporting our local community, we were pleased to be a sponsor of Scot Dance 2018, where the Calgary Burns Club Singers performed at the opening ceremonies. This event was held in Calgary on the Canada Day weekend and brought together Scottish Highland dancers from across Canada and from Scotland.

Our first hosted event of the year is our Annual Saint Andrew's Night which is in November 2018.

Preparations are also underway for our Annual Burns Dinner (January 25, 2019) and we look forward to hosting former RBWF President Peter Hughes as our keynote speaker.

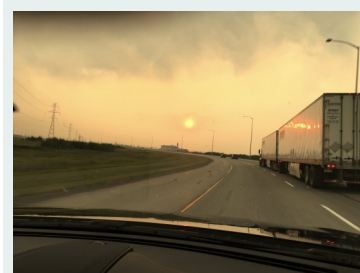
The success of our monthly meetings is due in great part to the breadth of talent we have in the Club and I am sure our entertainment strategist will have some interesting evenings and themes in store for the months ahead.

It is to my delight, along with other CBC members, I shall be representing The Calgary Burns Club at the RBWF Conference which is being held in Irvine, Scotland this coming September.

Jim Hutchens,

President,

Calgary Burns Club



1. "Hoodooos" near Drumheller
2. Hells Gate Canyon Fraser River
3. Smoky Calgary due to BC Fires

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## RBANA PRESIDENTS MESSAGE (KEN MONTGOMERY)



### SCOTTISH CASTLES!

When in Scotland, visit Fyvie Castle: Once a royal stronghold, Fyvie Castle near Turrif in Aberdeenshire began as a simple castle in the 13th century. It passed through the hands of five powerful families, each of whom added significantly to its splendour by adding a tower to this magnificent Scottish Baronial fortress. Inside, admire period furnishings and rich interiors that still look as glorious as when they were installed; the magnificent sweeping staircase is probably the most dramatic architectural feature while many treasures are also on display.

### BURNS SONG

#### A FIDDLER IN THE NORTH(1794)

Among the trees, where humming bees,  
At buds and flowers were hinging, O,  
Auld Caledon drew out her drone,  
And to her pipe was singing, O:  
'Twas Pibroch, Sang, Strathspeys, and Reels,  
She dir'l'd them aff fu' clearly, O:  
When there cam' a yell o' foreign squeels,  
That dang her tapsalteerie, O.

Their capon craws an' queer "ha, ha's,"  
They made our lugs grow eerie, O;  
The hungry bike did scrape and fyke,  
Till we were wae and weary, O:  
But a royal ghaist, wha ance was cas'd,  
A prisoner, aughteen year awa',  
He fir'd a Fiddler in the North,  
That dang them tapsalteerie, O.



As I write this message, summer is underway and the annual Calgary Stampede has started. Here in Medicine Hat, where I reside, we are now gearing up to host the 'second largest' Stampede at the end of July. For Burnsians generally, summer is a time to take a break from Burns related obligations and duties, but for some, like myself, it is only a brief break as I will be attending the Robert Burns World Federation (RBWF) AGM in Irvine early September, and am also involved with organizing my Club's 10th Annual Jolly Beggars Banquet for the end of September.

Where I have had an appreciation for Burns and all things Scottish from a very young age, I have been especially privileged to have met many wonderful people and attend many special events. That being said, my personal enlightenment and life experience has also been greatly enhanced by me expanding my involvement beyond my local club and being involved with the RBWF and the Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA). With these two organizations I have confirmed you meet and interact with the best of the best in the Robert Burns world and do so on an international level. That is special!

For example, at the last RBANA AGM banquet held in Philadelphia we saw there was going to be a lull in the program and we needed some type of entertainment to keep things moving. With less than ten minutes notice I was able to line up three attendees, all well versed in Tam o' Shanter, Burns' most lengthy poem and they quickly divided that piece into three parts. They then put on a flawless and well appreciated presentation as if it had been planned months before. Where else could you see that done?

The Calgary Burns Club, probably the most successful and most involved Burns Club in North America is to be commended, not just for what many or most of their members do locally but what many others do outside of Calgary. No Burns club is an island and what better way to preserve and promote the memory of the Immortal Bard than to pass on experience, talent and the love of Burns to other areas, regions and clubs.

And it must also be said, or reminded, that we live in a changing world, so why is it that Robert Burns is still so appreciated and remembered. Quite simply, it is because Burns had a special and universal message that those in the know appreciate and perpetuate. And that is why the Calgary Burns Club, all Burns clubs, the RBWF and RBANA all exist. Each and every organization also needs support to thrive and exist.

Many are also unaware that RBANA offers individual memberships and attendance at the annual conferences is not just limited to member Club executives. RBANA, which also supports the RBWF needs support and all Burnsians are welcome. Also, next year the RBANA AGM will be in Niagara Falls. Maybe think about coming, I guarantee a great time. So, in conclusion, Google RBANA, check us out and have a great summer.

Yours in Burns,

Ken Montgomery  
President, RBANA

## RBWF PRESIDENTS MESSAGE (IAN McINTYRE)



Life has been hectic since I was installed as President of the RBWF in September of last year. My first engagements as President were in Canada. We flew out two days after conference, firstly to meet Moira's family in Toronto then onwards to Edmonton. I had the honour and pleasure of meeting with the Edmonton Burns Club members at their first meeting of the 2017/18 session. I believe that I am the first RBWF President to visit the club which is fast approaching its centenary year. Scott and Cheri Montgomery were kind and generous hosts and they made us most welcome. Our visit to Calgary was memorable, where we stayed with Henry and Shona Cairney. It was wonderful to meet up with old friends from the Calgary Burns Club and Choir at several events. I had the honour of proposing the Immortal Memory at Medicine Hat at the Jolly Beggars Dinner. The irrepressible Ken Montgomery and Bill Cocks looked after Moira and me in an unforgettable visit. The common denominator was of course Burns but the pleasure we had from being among like-minded friends. The world of Robert Burns has opened many doors for Moira and I. The Canadian trip was a perfect example where we made new friendships which become life-long.

Back at home, the pace of my year in the chair has continued as it started. I am pleased to report that I am cautiously optimistic about our financial status. Membership is up considerably on last year following a membership drive started at the beginning of the year. We are now in our wonderful new offices in Kilmarnock. We now have a focal point where people can visit and meet. There is work to be done over the coming months to ensure we have displays and exhibitions which have the 'wow' factor, but we are on to it! We are engaging in a research project which is examining the value of Burns to the Scottish Economy. We have supported this since it was first brought to the Scottish Parliament by Joan McAlpine in January. Conference this year promises to be the best we have hosted for a long time. Bill Nolan has secured sponsorship for the event and we are confident we can turn around a profit.

If there is anything I would like to have bottled in my trip to Canada and later RBANA in Philadelphia, it is your enthusiasm for Burns and Scottish culture. You leave us in the shadows in that department and there is much we can learn from you in taking the RBWF forward. I look forward to meeting old friends and new when you visit conference in September. Thank you all for the support and fellowship you have offered Moira and me over a most enjoyable Presidential year.

Ian McIntyre  
RBWF President

## BURNS SONG

### BEHOLD MY LOVE (17\*\*)

Behold, my love, how green the groves,  
The primrose banks how fair;  
The balmy gales awake the flowers,  
And wave thy flowing hair.

The lav'rock shuns the palace gay,  
And o'er the cottage sings:  
For Nature smiles as sweet, I ween,  
To Shepherds as to Kings.

Let minstrels sweep the skilfu' string,  
In lordly lighted ha':  
The Shepherd stops his simple reed,  
Blythe in the birken shaw.

The Princely revel may survey  
Our rustic dance wi' scorn;  
But are their hearts as light as ours,  
Beneath the milk-white thorn!

The shepherd, in the flowery glen;  
In shepherd's phrase, will woo:  
The courtier tells a finer tale,  
But is his heart as true!

These wild-wood flowers I've pu'd, to deck  
That spotless breast o' thine:  
The courtiers' gems may witness love,  
But, 'tis na love like mine.



## SCOTTISH CASTLES!

### Edinburgh Castle

When in Scotland, visit Edinburgh Castle. Scotland's crown jewels are among the national treasures on display within the castle walls.

Known as the 'defender of the nation', Edinburgh Castle remains an active military base. An annual highlight is the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, held on Castle Esplanade every August where The Calgary Burns Club Singers performed there in 2009.



## THE CARNIE GROUP (TONY GRACE)

### The Whistle

#### FAMOUS QUOTE

"Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration. "

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)



#### SCOTTISH CASTLES!

##### Urquhart Castle Loch Ness

When in Scotland, visit Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness. Discover 1,000 years of drama, experience a glimpse of medieval life and enjoy stunning views over Loch Ness from the ruins of the greatest castle in the Highlands.

Extremely picturesque and haunting. You might even spot a Nessie!!

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1789 there took place at Friar's Carse near Robert Burns' farm at Ellisland, a drinking contest for which the prize was a little ebony whistle. This whistle had originally been brought to Scotland by a Danish courtier who accompanied Anne of Denmark to Scotland to later marry King James VI. This courtier, described as "a matchless champion of Bacchus" took part in a number of drinking orgies at which the whistle would be placed on the table at the start of the evening and blown in triumph by he who remained at the table when all others were under it. Before the contest got underway the courtier would state his credentials of previous victories without a single defeat at the courts of Copenhagen, Stockholm, Moscow, Warsaw and several of the petty courts in Germany; he also challenged the Scots Bacchanalians to either test his prowess or to acknowledge their inferiority. Eventually however the Dane lost the whistle in one such contest to a Sir Robert Lawrie of Maxwelton, one of whose daughters subsequently married a Walter Riddell and hence the whistle passed into the Riddell family. Robert Riddell decided to enliven an October evening in 1789 by challenging two neighbouring landowners, who both happened to be his cousins, to a contest for this curious trophy. The two contestants so challenged were Sir Robert Lawrie, a grandson of the original holder of the whistle, and Alexander Fergusson of Craigdarroch.

Robert Riddell felt that the contest needed to be properly and formally organized with both a judge and a witness.

It is interesting to note that the bet was documented in the form of a memorandum signed by all three contestants. At the lower left-hand corner of the agreement, appeared the names of John McMurdo as judge, with George Johnston and Patrick Miller as witnesses, 'to be present if possible'. Later evidence shows neither of the proposed witnesses was present, and it appears that Burns was a late invitee to act as witness to the event. It is further worthy of comment that Burns was only a witness and did not take part in the actual drinking contest itself. Later there was some disagreement as to whether Burns had actually been present at the contest; but Robert Chambers, a conscientious biographer of Burns investigated the matter and obtained statements from surviving eye-witnesses, one of whom was William Hunter., who testified on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1841 at Closeburn Hall:

I, Wm. Hunter, blacksmith, in Lake-head, parish of Closeburn, was servant to Capt. Robt. Riddell of Friar's Carse, in Dumfriesshire for three years and a half.... I remember well the night when the **Whistle** was drunk for at Friar's Carse by the three gentlemen: Sir Robert Lawrie [sic], Mr. Fergusson of Craigdarroch, and Captain Riddell. Burns the poet was present on the occasion. Mrs. Riddell and Mrs. Fergusson of Craigdarroch dined with the above gentlemen. As soon as the cloth was removed the two ladies retired.

When the ladies left the room, Burns withdrew from the dining table, and sat down in the window looking down the river Nith: a small table before him. During the evening Burns nearly emptied two bottles of spirits, the one of brandy, the other of rum, mixing them in tumblers with warm water, which I often brought to him. He had Paper, pen and ink before him and continued the whole evening to write upon the paper. He seemed, while I was in the room, to have a little conversation with the three gentlemen at their wine. I think from what I could observe he was composing the **'Whistle'** as he sat with his back to the gentlemen, but occasionally turned towards them. The corks of the wine were all drawn by me, and it was claret the three gentlemen drank. As far as I can recollect, I did not draw more than fifteen bottles of claret.

It was about sunrise when the two gentlemen were carried to bed. Craigdarroch never during the course of the night fell from his chair. The other two gentlemen often fell, and had to be helped, with the assistance of Burns and myself, on to their chairs. After Burns, myself, and the other servants now dead, had carried upstairs Sir Robert Lawrie [sic] and Capt. Riddell, Craigdarroch walked himself upstairs without any help. Craigdarroch then went into one bedroom where Sir Robert Lawrie was and blew stoutly the whistle; next he entered Capt. Riddell's bedroom and blew the whistle as stoutly there – Burns being present. Burns, after he had seen and assisted the two above-named gentlemen to bed, walked home to his own farm-house of Ellisland, about a mile from Friar's Carse. He seemed a little the worse of drink, but quite able to walk and manage himself. Burns often afterwards talked to me of the evening that was passed at Friar's Carse when the whistle was drunk for, and he told me that he wrote the whole poem of the **'Whistle'** that evening at Friar's Carse. Indeed he filled that evening, I well recollect, four sheets of paper larger the present one (large post) with writing, all of which he took home with him. As I was apprenticed to Kilpatrick, the blacksmith, who always shod Burns' horses when he was at Ellisland, I often saw Burns while I was shoeing the horses. All the above particulars I am willing to verify on oath. (Signed) WILLIAM HUNTER.

In 2007 the Thornhill Burns Club decided to hold an annual competition, reciting Burns poem **The Whistle**. The competition is held at Ellisland Farm where Burns lived at the time he wrote the poem, and as close to the day of the original contest as possible, in October. The original whistle is still in existence, but the winner of the competition receives a copy of the whistle which he (or she) holds for a year. Please see opposite page

## THE CARNIE GROUP (TONY GRACE CONTINUED)

I sing of a Whistle, a Whistle of worth  
I sing of a Whistle, the pride of the North,  
Was brought to the court of our good Scottish King.  
And long with this Whistle all Scotland shall ring.

Old Loda, still rueing the arm of Fingal,  
The God of the Bottle sends down from his hall:  
'This Whistle's your challenge, to Scotland get o'er,  
And drink them to Hell, Sir! Or ne're see me more!'

Old poets have sung, and old chronicles tell,  
What champions ventur'd, what champions fell:  
The son of the great Loda was conqueror still,  
And blew on the Whistle their requiem shrill.

Till Robert, the lord of the Cairn and the Scaur,  
Unmatch'd at the bottle, unconquer'd in war,  
He drank his poor god-ship as deep as the sea;  
No tide of the Baltic e'er drunker than he.

Thus Robert, victorious, the trophy has gain'd;  
Which now in his house has for ages remain'd;  
Till three noble chieftains, and all of his blood,  
The jovial contest again have renew'd.

Three joyous good fellows, with hearts clear of flaw;  
Craigdarroch, so famous for wit, worth, and law;  
And trusty Glenriddel, so skill'd in old coins;  
And gallant Sir Robert, deep-read in old wines.

Craigdarroch began, with a tongue smooth as oil,  
Desiring Glenriddel to yield up the spoil;  
Or else he would muster the heads of the clan,  
And once more, in claret, try which was the man.

'By the gods of the ancients!' Glenriddel replies,  
'Before I surrender so glorious a prize,  
I'll conjure the ghost of the great Rorie More,  
And bumper his horn with him twenty times o'er.'

Sir Robert, a soldier, no speech would pretend,  
But he ne're turn'd his back on his foe, or his friend;  
Said, 'Toss down the Whistle, the prize of the field,'  
And, knee-deep in claret, he'd die ere he'd yield.

To the board of Glenriddel our heroes repair,  
So noted for drowning of sorrow and care;  
But for wine and for welcome, not more known to fame,  
Than the sense, wit, and taste, of a sweet lovely dame.

A Bard was selected to witness the fray,  
And tell future ages the feats of the day;  
A Bard who detested all sadness and spleen,  
And wished that Parnassus a vineyard had been.

The dinner being over, the claret they ply,  
And ev'ry new cork is a new spring of joy;  
In the bands of old friendship and kindred so set,  
And the bands grew the tighter the more they were wet.

Gay Pleasure ran riot as bumpers ran o'er;  
Bright Phoebus ne're witness'd so joyous a core,  
And vow'd that to leave them he was quite forlorn,  
Till Cynthia hinted he'd seen them next morn.

Six bottles a-piece had well wore out the night,  
When gallant Sir Robert, to finish the fight,  
Turn'd o'er in one bumper a bottle of red,  
And swore 'twas the way that their ancestor did.

### (CONTINUED)

The worthy Glenriddel, so cautious and sage,  
No longer the warfare ungodly would wage:  
A high-ruling Elder to wallow in wine!  
He left the foul business to folks less divine.

The gallant Sir Robert fought hard to the end;  
But who can with Fate and quart bumpers contend?  
Though Fate said, a hero should perish in light;  
So up rose bright Phoebus – and down fell the knight.

Next up rose our Bard, like a prophet in drink:-  
'Craigdarroch, thou'lt soar when creation shall sink!  
But if thou would flourish immortal in rhyme,  
Come – one bottle more – and have at the sublime!

'Thy line, that have struggled for freedom with Bruce,  
Shall heroes and patriots ever produce;  
So thine be the laurel, and mine be the bay;  
The field thou has won, by yon bright god of Day!'

## BURNS POEM

### A ROSE-BUD BY MY EARLY WALK (1787)

A Rose-bud by my early walk,  
Adown a corn-enclosed bawk,  
Sae gently bent its thorny stalk,  
All on a dewy morning.  
Ere twice the shades o' dawn are fled,  
In a' its crimson glory spread,  
And drooping rich the dewy head,  
It scents the early morning.

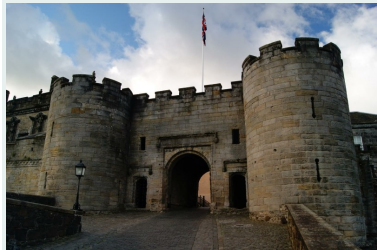
Within the bush her covert nest  
A little linnet fondly prest;  
The dew sat chilly on her breast,  
Sae early in the morning.  
She soon shall see her tender brood,  
The pride, the pleasure o' the wood,  
Among the fresh green leaves be-  
dew'd,  
Awake the early morning.

So thou, dear bird, young Jeany fair,  
On trembling string or vocal air,  
Shall sweetly pay the tender care  
That tents thy early morning.  
So thou, sweet Rose-bud, young and  
gay,  
Shalt beauteous blaze upon the day,  
And bless the parent's evening ray  
That watch'd thy early morning.



## SCOTTISH CASTLES!

When in Scotland, visit Dunrobin Castle, the most northerly of Scotland's great houses and the largest in the Northern Highlands with 189 rooms. Dunrobin Castle is also one of Britain's oldest continuously inhabited houses dating back to the early 1300s, home to the Earls and later, the Dukes of Sutherland.



## THE CBC SINGERS (RON PRATT)

For the period ended July 31, in addition to entertainment provided to community groups and senior residences, we also participated at the annual Water Valley Celtic Festival where we have been a regular attendee for the last 12 or so years. We were also honoured to participate in the ceremonies marking the 100th anniversary of the Army, Navy and Airforce Veterans unit #2 at the Forest Lawn Legion and also had the privilege of entertaining and providing the National Anthem at the ScotDance event (the Canadian National highland Dance competitions) held at the Telus Convention Centre.

We also recorded songs for the preparation of a Christmas CD which will be released shortly. Many thanks to Bill Laing and Tony Grace for their valuable assistance and especially to Henry Cairney for his arranging, playing, recording and producing efforts.

Our practice sessions will resume late September after our summer break and we look forward to a busy fall and winter season.

Respectfully.....Ron Pratt

### SCOTTISH CASTLES!

When in Scotland, visit Stirling Castle which is one of Scotland's grandest castles, if not the grandest of all. The castle is situated on top of the 250ft high Castle Hill, an extinct volcano and is open for visitors all year round. It is surrounded on three sides by steep cliffs, giving it a strong defensive position. Stirling became the strategic military key to the kingdom during the 13th and 14th century Wars of Independence and was the favourite royal residence of many of the Stuart Monarchs.

### BRIEF NEWS

The CBC Singers recorded a Christmas Album which is now on sale, see Club Steward Don Humphreys.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Executive

President; Jim Hutchens

1st VP; Jim Hope-Ross

2nd VP: George Muir

Secretary: Tony Grace

Treasurer: Brian Cumming

#### Non-Executive

Past President: Trekker Armstrong

Communications: Paul Armstrong

Director At Large: Jim Osborne

Director At Large: Henry Cairney

#### Ex-Officio

Sponsorship: Mark Rowe

Entertainment: Gordon McCulloch

Steward: Don Humphreys

## ORIGINAL WORK POEM (JIM HUTCHENS)

### A POET'S THOUGHTS ON EMIGRATION

This piece came to me as I thought about the inner turmoil which may have befallen Burns while contemplating a future in Jamaica.

What might have happened should his Kilmarnock Edition not have been so successful?

Would the thoughts as expressed in this poem, have made The Poet decline a move to a place, where not all humans were considered equal, and to a lifestyle which would have been counter to the values and virtues of the man we have all come to revere?

I was humbled that this submission was the winning entry in the Calgary Burns Club "QUILL" poetry competition in 2017 and also it was selected as the best poem in RBNA's Jack Hume Heather and Thistle award for Poetry.

As I prepare to leave this nation, for Jamaica, my destination,  
And look ahead with consternation, oh how I fear,  
That I may fall to Nick's temptation, as overseer.

What will be my compensation, to wield the whip in that profession  
And bring about capitulation, of others will?,  
I see ahead but God's damnation, shall leave me ill.

My mind, in conflict and confusion, as here I am no man's possession,  
Yet I don't rage in condemnation, of that hell on earth,  
Pray God will hear my true confession, for what it's worth.

I now reflect in consideration, Ayrshire's fields or some plantation,  
And search my soul for confirmation, why I should part,  
To such an evil destination, with heavy heart.

Oh Scotia, how I love thee so, a sign I ask so I shall know  
If I should stay or I should go., While, in contemplation,  
If here at home, should be my station.

Our heroes stand in bright reflection, Bruce and Wallace at attention.  
They rose with hope and inspiration, in freedom's cause,  
But knew they'd need to seek redemption, should they have paused.

I reaffirm my dedication, to mankind and reformation,  
Upright in stout anticipation, all will be free,  
And rise amid the acclimation, of equality.

No, departure it is not for me, nor foreign lands across the sea,  
I pledge myself to liberty, and state with exclamation!  
Release the chains of slavery, pronounce, EMANCIPATION!

Copyright, Jim Hutchens, March 15, 2017

## BOOK REVIEW; THE LOWLAND CLEARANCES (STEPHEN NICHOL)

The Lowland Clearances, Scotland's Silent Revolution 1760-1830

By Peter Aitchison and Andrew Cassell

This book arose from a BBC Radio Scotland Series that was produced in 2003 on the same topic. The book provides the reader with a description of the land management arrangements and social conditions that existed in the Scottish Lowlands in the 1760-1830 timeframe. The timeframe for the reporting of the clearances also covers the time that Robert Burns (1759 – 1796) was living and the writers draw on Burns' writing and experiences on four occasions in the book.

Although the book documents the hardships that arose from the Lowland Clearances, it also invites the reader to look deeper into the opportunities that arose from the clearances. The lowlands would become more productive due to the changes of how the land holdings were managed and the social changes set a scene that would enable emigration to the new world to occur. There can be no disputing that emigration led to improved prospects for families that could seize the opportunity to emigrate and this is referred to in the last chapters of the book.

The writers have described the arrangements between the land owners and the land occupiers that existed prior to the lowland clearances and how these arrangements changed with the lowland clearances. Events that resisted the lowland clearance process, and that took place in Scotland's South West in the Galloway area have been described. Galloway, incidentally, being the region of Scotland where Burns would spend the last portion of his life.

The writers conclude their book, by making comparisons between the Lowland and Highland clearances and the harshness of the Highland Clearances comes through in the reporting. Any reader who has roots in lowland Scotland that can be traced back to the time period covered by the book, will find the events covered by this book to be of a more personal interest. Any student of Robbie Burns will obtain another view point of what was occurring in lowland Scotland during Burns' life, amplifying the hardships that Burns had to endure.

It was during this lowland clearance time period Burns joined the Dumfries militia and the issue comes to mind where Burns must have faced the possibility of having to move against the protesting land occupiers with whom Burns would have had an intimate understanding of and sympathy for.

The book is a short easy read in nine chapters and is supported with a small-scale map of Scotland's county regions. A "Select Bibliography" provides the reader with references to other writings on this less studied time of Scotland's history.

The Lowland Clearances; Scotland's Silent Revolution; 1760-1830 by Peter Aitchison and Andrew Cassell was published by:

Tuckwell Press, East Linton, Scotland ISBN 1-86232-277-5 (151 pages)

Reviewed by Stephen Nichol

Editor's Note: *The views expressed in this article are solely from the author, and are not necessarily those of the Editor, BOD or the Calgary Burns Club at large.*



### SCOTTISH CASTLES!

When in Scotland, visit Glamis Castle near the village of Glamis in Angus: The family home of the Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne, Glamis Castle is the legendary setting for Shakespeare's Macbeth, the childhood home of HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother and the birthplace of Princess Margaret.

### BURNS POEM

SWEET TIBBIE DUNBAR  
(1789)

O wilt thou go wi' me, sweet Tibbie Dunbar?  
O wilt thou go wi' me, sweet Tibbie Dunbar?  
Wilt thou ride on a horse, or be drawn in a car,  
Or walk by my side, O sweet Tibbie Dunbar?

I care na thy daddie, his lands and his money,  
I care na thy kin, sae high and sae lordly;  
But sae thou hae me for better for waur,  
And come in thy coatie, sweet Tibbie Dunbar.

### FAMOUS QUOTE

"Hell has no fury like a woman scorned."

William Congrieve





## RBWF

Above from left to right; 1st Vice President Bill Nolan, Past President Bobby Kane and President Ian McIntyre



## RBANA BOARD2018

## FAMOUS QUOTE

"Houston, we have a problem."

Jim Lovell

## RBWF (TONY GRACE)

### Robert Burns World Federation

The RBWF annual Conference is to be held in Irvine Ayrshire this year from September 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. It follows the usual format although this year there is a reception for overseas guests on the evening of Thursday September 6<sup>th</sup>. On Friday, registration takes place followed in the evening by an informal Dinner and Ceilidh featuring two of Scotland's leading traditional musicians – Celine Donoghue and Neil Sturgeon.

Then on Saturday there is the AGM in the morning with a seminar in the afternoon with Professor Kirsteen McCue, Professor of Scottish Literature and Song Culture and the co-director of Glasgow University's Centre for Robert Burns Studies. Saturday evening sees the Inaugural Dinner with the investiture of the new Federation Officers. After dinner music will be provided by the Ian Muir Scottish Dance Band.

On Sunday the Conference wraps up with Morning Worship at the Old Parish Church.

During the week end there will be plenty of free time and the Wellwood Burns Centre and Museum will be open on Friday and Saturday for visitors. Owned by the Irvine Burns Club, the centre will have on display both a Kilmarnock and an Edinburgh Edition of Burns works. The centre also has some manuscripts of the poems in the Kilmarnock edition. There are many other items of interest to Burnsians as well, and one unusual item consists of letters of acceptance from honorary members since 1828, as the Irvine Club invites several well known names each year to become Honorary Members of the Club. Drop in to the centre and learn how an apprentice flax-dresser became an apprentice poet!!

In recent years it has become customary for the new Federation President to start his overseas travel by attending the Jolly Beggars banquet in Medicine Hat. This year is no different and Bill Nolan will attend that function on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Bill will be in Calgary over that week end and our Club will be hosting a reception for him and his wife on Monday October 1<sup>st</sup> at the DCC, so please make a note of that date in your calendars!!

## RBANA (HENRY CAIRNEY)

### Robert Burns Association of North America

Shona and I Met up with RBWF President Ian and his wife Moira, where we had a delightful few days in Nashville prior to the RBANA conference in Philadelphia. It was a first time visit for all of us, and we were not disappointed. Highlights included a riverboat cruise on "General Jackson" which was a wonderful show with Nashville stars. Frequented a few "Honkytonks" like "Whiskey Dent's" and "Bootleggers" where we met Randy Moore who was a very talented musician and singer. Ian performed on stage singing "Doon in the Wee Room Underneath the Stairs", and I sang "Falling In Love With You" to an enthralled audience, Nashville will never be the same again!

Transferred to Philadelphia and met up with other RBANA attendees including a good attendance from Calgary (Henry and Shona Cairney, Ron and Louise Pratt, Ian and Freda Denness), where each evening we all partied up in Colin Harris' suite till the wee hours. Songs, poetry and guid company.

On Friday there was a golf tournament won by Ronnie O'Byrne (Again!), then registration in the afternoon with a Ceilidh and buffet dinner to complete the day. The main act was a Celtic band from New Jersey, with other artists coming from the company to mix up the entertainment.

Saturday saw the AGM in the afternoon and the new board installed, President - Ken Montgomery (Medicine Hat), Vice-President - Henry Cairney (Calgary), Treasurer/Secretary - Matthew Hill (Medicine Hat), Canadian Director - Tony Grace (Calgary), Canadian Director - Andy Harrower (Medicine Hat), US Director - George McClelland (Atlanta), US Director - Bill Fulton (Pennsylvania).

There were two very interesting presentations in the afternoon, Bill Dawson on the history of Burns' association to Philadelphia via the Rosenbach library. The second presentation by Mac Irwin on why no Xmas in Burns work, very good.

The evening formal dinner which was very well organized where Ronnie O'Byrne addressed the haggis and Willie Gibson gave a good Immortal Memory. I accepted on behalf of Jim Hutchens his trophy for winning the Jack Hume poetry competition. We were entertained by the ceilidh band once again. The afterparty in Colin's room staged a wonderful and unusual version of Auld Lang Syne where Ronnie, Ian and myself playing the accordion, successfully "Blended" 2 versions together to rapturous applause and hilarity. Security shut us down at 01:30.

Next RBANA Conference at Niagara Falls is penciled in for May 2019, exact date TBA.



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS (TREKKER ARMSTRONG)

The Calgary Burns Club current membership is as follows:

Member Class	No.
Life Member	13
Ordinary Member	37
Associate Member	5
Associate Member (Out of Town)	5
	60

Calgary Burns Club extends its congratulations to Life Member Gerry Wood, a noted city philanthropist and car dealer, who has been named to the Order of Canada. (See below)

Established in 1967 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Order of Canada is the cornerstone of the Canadian Honours System, and recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. The Order recognizes people in all sectors of Canadian society. Their contributions are varied, yet they have all enriched the lives of others and made a difference to this country.

We have one applicant for membership which will be presented at the next members meeting.

Sadly Doug Forrest has resigned from the club and we are sorry to see him leave but wish him the best.

If I have missed any membership news, please let me know and we will be pleased to include this news in the next edition of the Claver.

## CLUB MEMBER HONOUR (HENRY CAIRNEY)



The following is taken from the Wood Group facebook page and recognizes our own Gerry Wood.

### **Congratulations to Gerry Wood C.M. on his appointment as a Member of the Order of Canada**

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, today announced the new appointments to the Order of Canada. The new member list included Gerry Wood C.M., for his hard work and dedication to community, city, province, and country.

### **About the Order of Canada**

Created in 1967, the Order of Canada, one of our country's highest civilian honours, recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. Close to 7 000 people from all sectors of society have been invested into the Order. Their contributions are varied, yet they have all enriched the lives of others and have taken to heart the motto of the Order: *DESIDERANTES MELIOREM PATRIAM* ("They desire a better country"). Appointments are made by the governor general on the recommendation of the Advisory Council for the Order of Canada.

(Acknowledgement to Facebook)

## BURNS POEM FICKLE FORTUNE (FRAGMENT) (1782)

Though fickle Fortune has deceived me,  
She pormis'd fair and perform'd but ill;  
Of mistress, friends, and wealth bereav'd me,  
Yet I bear a heart shall support me still.

I'll act with prudence as far 's I'm able,  
But if success I must never find,  
Then come misfortune, I bid thee welcome,  
I'll meet thee with an undaunted mind.



## SCOTTISH CASTLES!

When in Scotland, visit Floors Castle:  
Situating in Kelso in the heart of the Scottish Borders and overlooking the River Tweed and Cheviot Hills, Floors Castle is the largest inhabited castle in Scotland and is home to the Duke and Duchess of Roxburgh and their family. Filled to the brim with fine works of art, including timeless tapestries and priceless antiques, Floors Castle boasts a truly splendid interior. In its imposing grounds you can see the holly tree that is said to mark the spot where King James II was killed in a seige in 1460.

## FUTURE EVENTS (PAUL ARMSTRONG)

**September 1<sup>st</sup>** – Calgary Highland Games

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Canmore Highland Games

**September 11<sup>th</sup>** – Members Meeting  
**October 1<sup>st</sup>** - Meet RBWF President Bill Nolan (Danish Canadian Club)

**November 30<sup>th</sup>** - St Andrews Night

**January 25<sup>th</sup> 2019** - CBC Burns Supper

## ST KILDA (TONY GRACE)



### ST KILDA IMAGES



### SCOTTISH CASTLES!

When in Scotland, visit Culzean Castle is a castle overlooking the Firth of Clyde, near Maybole, Carrick, on the Ayrshire coast of Scotland. It is the former home of the Marquess of Ailsa, the chief of Clan Kennedy, but is now owned by the National Trust for Scotland. It was used as the castle of Lord Summerisle (played by Christopher Lee) in the 1973 cult film *The Wicker Man*.

St Kilda. What thoughts and pictures are generated in people's minds when they hear those words? Possibly the imagination conjures up images of mystical and magical islands on the edge of nowhere perpetually covered with rain and very inhospitable. Well let me tell you a little bit about the reality of present day St. Kilda which I was fortunate enough to visit a few years ago.

St. Kilda is unique. This spectacular archipelago is now a magnificent nature reserve which happens to hold the remains of a community whose way of life, unlike anywhere else in Western Europe, survived virtually unchanged for perhaps two thousand years. This way of life was only destroyed when the islands were "discovered" by tourists in the mid nineteenth century and comparisons with the outside world showed the poverty and disadvantages of life on the island. With the young moving away to other opportunities and the remaining aging population being less and less able to meet the exacting demands which their environment demanded, the eventual total evacuation was inevitable.

In the archipelago there are four main islands which at one time were inhabited – Hirta, Soay, Boreray and Dun, with three spectacular and almost inaccessible stacs (stacks); as well as a great number of smaller stacs and skerries. Historically the islands were part of the domain of the MacLeods of Harris before passing to the Marquess of Bute in 1931 and then presented to the National Trust for Scotland in 1957. It was promptly leased to the Nature Conservancy as a National Nature Reserve with a small area on Hirta being sub-leased to the Ministry of Defence as an Army radar-tracking station.

Visiting the island today reveals the remnants of the "last" resident population which started in about the mid seventeen hundreds up to the evacuation in 1930. During that time the only island occupied year round was Hirta which was the main island in the group and contained the only village, which overlooked Village Bay – one of the few places where landings were possible. In fact this village has been built over and moved more than once in its history. Today the remaining houses – many in ruins but some restored, sit in a curve on a small ridge above the bay and form a spectacular if sad spectacle against the green grassy slopes which lie above and below. Many of the cottages are of stone with older buildings interspersed which latterly were used for storage or as byres. This row is fronted by the Village Street where the menfolk would meet each morning after prayers to decide upon the day's activities in what was called the daily "parliament." On my visit we landed at the pier which had been built by the Army, and I looked upward towards a large amphitheatre with a backdrop of rugged mountains including a serrated ridge on the island of Dun behind. Half way up this amphitheatre the line of the village houses stretched across and appeared to be looking back down at me. Accompanied by a light rain it made for sobering reflection.

The theme of life on St. Kilda was dominated by the completeness of its isolation from the rest of Scotland and the world in general. The way of life was based on self-sufficiency and the mainstay of food was the birds, particularly gannet and fulmar. These were harvested as eggs and young birds and eaten both fresh and cured. Adult puffins were also caught. In addition the islanders kept sheep and a few cattle and were able to grow a limited amount of crops such as barley and potatoes. The harvesting of the eggs and the young birds was done at great risk from the sea cliffs as well as the stacs – which are the highest in Britain. Groups of islanders would stay on the stacs for several weeks at a time as they carried out the annual hunt and on one occasion were left there over a winter in order to avoid a plague that was prevalent on the island.

Eventually after the First World War many of the islanders elected to leave and the population shrank, from 73 in 1920 to 37 in 1928. Crop failures and illnesses finally led to the decision by the islanders to evacuate and the remaining 36 inhabitants were taken off on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1930 to Morvern on the Scottish mainland. The last of this group, Rachel Johnson died in April 2016 at the age of 93.

To visit St. Kilda is a privilege and an incredible experience. Trips to Hirta are available commercially but weather dependent. Spending a few hours on Hirta provides a chance to explore the abandoned village, where slow progress is being made in restoring some of the houses. Parts of the island consist of sloping green pastures and make for enjoyable and comparatively easy walking. Beyond these the land is quite mountainous but longer walks can be made during a one day visit with various walks and hikes available with varying degrees of difficulty. There is a 4 inch gun mounted near the pier as a reminder of the First World War. Installed after the island was attacked by a German submarine it never saw any action thereafter. For those who wish to explore the island more thoroughly it is possible to camp there for a maximum of five nights.

## ST KILDA (CONTINUED)

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While exploring the island it is impossible not to notice the sheep that are free to roam wherever they choose. Soay sheep are the most primitive sheep in Europe and are directly descended from domesticated Neolithic sheep first brought to Britain in about 5000BC. Hirta was cleared of sheep during the evacuation but not so of Soay, and subsequently a flock was transferred from Soay to Hirta and allowed to adjust naturally over the years with no intervention by people. Sheep numbers on Hirta have varied between a low of 610 and a high of 1783. In addition Soay hosts about 200.

There are many remains of building structures suggesting that the islands were occupied as early as Neolithic times, however one type of structure that stood out as I walked around was the cleit or cleitean – and there are many of them, over twelve hundred on Hirta (extant or collapsed) with a further one hundred and seventy on the neighbouring islands. Cleits are small storage huts or bothys typically measuring twenty feet long by ten feet wide. They are domed shaped and constructed of flat boulders with a cap of turf. This enables the wind to pass through the cavities in the walls whilst keeping the rain out. They were used for storing peat, nets, grain, preserved flesh and eggs, manure and hay as well as providing shelter for lambs in winter. They appear to have been in use from prehistoric times right up to the evacuation. On an historical note James Erskine, Lord Grange a well-known Jacobite sympathizer, decided his wife had overheard too many of his treasonable plottings and had her kidnapped and spirited her away to series of hiding places which included confining her in a cleit on Hirta for several years starting in 1734.

Any visit to St. Kilda has to be by boat, and from Harris the journey takes about two and a half hours and can be interesting in itself – we were lucky enough to see basking sharks: but the trip needs to include viewing the islands from the water as well as time spent on land. In addition to the islands themselves the sea cliffs and the three stacs are impressive. Everywhere abounds with sea birds – among them fulmars, petrels, shearwaters, gannets, guillemots and many others – and don't forget the puffins. To see all these wheeling around the cliffs, fishing in the waters and finding their own nests among the thousands of other birds is unforgettable. These islands are probably the largest breeding grounds for seabirds in Europe with a resident population of over one million birds. This was the last sight I had of the fabled islands as we headed back to Harris from what I can only describe as a truly remarkable and memorable visit. If you ever get the chance it is well worth going.

Tony Grace

July 2018

## ORIGINAL WORK POEM (JIM HOPE-ROSS)

### Departure – A Poem

She's partaken of the parting kiss  
And has no time for thoughts like this:  
"Life and love, I'll surely miss."  
She's gone, and hopes for something better.

He's the one who's left behind.  
He searches everywhere to find  
Some token to remind:  
A scarf, a scent, perhaps a letter.

He's not a man of strong belief.  
Scriptures don't supply relief  
From what he feels is endless grief,  
Pulling apart his broken heart.

At eventide, he takes a stroll.  
Still waters help restore his soul;  
Perhaps his God does play a role.  
Soothing quiet; a place to start.

Jim Hope-Ross, MARCH 15, 2017  
Copyright, Jim Hope-Ross, March 15, 2017

**Editors Note: THIS WORK IS PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED AND WAS NOT A PART OF ANY COMPETITIONS INCLUDING THE QUILL**

## BURNS SONG I MURDER HATE(1790)

I murder hate by field or flood,  
Tho' glory's name may screen us;  
In wars at home I'll spend my blood-  
Life-giving wars of Venus.  
The deities that I adore  
Are social Peace and Plenty;  
I'm better pleas'd to make one more,  
Than be the death of twenty.

I would not die like Socrates,  
For all the fuss of Plato;  
Nor would I with Leonidas,  
Nor yet would I with Cato:  
The zealots of the Church and State  
Shall ne'er my mortal foes be;  
But let me have bold Zimri's fate,  
Within the arms of Cozbi!



## SCOTTISH CASTLES!

When in Scotland, visit Castle Fraser near Inverurie, Aberdeenshire: Built between 1575 and 1636 by the 6th laird, Michael Fraser, Castle Fraser is the most elaborate Z-plan castle in Scotland. It is filled with family portraits (including one by Raeburn), ornaments and mementos – all of which have their own colourful stories to tell about the lairds. One of the castle's most evocative rooms is the striking Great Hall. Henry Cairney and family stayed very near the castle in Inverurie for 17 years and visited it many times.



## BURNS CROSSWORD 3 (HENRY CAIRNEY)

All the answers are quoted in Burns works.

### FAMOUS QUOTE

"If you want something done right, do it yourself."  
“

Charles-Guillaume  
Étienne."

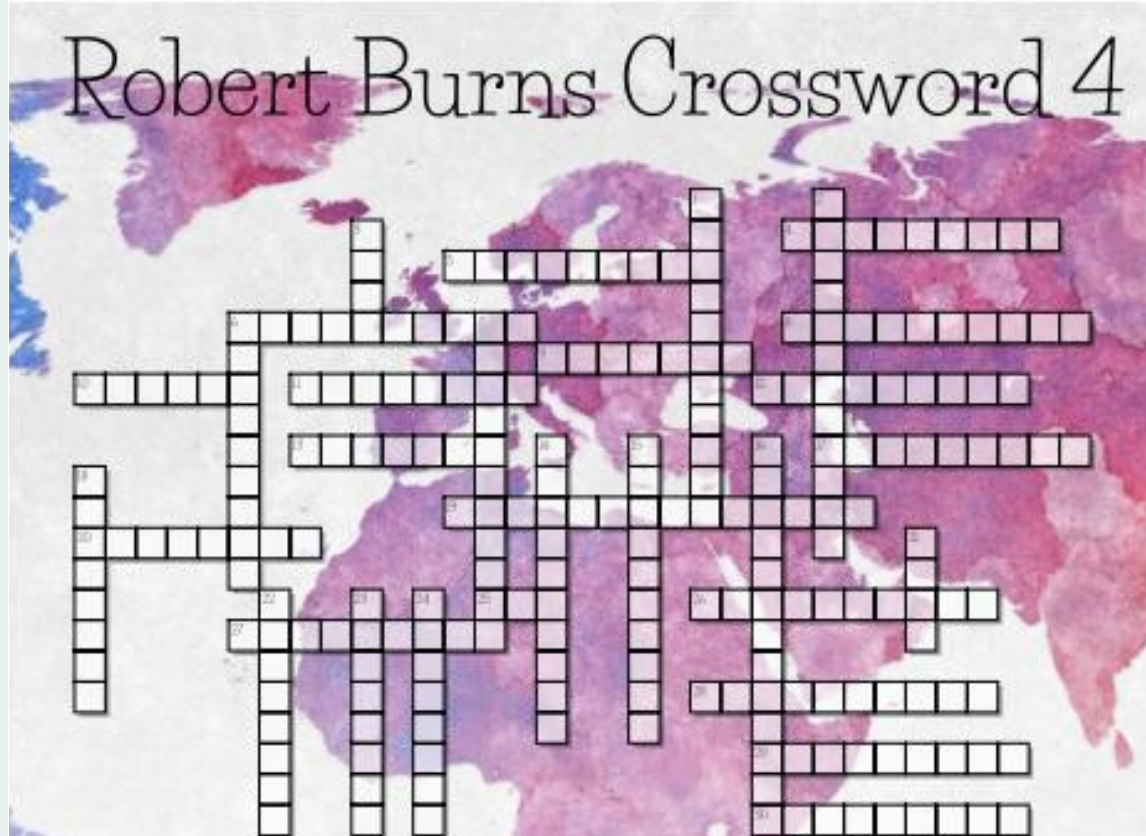
### FUTURE SPEAKERS

2019 Peter Hughes Past President RBWF  
2020 Andy Harrower Director RBANA  
2021 Ronnie O'Byrne Director RBANA



### SCOTTISH CASTLES!

When in Scotland, visit The Castle of Mey is located in Caithness, on the north coast of Scotland, about 6 miles west of John o' Groats. In fine weather there are views from the castle north to the Orkney Islands. It was the beloved holiday home of the Queen Mother.



#### ACROSS

- 4 He scared some birdies!  
5 Laird of Boghead.  
6 Flow gently.  
8 The Battle of.....  
9 He thought of moving there!  
10 My blessin's upon thy sweet wee lippie!  
11 His possible embarkation port.  
12 Six proper young belles!

- 13 Poem above the fireplace.  
17 Another of his printed editions.  
19 There lived a carl.....  
20 The late miss Burnet.  
25 There's a few brigs there!  
26 It was an ode to the General's birthday!  
27 A divine service in the Kirk!  
28 Where he asked Mary to go.

- 29 The Lovely Lass O'.....  
30 A minstrel performed here!

#### DOWN

- 1 "Scots Wha Hae".  
2 Where he addressed William Tytler!  
3 Its got bonie banks!  
6 The Birks.....  
7 There was a lass there.  
14 One of his printed editions.

- 15 Near where the woods were. Destroyed!  
16 If he was only on there.  
18 His last resting place.  
21 Comyns ance had high command!  
22 He asked the Earl to spare his vengeance.  
23 It has a famous olde jail.  
24 A poem on A. Windae!

## BURNS CROSSWORD (SOLUTION)

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

henry.cairney7@shaw.ca

#### Calgary Claver

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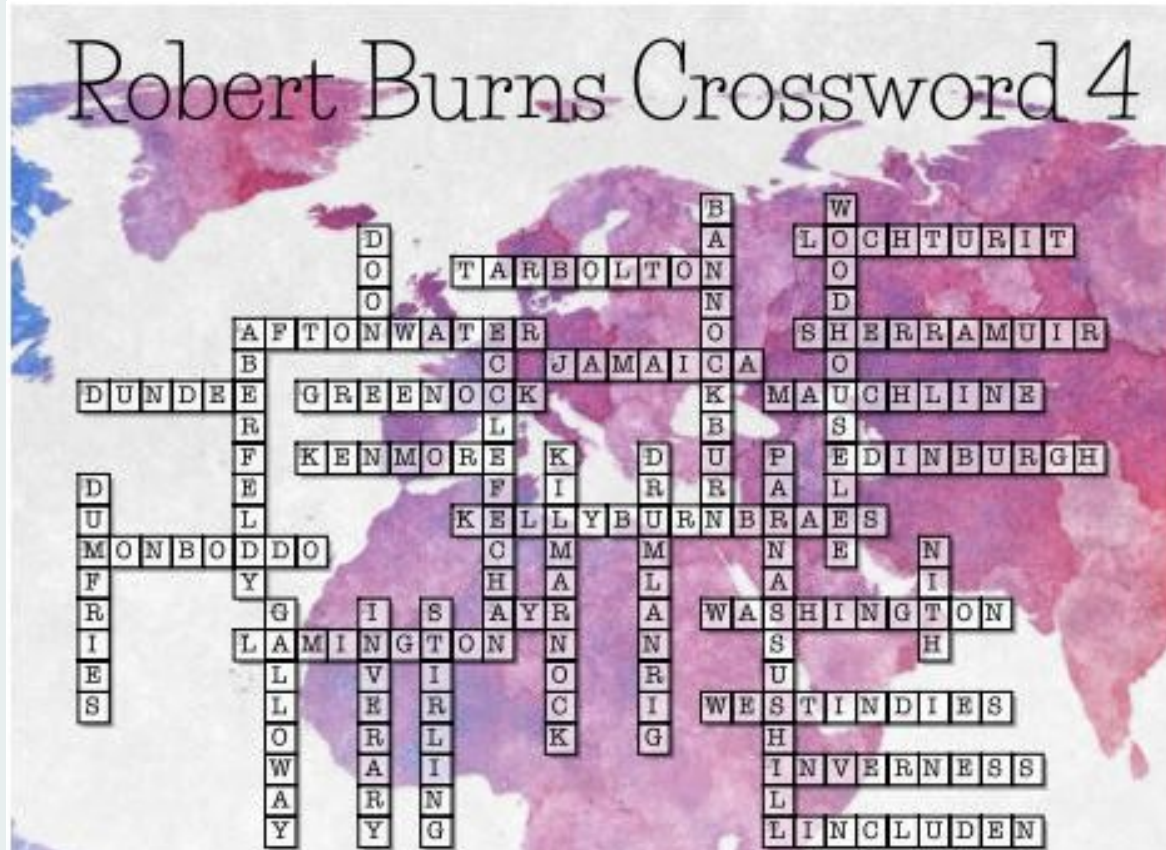
E-mail: calgaryburnsclub.com

Deadline for the December edition of the Calgary Claver is:

**\*\*November 23rd 2018\*\***

#### Editor's Note

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



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