



The Tattler



Words from the President

Spring 2019 Edition

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- Vice President: Henry Cairney
- Secretary/Treasurer: Matthew Hill
- Past President: Colin Harris
- Canadian Directors: Tony Grace, Andy Harrower, Jim Steel
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The Robert Burns Association
 of North America

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

I trust everyone has survived the traditional annual Burns season and are now taking a bit of time to relax and unwind. It has occurred to me that if applicable, now is also a great time to reflect on the Burns dinner or Burns event that you or your Club did recently host. It is a time to make inquiries to your Executive, Club members and guests to see how you did, and to see what you need to consider to do better next year. These inquiries should relate to your event's location, your program, including entertainment, the food offered and pricing (ticket costs). It is my opinion that doing such evaluations is crucial to hosting ongoing successful events.



I also believe the best benefit of belonging to RBANA is in having a great reason or excuse to attend our annual AGM, a most worthwhile and enjoyable event. I especially appreciate meeting new people and personally reconnecting with old friends. Also, it is very special to find so many talented and dedicated Burnsians all together in one location to socialize with, and to be entertained and educated by.

This year we are especially pleased to have our annual AGM held at Niagara Falls, Canada. I say this primarily because of two reasons, one being that the location is brilliant, and two, it's cost effective for our Canadian, and more specifically our American and UK members and guests to attend.

Last, I would again request that all our members do what they can to promote RBANA and the World Federation (RBWF). This can be done in little ways by maintaining membership, getting another Club or person to join, or even by purchasing a RBANA sponsors pin. It can also be done in larger ways including that of being involved with the executive or active member, or by attending the annual AGM's. The key to success and survival for any organization is decided on the participation and involvement of its members.

All the best and yours in Burns,
 Ken Montgomery, President

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Update and Clarification on Fredericton Burns Statue

Following the story in the last edition of the Tattler on the unveiling of the remodelled statue of Robert Burns in Fredericton NB we were contacted by Ron Ballantyne.

Through him we received the following update on the statue as of early January:

“The Robert Burns statue in Fredericton is in storage again. The Lord Beaverbrook Art Gallery went through a major renovation and expansion in the last year and a half. The gallery expansion moved out to the location where the statue was located as a result Robbie Burns had to be removed and put in storage while the construction was taking place. So we don't have any recent photos of the



statue. That is the bad news.

The good news, although the statue is in storage it will be making a return to the same area just a little further away from the gallery. The plan is to have the statue back in place by the end of summer 2019. The area will be located right on the walking path next to the Lord Beaverbrook Art Gallery. The statue of Lord Beaverbrook which is currently located in Officers Square down the from the

gallery will be moved next to Robbie Burns. As a result the city has big plans for the area where the two statues will be located.”

New Member Joins RBANA

As a result of Ken Montgomery's visit to the Winnipeg St' Andrew's Society Dinner at the end of November, and his missionary work on behalf of RBANA, the Board of the Society, at its February meeting, approved a motion to join RBANA, becoming the second group member from the city.

The St Andrew's Society is the oldest Scottish heritage group in Western Canada, dating back to 1871. Its past presidents include its first, Lord Strathcona, famous in Canadian History for driving the Last Spike of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, and a number of historic figures from Winnipeg's past.

Through the St Andrew's Trust, the Society support a number of organizations and events, including, the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, a regiment raised by the Society; the Winni-

peg Police Pipe Band, and a number of other bands; the Manitoba Highland Gathering and ScotDance. It has also commissioned a history of Scot's in Winnipeg.

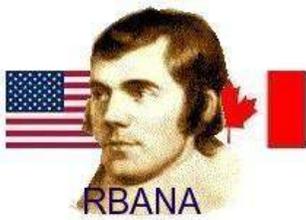


Several members of the Society are also members of the Robert Burns Club and the Society regularly attend that club's annual Burns Supper. It should be worth noting that Tattler Editor and RBANA Past President Colin Harris sits on the St Andrew's Society Board and serves as its Recording Secretary.

For most of its history the Society was, like many others, a men only Society, however in the last five or six years finally amended their by-laws to permit women to join, and have thrived as a

result. The Society is set to elect its first woman President in two years time.

The Falls Prepare to Welcome RBANA



The forthcoming 2019 Conference in Niagara Falls is fast approaching. Deadlines are near. The committee stresses that the deadline for securing accommo-

tion at the hotel at the conference rate is April 2. The deadline for registering for the conference itself is April 13. More information on registering follows in this newsletter.

The conference programme is as has been the pattern for many years.

Thursday is the day for delegates to arrive. Friday morning, those so inclined, will head off for golf at Twenty Valley Golf and Country Club, in the town of Lincoln, a half hour drive from the hotel. Friday afternoon, the RBANA Board will meet and registration will be open for delegates. Following a drinks reception in the President's suite, dinner will be served in the restaurant, followed by the popular ceilidh, compered by Leslie Strachan and Bill Molloy. The President's suite will again be



open for late night drinks and camaraderie.

After breakfast on Saturday the RBANA AGM will be held at 9:00. The after-lunch programme begins with the popular Dr Jim Connor Memorial Quiz, mastered by George McLellan, followed by two seminar sessions conducted by Burns Chronicle Editor Bill Dawson, and local stalwart, and former

RBANA Secretary and Webmaster Ron Ballantyne. The highlight will be the formal dinner, with the usual toasts, and the presentation of RBANAs three trophies, including the announcement of the winner of the Hume poetry competition.

Again, drinks and camaraderie will be available in the

President's suite late into the night, and perhaps early into Sunday morning.

Sunday is dedicated to travelling home, or elsewhere in the area. Information on local churches for those wishing to attend will be available.

Extending Your Stay?

The Niagara region has a lot to offer if you want to extend your stay. Yes, there is one of the most stunning natural wonders of the world but, without straying too far you can enjoy the dining and vineyards of Twenty Valleys and Niagara on the Lake.

There is the South Coast, sun, angling, art, history, and beautiful sandy beaches of Lake Erie.

Twenty Valleys, "Canada's Sonoma Valley" is



the largest wine producing area in Ontario with over 50 wineries, most family run estates.

The bustling city of St Catharines is the home of the Niagara Folk Arts Festival, throughout May.

Historic Niagara on the Lake is also famous for its wineries, large and small, particularly Peller Estates, one of Canada's largest; and is also famous for the Shaw Festival, the second largest repertory theatre company in North America, running through Spring, Summer, and Fall.

Finally, Canada's largest city, Toronto, is just minutes away.

FINAL REMINDER
RBANA 2019 - Niagara Falls ON

THE 39th AGM and CONFERENCE
of
THE ROBERT BURNS ASSOCIATION
of NORTH AMERICA

HILTON NIAGARA FALLS/ FALLSVIEW HOTEL,
NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO, CANADA.

MAY 3rd, 4th & 5th, 2019.

ROOM RATE: \$169.00 (CAN) +TAXES. SINGLE OR DOUBLE OC-
CUPANCY. your stay can be extended before and after the conference at
the same rate.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON:- \$225.00
(Canadian)
OR \$185.00 (US)

ROOMS MUST BE BOOKED DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL

To reserve rooms on-line for this conference use the Link

<http://group.hilton.com/RobertBurnsAssocNA>

Or call Reservations at 1-866-873-9829

When calling request “The Robert Burns Association of North America
Group”.

If necessary your room can be cancelled 48 hours prior to the confer-
ence.

FOR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORMS OR ANY OTHER EN-
QUIRES OR ASSISTANCE CONTACT: Ron Ballantyne, by conference
e-mail RBANA2019@gmail.com
or by telephone 905-637-0980

**ROBERT BURNS ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA
39th. ANNUAL CONFERENCE,
HILTON NIAGARA FALLS/ FALLSVIEW HOTEL,
NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO, CANADA.
MAY 3rd, 4th & 5th, 2019.**

REGISTRATION FORM

ATTENDEES:

NAMES 1) _____

2) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CLUB: _____

TEL. & EMAIL _____

ANY SPECIAL NEEDS? (Diet. Mobility etc) _____

REGISTRATION FEE: \$225.00 (CAN) per person. OR \$185.00 (US)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

MAKE CHEQUES AND MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO "RBANA 2019"

Or if by PayPal send to btsenr@cogeco.ca {check procedure on next page}.

FINAL DATE FOR REGISTRATION IS APRIL 13th.2019,

PLEASE NOTE: hotel bookings after April RBANA2019@gmail.com

SATURDAY FORMAL DINNER: CHOICE OF MEAL please indicate preference

CHICKEN: _____

SALMON: _____

GOLF: THERE WILL BE A GOLF MATCH, FOR THE RBANA TROPHY, ON FRIDAY MORNING May 3rd.

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU PLAN TO PLAY GOLF

GOLF: Yes [] No []

SEND COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM WITH CHEQUE/MONEY ORDER TO:

MR. RON BALLANTYNE
3214 SPRUCE AVENUE
BURLINGTON, ONTARIO,
CANADA L7N 1J2

If paying by PayPal
Save this form, fill it out & email it to:-
RBANA2019@gmail.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The special room

\$169.00 (CAN) + TAXES, SINGLE OR DOUBLE OCCUPANCY,

For your information the total room cost is:-

Room rate \$169 +13% HST= \$21.97+Tourism Improvement Fee 9.9%= \$16.73 + Eco Charge \$3.00 = \$210.83

PLEASE BOOK YOUR ROOM EARLY.

THE FINAL DATE FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS IS April 2nd 2019

Again this year, a R.B.A.N.A Conference Committee is organizing the Conference. There is no Club involved. We therefore need you to respond as early as possible so that we know the number who plan to attend. Members look for a “destination” location as this is one of the major tourist sites in North America.

Based on previous attendance at our conferences we have reserved 30 rooms. However Niagara Falls is a major tourist attraction and weekends are the busiest days. When our reserved block of rooms are filled we cannot guarantee the same room rate or if other rooms will be available. To avoid disappointment please book early. If you have any difficulties please contact Ron Ballantyne.

We have not included breakfast with the room rates, The Hotel were reluctant to include that economically. The Hotel however will provide a 20% discount voucher for any of their in-house restaurants.

There are a number of restaurants within walking distance of the hotel, including:- the KEG, Starbucks, Tim Hortons , Perkins, Applebees, the Casino Café & others..

There is free parking a short walk behind the Hotel, If required covered parking is available at the hotel for a cost of \$10.00 per day.

For those arriving by air, the closest airports to Niagara Falls Canada are, Niagara Falls New York, Buffalo, New York, Hamilton, Ontario and Toronto, Ontario. Shuttle service is available from these airports to Niagara Falls. Shared limousine service is available by calling (905) 374-8111 or reserve on-line at <https://www.niagaraairbus.com/>

If you require any further information or assistance please contact Ron Ballantyne Telephone 905-637-0980 or email to RBANA2019@gmail.com

Instructions for paying by PayPal:-

- ◆ Go to :- www.paypal.com. And set up an account if you do not have one. Click on “PERSONAL”.
- ◆ Select “Send Money” then “Internationally”. (There is no charge for domestic transfers) For recipient’s address enter btsengr@cogeco.ca Select to “Family or Friends”
- ◆ For "purpose" select "other"
- ◆ Enter your own address for “sender” Enter the amount of payment in Canadian Dollars Proceed to next page and agree to pay all Fees. Click on “Send” & the transfer is made to the Treasurer’s account. It will then be transferred to the RBANA account. Transfers to our bank account typically takes 3 to 4 business days.

Hume Poetry Award Returns for Fourth Year

Once again this year, Past President Robert Boyd has released the rules for the Jack Hume Heather & Thistle Trophy for poetry writing in the style of Robert Burns.

This prestigious award will be presented on Saturday evening during the Niagara Falls conference along with the RBANA Golf Trophy and the Dr Jim Connor Memorial Quiz Trophy.

The announcement and rules are below.

Past winners: Ronnie O'Byrne, Halton-Peel Burns Club; Jim Fletcher, Halifax Burns Club; Jim Hutchens, Calgary Burns Club

Poetry Writing Competition 2019

The Jack Hume Heather & Thistle Trophy, is awarded annually for writing poetry in the style of Robert Burns. Jack Hume, who passed away a year ago, was the founder of the H&T Burns Club and a staunch supporter of RBANA. 2019 is the fourth year of the annual competition for the trophy he presented. Entries are invited under the following rules and conditions:

- Poems submitted must be original, and not previously published.
- Only RBANA members in good standing are eligible to win the trophy. Any member of a member club or kindred society is a RBANA member.
- Entries from non-RBANA members will be judged by the panel but are not eligible to win the trophy.
- The winner will be chosen by a three-member panel comprising Guida Hume, Jack's widow, author and a professor of English; RBWF representative Willie Gibson; and 2018 Hume Trophy winner Jim Hutchens of the Calgary Burns Club, AB. Entries will be submitted to the panel anonymously, and the panel's decision will be final.
- The winner will be announced, and the trophy presented at the RBANA AGM & Conference 2019 in Niagara Falls in May.
- The winner does not need to be present. The trophy will be mailed to the winner if not present.
- This trophy will be awarded annually. The winner is responsible for returning the trophy to the RBANA Secretary prior to the following AGM & Conference.
- Entries should be submitted by email to ireneandrobertboyd@sbcglobal.net
- The deadline for entries is April 12, 2019



2018 Winner Jim Hutchens being presented the Hume Trophy by Canadian Director Tony Grace

Appeal launched to save Robert Burns' Alloway birthplace

An urgent appeal has been launched to stop the first home of Robert Burns falling into disrepair. The world-renowned poet was born in the Alloway cottage in 1759 and lived there until he was seven years old.

But now a £100,000 public appeal has been launched to save the visitor attraction.

The cottage's thatched roof, walls and chimney all need vital repairs, The National Trust for Scotland has revealed.

Caroline Smith, operations manager at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, said: "At the back of the home, the traditional thatched roof has developed significant tears and has worn away.

Image copyright The National Trust for Scotland
Image caption Some of the damage which needs to be repaired at Burns Cottage

"Towards the front, moss is also beginning to grow, collecting rainwater and rotting the thatch underneath.

"The north-west gable is starting to crack, letting the wind and rain in and damaging the interior plasterwork."

Burns' father William Burness built the two-roomed cottage in 1757, two years before the famous poet's birth.

As well as the Bard's birthplace, the cottage was also the scene of a meeting - five years after Burns' death - of several of his closest friends for the very first Burns supper. The cottage has been in the care of the National Trust for Scotland since 2008 but the charity now says it needs help to stop it getting into a severe state of disrepair.



The trust has a plan to repair the cottage in stages. A wall at the end of the cottage will be propped up and pulled back in line with the rest of the building. Cracks along the walls and windows will be filled, and the roof rethatched and the outer walls re-limewashed, weatherproofing the cottage.

**As Always,
Think Burns**