



The Tattler



Summer 2018 Edition

Words from the President

Officers & Directors

- President: Ken Montgomery
- Vice President: Henry Cairney
- Secretary/Treasurer: Matthew Hill
- Past President: Colin Harris
- Canadian Directors: Tony Grace, Andy Harrower, Jim Steel
- U S Directors: Ted Hirtz, George McClellan, Bill Fulton
- Hon Presidents: May Crawley, Jack Mann, Jim Cunningham, Jean Cunningham, Ron Ballantyne, Chrys Ballantyne

Contacts:

RBANA
 10 Goldenrod Court SE
 Medicine Hat AB
 T1B 2S4

Editor:
 Colin Harris
 92 Avalon Rd
 Winnipeg MB
 R2M 2L5
 amansaman@hotmail.ca

Webmaster
 Matthew Hill
 contact@rbana.com



The Robert Burns Association
 of North America

Affiliated with the Robert Burns
 World Federation Ltd
 Kilmarnock, Scotland
 Club #1024

The 2018 AGM in Philadelphia was a great success. I and others were particularly impressed to see the involvement of the South Jersey Celtic Society. Their contributions were the icing on the cake. We also appreciated the effort made by many to attend, and here a special thanks to Robert Burns World Federation (RBWF) past president and honorary president Jane Brown, Willie Gibson and most especially, RBWF president Ian McIntyre and his special and lovely wife Moira who all came over from the Motherland.



I would also be remiss if I didn't pass on special thanks to our 2018 AGM organizers Les Strachan and Bill Fulton. Well done lads!

I am now pleased to introduce our new Board. Where I hail from Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, our new Vice President is Henry Cairney, past president of the Calgary Burns Club. Our new Secretary Treasurer is Mathew Hill, born in Texas but now a Canadian and active member of the Medicine Hat Burns Club. Our US directors are Ted Hirtz, Houston, Texas, George McClellan, Ellijay, Georgia, and Bill Fulton, Devon, Pennsylvania. Our Canadian directors are Tony, Grace, Calgary, Alberta, Andy Harrower, Yellowknife, North West Territories and Jim Steel, Toronto, Ontario. Collectively, a vast amount of talent experienced in business, the military, various Burns clubs and other organizations. All are also keen Burnsians. We are indeed fortunate to have these people involved.

Next, I would like to personally thank outgoing president Colin Harris and outgoing secretary treasurer Janet Thompson for all their hard work and efforts. Very much appreciated!

I am also pleased to confirm that Colin will be remaining as editor of The Tattler. My sincere thanks!

The purpose of RBANA is to promote the appreciation and performance of the poetry and songs of Robert Burns and scholarship concerning Burns and his works, and to provide a North American organization that can best link, work with and interact with other likeminded organizations and individuals, and to assist in promoting the interests and objectives of the Robert Burns World Federation.

With that in mind we must be aware that North America is a very big place, and there are many organizations and like minded individuals out there that exist and which we need to reach. Not an easy task.

In This Issue:	
President's Message	1
Website Changes	2
Clan Takes Notice	2
RBANA Meets in Philadelphia	3
Americans Donate to Garden	4
Hume Winning Poem	5
Top Non RBANA Entry	6

(Continued on page 2)

Words from the President (continued)

My first meeting with our new Board was to suggest and encourage a change whereby we will now establish a working board that has set objectives and goals. I believe that by doing so we will be better able to make our RBANA family grow and thrive, and by extension do the same for the World Federation.

We also need to look at improving our networking and how we can better use social media. We need to identify other North American Scottish Burns Clubs and Scottish Societies and then let them know we exist and encourage them to join our RBANA family. That effort is already underway.

We also need members and member clubs to better commit and send reports with photographs to both the Tattler Editor and the Webmaster on events they have done, especially including annual Burns dinners. Part of improved networking is learning what other Clubs are doing. That way we all learn, grow and benefit.

As a start we have already implemented three new initiatives. One relates to branding and is the introduction of a secondary RBANA logo that is eye catching and easy to duplicate by way of embroidery. This new logo is featured on a new RBANA piper's pennon that was introduced at the AGM by George McClelland (right). The third initiative is where there is now a World Feder-

ation stand up banner that can be used by our various clubs to better promote the RBWF we now also have our own. These two banners will definitely dress up any event and are great backdrops for photo ops. The new RBANA banner was introduced at the Calgary Burns Club AGM that was recently held.

We also have to look at how we can better involve our members, so they feel they are truly part of the team, and so we best utilize all our resources to succeed. Anyone with any comments or suggestions may contact me directly at monty855@shaw.ca.

As they say, the proof is in the pudding and I hope to report on many favourable results at next year's AGM which will be held in Niagara Falls, Ontario. So, that's it for now, and as the Brits say, it's time to 'Crack On'.

Best regards, and yours in Burns,
Ken Montgomery, President



RBANA Website to See Changes

With a new era of leadership in RBANA word comes of pending changes to the Association website.

Secretary-Treasurer Matthew Hill will be, in the words of outgoing Webmaster Robert Boyd, "phasing in" as Webmaster. Both Robert and Matthew realized the site needed a fresh look and it is a timely moment to make the change. Matthew hopes to get a handle on the website throughout July, so expect to see a fresh new website over the next few months.

Matthew will be the fourth Webmaster in RBANA's history, after the late Jock Smith, who started the website in the early 2000s, before passing it on to Ron Ballantyne, who was, in turn, succeeded by Robert Boyd.

In the early years of the website, the technical work was done by Ian Smith of Australia, before Robert Boyd simplified the process, making it possible for the Webmaster to take over those tasks.

Clan Takes Note of RBANA

In the latest edition of the CMSI Guardian, the newsletter of the Clan Montgomery Society International there is, in the words of RBANA President Ken Montgomery, "great promotion of RBANA." In addition, there is our new, second, logo, a picture of Ken, and an article on him and his election to the post.

RBANA Meets in Philadelphia

By Bill Fulton -

The 38th RBANA gathering was held in center city Philadelphia on April 20–22, 2018. Approximately fifty RBANA members and guests enjoyed the Courtyard



Marriott Hotel. Members were treated to sights and tours of Philadelphia, including the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall and Old City. The Wanamaker organ was a



Jane Brown and Willie Gibson entertain as only they can

treat for some as well as a shortened Phillies baseball game. Many ascended the Philadelphia Art Museum steps in the “Rocky” tradition (above) and some members enjoyed a private tour of the Rosenbach Museum,

home of well over 100 original works by Burns, including Mrs. Dunlop’s copy of the Kilmarnock Edition. Perfect weather was also provided.

Piper George McClellan (RBANA U.S. Director) and highlighted by the South Jersey Celtic Society (SJCS) musicians, Ian McIntyre (RBWF President), Henry Cairney (RBANA Vice President), Jane Brown, Willie Gibson and Joy Harris from Virginia. The Saturday Annual Gen-



eral Meeting (AGM) selected Ken Montgomery, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada as the new RBANA President. The 2018–2020 executive officers and directors were also elected. Presentations were made by Bill Dawson (RBWF, Burns Chronicle Editor) on Philadelphia’s contribution to the Burns legacy. Mac Irvine from Atlanta, Georgia offered an enlightening theory on Burns not mentioning Christmas in his poetry or songs. The RBANA 2019 Conference and AGM will be in Niagara Falls, Canada. The Saturday evening formal dinner and banquet, hosted by Les Strachan (RBWF U.S. Director) provided an elegant and inspirational evening. The haggis was piped in by Doug Connor (SJCS) and Ronnie O’Byrne (RBWF Canadian Director) gave a spirited “Address to a Haggis”. The evening menu was excellent and enjoyed by all. The investiture of Ken Montgomery as the new President was followed by the presentation of the past President’s medal to Colin Harris (Winnipeg, Canada). The annual prize winners were recognized for the golf tournament, poetry competition and Burns quiz. Les Strachan was presented with a recognition award for his nearly two decades of service to RBANA by outgoing President Colin Harris. Willie Gibson from Troon gave the “Immortal Memory”, one of the finest ever presented in Philadelphia. The South Jersey Celtic Society, Paul Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, Jr. and others entertained the guests with beautiful Burns tunes played on the fiddle, guitar and pipes. Bill Cocks (Medicine Hat), Ronnie O’Byrne (RBWF Canadian Director) and Andy Harrower (RBANA Canadian Director) shared an engaging recitation of “Tam O’Shanter”. The traditional raffle prizes were a success, thanks to the many sponsors

The Friday Ceilidh was announced by

South Jersey Celtic Society joined by Joy Harris

ereral Meeting (AGM) selected Ken Montgomery, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada as the new RBANA President. The 2018–2020 executive officers and directors were also elected. Presentations were made by Bill Dawson (RBWF, Burns Chronicle Editor) on Philadelphia’s contribution to the Burns legacy. Mac Irvine from Atlanta, Georgia offered an enlightening theory on Burns not mentioning Christmas in his poetry or songs. The RBANA 2019 Conference and AGM will be in Niagara Falls, Canada. The Saturday evening formal dinner and banquet, hosted by Les Strachan (RBWF U.S. Director) provided an elegant and inspirational evening. The haggis was piped in by Doug Connor (SJCS) and Ronnie O’Byrne (RBWF Canadian Director) gave a spirited “Address to a Haggis”. The evening menu was excellent and enjoyed by all. The investiture of Ken Montgomery as the new President was followed by the presentation of the past President’s medal to Colin Harris (Winnipeg, Canada). The annual prize winners were recognized for the golf tournament, poetry competition and Burns quiz. Les Strachan was presented with a recognition award for his nearly two decades of service to RBANA by outgoing President Colin Harris. Willie Gibson from Troon gave the “Immortal Memory”, one of the finest ever presented in Philadelphia. The South Jersey Celtic Society, Paul Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, Jr. and others entertained the guests with beautiful Burns tunes played on the fiddle, guitar and pipes. Bill Cocks (Medicine Hat), Ronnie O’Byrne (RBWF Canadian Director) and Andy Harrower (RBANA Canadian Director) shared an engaging recitation of “Tam O’Shanter”. The traditional raffle prizes were a success, thanks to the many sponsors



Willie Gibson with Conference organizers Bill Fulton and Les Strachan



Federation President Ian McIntyre

ereral Meeting (AGM) selected Ken Montgomery, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada as the new RBANA President. The 2018–2020 executive officers and directors were also elected. Presentations were made by Bill Dawson (RBWF, Burns Chronicle Editor) on Philadelphia’s contribution to the Burns legacy. Mac Irvine from Atlanta, Georgia offered an enlightening theory on Burns not mentioning Christmas in his poetry or songs. The RBANA 2019 Conference and AGM will be in Niagara Falls, Canada. The Saturday evening formal dinner and banquet, hosted by Les Strachan (RBWF U.S. Director) provided an elegant and inspirational evening. The haggis was piped in by Doug Connor (SJCS) and Ronnie O’Byrne (RBWF Canadian Director) gave a spirited “Address to a Haggis”. The evening menu was excellent and enjoyed by all. The investiture of Ken Montgomery as the new President was followed by the presentation of the past President’s medal to Colin Harris (Winnipeg, Canada). The annual prize winners were recognized for the golf tournament, poetry competition and Burns quiz. Les Strachan was presented with a recognition award for his nearly two decades of service to RBANA by outgoing President Colin Harris. Willie Gibson from Troon gave the “Immortal Memory”, one of the finest ever presented in Philadelphia. The South Jersey Celtic Society, Paul Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, Jr. and others entertained the guests with beautiful Burns tunes played on the fiddle, guitar and pipes. Bill Cocks (Medicine Hat), Ronnie O’Byrne (RBWF Canadian Director) and Andy Harrower (RBANA Canadian Director) shared an engaging recitation of “Tam O’Shanter”. The traditional raffle prizes were a success, thanks to the many sponsors

(Continued on page 4)

Philadelphia (continued)

who provided an assembly of outstanding gifts. The evening concluded with a room filed with love and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne". On Sunday morning members reflected on the words of the Bard,

"Adieu! May all good things attend you!"



2018 - 20 RBANA Board
Back Row (L-R) Andy Harrower (Cdn Dir) Bill Fulton (US Dir) Jim Steel (Cdn Dir) Colin Harris IPP Ted Hirtz (US Dir) George McLellan (US Dir) [Piper Doug Connor (SJCS)]
Front Row (L-R) Ken Montgomery (Pres) Ian McIntyre (Pres RBWF) Henry Cairney (VP)
Not Pictured Tony Grace (Cdn Dir) Matthew Hill (Sec Treas)

U S Burns Fans Fund Garden Renovation

It will be the garden that the young Robert Burns would have known.

A new plan, funded by Burns fans from the USA, aims to make the land surrounding the cottage where he grew up resemble what he would have grown up with.

The land at the two-bedroom family cottage in Alloway, Ayrshire, will include crops and flowers originally harvested by his father William Burnes.

It is to be financed by benefactors to the National Trust for Scotland Foundation in the US.

The cottage welcomes 179,000 visitors annually, but soon these tourists will be able to see the crops, fruits and vegetables grown there hundreds of years ago.

The funding will "fully realise the vision" that William had for his small farm around the cottage.

An anonymous donor now has pledged £22,000 to complete work at Burns historic birthplace.

This money, raised by the National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA in Boston and passed to the National Trust for Scotland, will, it is hoped, be joined by an additional \$30,000 for the project by June 30.

The second and final phase of the project will include clearing and extending woodland paths, which have not been open to the public before.

The cottage's meadow will be seeded with wildflowers, additional raised vegetable beds will be installed, and signage will be upgraded.

A pond and wetland has already been created and a fruit orchard planted.

In the orchard, "heritage" varieties of apple trees will be

grown, as well as pear trees and berries.

William Burnes, who the poet described as a "tender and affectionate father", was a trained gardener with an ambition of becoming a nurseryman.

In 1757, he began building a two-room cottage on his small holding, or tenant farm, in Alloway.

Simon Skinner, the chief executive of the NTS, said: "Burns is an inspiration the world over and his verse has touched the lives of millions, to the extent that people of all nations will come together to sing his words to Auld Lang Syne at the New Year.

"It is therefore entirely fitting that the project to restore and enhance his birthplace should rely so much on international generosity - especially from the US where so many of his kith and kin ultimately settled, along with the ideas he planted.

"We hope that the many Americans who love Burns and see Scotland as a spiritual and ancestral home will help us achieve our aims."

The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA has a history of supporting Burns-related conservation initiatives.

It raised more than £111,000 for the restoration of the Burns Monument located not far from the cottage.

Kirstin Bridier, the executive director of NTSUSA, said: "Robert Burns' words are an important source of inspiration and connection for many Americans of Scottish descent.

"We are delighted to strengthen the appreciation and understanding of Burns on both sides of the Atlantic by supporting this important project."



Jack Hume Heather & Thistle Trophy Awarded

During the Saturday night banquet in Philadelphia, outgoing RBANA President Colin Harris announced the winner of the third annual Jack Hume Heather & Thistle Trophy for poetry writing, in the style of Robert Burns. Jim Hutchens, a member of the Calgary Burns Club, whose winning entry is published below, was not present, but new Vice President Henry Cairney did accept

on his behalf and it was presented to him at the Calgary Burns Club AGM by Canadian Director Tony Grace.



A poet's thoughts on emigration

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 freedoms 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!

Jack Hume Heather & Thistle Runner-up

The Hume Trophy entry judged by the panel as second, published to the right of the page was submitted by Marc Sherland of Glasgow.

The Secretary of the Glasgow and District Burns Association (an Association, like RBANA, of Burns Clubs and Societies in the Glasgow area) and Non Executive Director (Membership) of the Burns Federation, Marc, as a non member of RBANA,

was not eligible for the trophy, which like the Jim Connor Memorial Quiz trophy is for RBANA members only. However, we do welcome entries from all, and the panel of judges are not aware of who the authors of the poetry are. As the top entry from without RBANA, the Tattler is publishing the work.



**As Always,
Think Burns**

STERLING CURRENCY

Tha confidence o' sillars hold,
is in its wirth, sae we aire told
a boddle is a boddle bold,
tho I'm scarce wirth a plack,
an' weighed agin it's dod o' gold,
it's samthin I mae lack.

Noo in this werld o' measures short,
sure barter weighs, fer whit is boucht,
a groat nae owns whit we hae soucht;
it cannae buy a name;
sae in tha daein, wisdom's toucht,
true value's in yer fame.

An poond fer poond an' wirth on wirth,
tha werld's a place o' muckle girth,
sae tak a freenship fer its mirth,
an didnae coont its coin;
an whaen acountin fer yer birth,
sure ithers mae purloin.

Ken geld an' sillar hae a weight,
wirth mer tae thaem in kingly state,
fer thaem it haes important bait,
but we hae herd mettle;
sam sae it's grace, I sae it's fate,
advices honest fettle.

A fig tae thaem wi bundled cash,
who think themselves a wee bit dash,
fer wirk an' effort maks mer splash,
in oor 'splay o' heaven;
an' whaen tha merkit's apt tae crash,
we'll hae breed tae leaven.

Bawbies mae grow a unicorn,
tho sam mae laff an mony scorn,
thare's nane caun grow a seed o' corn,
on ony merk o' day;
sae thank tha day that yoo wir born,
an' earn yer daily pay.

© Mark Sherland
Glasgow Scotland (RBWF)