



Calgary Claver



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gentlemen,

Welcome to the 1st Club newsletter, or 'Calgary Claver'. It has been a very busy year for most of us, and with the Burns Supper season rapidly approaching, it will be even more so.

This will be a regular 4 monthly publication, issued in April, August and December, and will allow us to have a record of the Club's important business and social life through the year.

There will be various sections for subjects such as Membership Updates, births, celebrations, obituaries etc., that is of interest to the members at large, and their families and friends. Please feel free to send me content for the April edition of the Claver, including any photographs you are willing to share with your story. Preferably send the content in a word document, and attach photos in any of the acceptable formats e.g. JPG, PNG etc..

This year we linked up with the Edmonton Burns Club, and their President Scott Montgomery who is liaising with myself to re-establish relationships between the two clubs. As such we have members attending each others dinners in January

Finally I would like to wish you and your loved ones, a very Merry Christmas, and a Guid New Year, and I look forward to seeing you all at our first Meeting on Tuesday January 10th 2017.

Henry Cairney



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THE CARNIE GROUP (RON BUDD/TONY GRACE)

This group meets once a month to discuss Scottish literature for the period roughly between 1700 and 1850. Our purpose is for members of the group to expand their knowledge about this subject both for their own benefit and interest, but also through presentations for our members at the Club meetings. Obviously the prime focus is on the life and works of Burns and to this end a number of presentations have been made about Burns' life but also on some of his friends and acquaintances such as David Sillar and Highland Mary. Each meeting we look at one of Burns poems or letters and discuss the purpose of the work as well as understanding how it came to be written and including a commentary on the people involved.

There is much research done by individuals to produce each paper/presentation and they are usually longer and more detailed than can be accommodated in the limited time available at Club meetings. Presentations are aimed to be completed in fifteen minutes or just a little longer, but the full version is posted on the Club website which members can access on their own time. It is interesting to note that the papers on the website are regularly and frequently looked out by individuals across the world.

The group does not limit itself to Burns but looks at and researches the lives and works of other poets and writers. Some of these may have personally known Burns or his works and may have been influenced by such. This year we have looked at Highland Mary and where she fitted into Burns' life and what her true story was. There was also a discussion on the poem Grim Grizzle 1795, and a paper on Burns as a poet of nature.

It needs to be remembered that we are a Burns Club and as such all members should have some appreciation and knowledge of the man and his works, and the Carnie Group hopes to not only add to that appreciation and knowledge through its presentations but to encourage the Club members to explore the works of Burns on their own – they will find it an enriching experience.

CANADA 150 YEARS (TREKKER ARMSTRONG)

Canada's 150 Anniversary of Confederation
The Calgary Burns Club, is exploring the opportunity to bring Calgary's Scottish community together in 2017 to celebrate Canada's 150 Anniversary and our contribution to Confederation.

Of the thirty-six original fathers of Confederation, more than half were Scottish Canadians. "Canada's existence as an independent state in North America, a nation apart from the American super power, is a balancing act that owes much to a Scottish sense of the possible, the Scottish style of management and their own long history of living in the lee of a great power." *

The Calgary Burns Club is in discussions with Fort Calgary regarding participating in their Canada day celebration. We believe it would be an ideal venue for the broader Scottish Associations of Calgary to participate in, given the connection with Calgary House from the Isle of Mull, Scotland. We don't have a specific proposal at this time, but are evaluating options with Fort Calgary.

Stephen Nichol, Director at Large, has taken on the accountability to pursue this further.

* The Honourable Duff Roblin, P.C., C.C., O.M., LLD

41ST ANNUAL BANQUET 2017 (TREKKER ARMSTRONG)

The Calgary Burns Club will be hosting its 41st Annual Robert Burns Banquet on January 20th, 2017 at the TELUS Convention Centre.

The Immortal Memory will be delivered by Willie Gibson, who will travel from Glasgow Scotland to join us on the Friday evening. His first introduction to Burns was at Secondary School, when the English teacher choose Willie to do the reading of A Mans A Man for A' That, which he later performed at the School Concert.

In his early 20s Willie moved to Coventry, where he joined the Tam O'Shanter Burns Club. When he moved to Polmont (near Falkirk) Willie joined the Higginsneuk Burns Club, where he was President for 3 years.

Willie is currently a member of the Prestwick Burns Club and a member of the Robert Burns World Federation, where he served on the Schools Committee with an involvement in the Local and National Competitions.

The Scottish Community perseveres the current economic hardship and attendance is trending towards last year's dinner numbers. The organizing committee has arranged for a block of rooms at the Marriot Hotel at a rate of \$154 per night. In addition, based on membership feedback, advance purchase of liquor tickets have been made available to members.

The Calgary Burns Club looks forward to a celebration of the life and poetry of the poet Robert Burns. We would like to remind the table hosts, that you are responsible for the behaviour of those seated at your table(s).

COMMUNICATION (JAMIE OSBORNE)

We have had a fair number of communications both to and from the club during 2016. All relevant information has been circulated to the club as received.

I completed a major overhaul to the membership list in terms of the members information, and would appreciate those who have still to do so, contact me with their update. The information required for the update is: Address, Phone Number(s), e-mails, etc.).

We have received the Burns 2017 Chronicle which are available for sale, and I will contact the membership with the actual price which will be around the same as last year of \$41.00.

Feel free to contact me if you have anything requiring communication to the membership such as events etc., and I will send out accordingly.

ENTERTAINMENT (JIM HUTCHENS)

The Calgary Burns Club entertainment remains vibrant, topical and well.

October:

Tony Grace read an abbreviated version of its paper entitled **Highland Mary – An Attempt to Untangle the Real Story**. The paper is available on our web site.

The 'Quill' competition concluded for 2016 with the five finalists reciting their poems, with Henry Cairney the winner for this year. The subject for the next competition is 'Departure' and further details will be released soon. An interesting debate ensued with whether Burns was a 'Jacobite' or 'Jacobin'. Sandy Paterson, George Muir

November:

Remembrance night with our special guest Lt. Colonel Kyle Clapperton from the Calgary Highlanders gave a talk on the history of the regiment. Gordon McCulloch talked about the formation of the Glasgow regiments - the HLI. and the members attending raised \$675 for the poppy fund, which the club will double as a donation. The club members also received an invitation to the Calgary Highlanders Burns Supper on January 27th and to the Regimental Ball due on February 25th, 2017.

December:

The December meeting was a celebration of fun and joy in keeping with the Christmas season. Jim Hope-Ross substituted for Ian Denness in hosting our annual quiz. Once again it was proven the even collectively we are no smarter than our Quiz Master. However, he does have the distinct advantage of having the answers to the questions. The winners shall remain anonymous. But there is an inquiry as to what happened to the excess miniatures so graciously donated by Ian's son!!

Jim Hutchens and Paul Kane 'Roasted' a number of members in our midst with their Scottish rendition from 'Still Game'.

A prelude to the Carney Group's January paper was presented by Jim Hope-Ross, with the CBCS singing a few carols just to leave us feeling seasonal.

(For full details, please see the distributed minutes of each members meeting)

BURNS POEM (1791)

THOU GLOOMY DECEMBER

Once mair I hail thee, thou gloomy December!
Once mair I hail thee wi' sorrow and care;
Sad was the parting thou makes me remember
Parting wi' Nancy, oh, ne'er to meet mair!

Fond lovers' parting is sweet, painful pleasure,
Hope beaming mild on the soft parting hour;
But the dire feeling, O farewell for ever!
Is anguish unmingled, and agony pure!

Wild as the winter now tearing the forest,
Till the last leaf o' the summer is flown;
Such is the tempest has shaken my bosom,
Till my last hope and last comfort is gone.

Still as I hail thee, thou gloomy December,
Still shall I hail thee wi' sorrow and care;
For sad was the parting thou makes me remember,
Parting wi' Nancy, oh, ne'er to meet mair.

OUR HERITAGE



Bob Watson

(First Calgary Burns Club President 1977)



THE CBC SINGERS (RON PRATT)

The singers recorded their 5th CD " O Rowan Tree " in July and this is now available for sale. In August, we sang the anthems at the Foothills Highland Games in Okotoks, and in September, participated in the Grand Opening of Okotoks Ford, thanks to the kind invitation and support by life member Gerry Wood.

November again saw us participating in the Field of Crosses services on Memorial Drive in NW Calgary. After the sunrise service on Saturday the 5th, we set up for our usual practice at the Kensington Legion and proceeded to provide an entertainment program to those veterans and families in attendance. Also on Remembrance Day, we sang Amazing Grace with the Firefighters Pipe Band and We'll Meet Again near the end of the service.

The Spruce Meadows Christmas Market invited our group again and we were able to do four concerts over the three weekends of the market. Performances were very well received indeed and we had several requests to put out a Christmas CD. Also in November and December, we provided entertainment at seniors residences and Alberta Health Services venues.

*Famous Burns Quote: "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men"
Robert Burns (To A Mouse On Turning Her Up In Her Nest With The Plough 1785)*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President; Henry Cairney

Past President: Paul Armstrong

1st VP; Trekker Armstrong

2nd VP: Jim Hutchens

Secretary: Tony Grace

Communications: James Osborne

Steward: Maurice MacAtamney

Treasurer: Bill MacLachlan

Sponsorship: Vlad Dhillon

Director At Large: Stephen Nichol

BURNS WORLD NEWS (TONY GRACE)

The Club is represented at the **Robert Burns Association of North America** by Tony Grace who is one of the Canadian Directors. This organization tries to co-ordinate knowledge and activities between Burns Clubs across North America, as well as the preservation and appreciation generally of the works, life and philosophies of Scotland's Robert Burns.

Currently some 28 Clubs are affiliated and there are a number of individual members as well.

RBANA hold an annual conference and in 2016 that was in Dallas and the Club was represented by Tony Grace. The 2017 Conference will be in Medicine Hat on April 28 – 30, 2017. Why don't you consider attending – applications and details are on the website www.rbana.com.

The **Robert Burns World Federation** has just issued the 2017 Burns Chronicle, an annual publication with articles concerning anything to do with Robert Burns. Copies are available through the Club and if you would like one (about \$40) contact Jamie Osborne. The Federation is in the process of digitizing all the past issues of the Chronicle (started in 1892), which are available at no cost on line. Clubs and/or individuals are asked to sponsor the digitizing of a single volume at the cost of GBP50. Once complete there will be an incredible resource available online to check out many aspects of Burns, all triggered by a keyword choice.

As with RBANA, the Federation holds an annual AGM and Conference which in 2017 will be held at Peebles in the Borders of Scotland from September 8 – 10th. In the last few years the Calgary Club has been well represented at these conferences and it would be good if that can continue.



*“There is no surer foundation for a beautiful friendship,
than a mutual taste in literature” P.G Wodehouse*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS (PAUL ARMSTRONG)

2016 has been an eventful year for the Club. We welcomed two new Ordinary Members: Ken Carr and Don Humphreys but, with regret, we said farewell to Ed Riach and Geoff Martin.

We mourn the passing of Sandra Hope-Ross and extend our condolences to Jim and his family. We also extend our sympathies to Tommy Miller for the loss of his grandson this past year.

I am pleased to announce the arrival of a grandson to Stuart Chalmers, a grandson to Bill Laing, a grandson to Maurice McAtamney and finally a granddaughter to Paul Armstrong in Calgary and a grandson in Brisbane, Australia. The exciting thing is that 3 of these new additions are potential Club members but not for another 30 or 40 years!

This is accurate as far as I know and, if I have missed anyone, please let me know and we will be pleased to include this news in the next edition.

Merry Christmas from Brisbane Australia!

Paul Armstrong
Membership Director

BURNS POEM (1795)

(A MAN'S A MAN FOR A' THAT)

Is there for honest Poverty
That hings his head, an' a' that;
The coward slave-we pass him by,
We dare be poor for a' that!
For a' that, an' a' that,
Our toils obscure an' a' that,
The rank is but the guinea's stamp,
The Man's the gowd for a' that.

What though on hamely fare we dine,
Wear hoddin grey, an' a' that;
Gie fools their silks, and knaves their wine;
A Man's a Man for a' that:
For a' that, and a' that,
Their tinsel show, an' a' that;
The honest man, tho' e'er *sae* poor,
Is king o' men for a' that.

Ye see yon birkie, ca'd a lord,
Wha struts, an' stares, an' a' that;
Tho' hundreds worship at his word,
He's but a coof for a' that:
For a' that, an' a' that,
His ribband, star, an' a' that:
The man o' independent mind
He looks an' laughs at a' that.

A prince can mak a belted knight,
A marquis, duke, an' a' that;
But an honest man's aboon his might,
Gude faith, he maunna fa' that!
For a' that, an' a' that,
Their dignities an' a' that;
The pith o' sense, an' pride o' worth,
Are higher rank than a' that.

Then let us pray that come it may,
(As come it will for a' that,)
That Sense and Worth, o'er a' the earth,
Shall bear the gree, an' a' that.
For a' that, an' a' that,
It's coming yet for a' that,
That Man to Man, the world o'er,
Shall brothers be for a' that

“CLAVER HAVER”

CALGARY CLAVER

If you have anything you would like included in the April newsletter, please e-mail to Henry Cairney at: henry.cairney7@shaw.ca

PORRIDGE RECIPE

(SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN NICHOL)

Porridge for Healthy Living (A Holy Dish for Lapsed Christians)

This is a hearty breakfast that will carry you through to lunch. Makes one/two servings.

Ingredients

1/3 cup (quick cooking) rolled oats; add a pinch of salt
1/3 cupsultanas/dried cranberries; soaked in one cup water over night
1/2 apple coarsely grated
1 pear diced
(Substitution alternative; one cup of blue berries)
1 tablespoon chopped almonds
2 tablespoons walnut pieces
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

The Divine Intervention

Add ingredients to saucepan, in same order as given above, and bring to boil over low heat.

Allow 5-10 minutes with water boiling and serve.

Add milk, eat slowly and enjoy.

For a special treat; add a 1/4 cup of maple syrup and you will have visions of delight.

(For my brother Bruce from Stephen Nichol; December, 2016)

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BURNS COTTAGE ALLOWAY

(Photograph from the Valentine collection in a scrapbook album (VGA 101))