

## FREDERICTON NB, BURNS STATUE: RE-UNVEILING



On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September there was a grand parade in the City of Fredericton NB, starting at City Hall.

The occasion was the re-unveiling of the statue of Robert Burns which had been languishing in the City's storage yard, awaiting a political decision to provide the \$81,000 needed to make the base flood proof and re-mount the statue.

RBANA's participation in the debate is found in the previous article.



The parade featuring Pipe Bands from all over New Brunswick led over 1000 people to the finish at a podium erected at the new statue location. On the podium were representatives from the three levels of government, the four Scottish Societies who originally commissioned the statue, the Lt. Governor of NB, and Mr & Mrs J.K. Irving who had so generously provided the funds to re-mount the statue.

The statue was veiled in New Brunswick Tartan and following the speeches from the dignitaries the veiling was lowered away to reveal the restored statue.

The statue is now re-located 20 feet to the South of it's original location to allow for an expansion of the neighbouring Beaverbrook Art Gallery, and is raised on a new foundation forming an additional step at the base.

J.K. Irving said after the ceremony that "Burns' honour had been restored to its rightful place. "It's great to see him back up on his perch." --- "Keep Robbie up there."

At a dinner following the ceremonies Councilor Jordan Graham who had originally raised the controversy said he's since made amends - and shared haggis - with the group.

Fredericton Mayor Brad Woodside pledged the debate over who's responsible for the maintenance of the statue wouldn't occur again.

To that end, Coun. Stephen Chase put forward a resolution it will be responsible for the maintenance of the statue in perpetuity.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

