

## The Calgary Burns Club Burns Supper 2019

In the last edition of the Claver, this correspondent reported, with anticipation, the planning for the 2019 Calgary Burns Club Burns Supper.

The program as outlined in that earlier edition of the Claver was put in motion in the next ensuing months, culminating in the holding of the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Robert Burns Supper, on January 25, 2019, the exact 260<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the Bard.

Under the coordination of President Jim Hutchens, with assistance from 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Jim Hope-Ross:



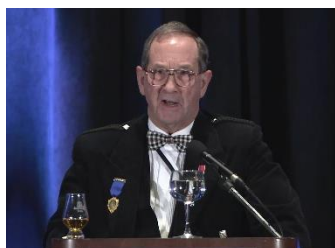
**1<sup>st</sup> VP Jim Hope Ross**

- New managers at the Calgary Telus Convention Centre (“CTCC”) required relationships to be established and orientation to the dinner’s objectives to be explained.
- The configuration of the room was changed.
- A new head chef was provided with recipes and areas of emphasis.
- FMAV, a new CTCC video contractor, was introduced.

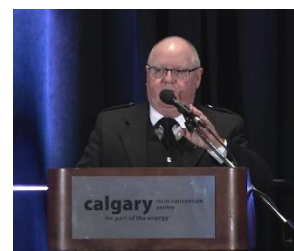
- New whisky & wine suppliers were recruited.
- A new printer was engaged for the tickets and the program.
- Delivery of the haggis from the Medicine Hat vendor was improved upon.
- A new sponsorship package was introduced, which attracted 2 non-club member sponsors for the first time.

From the sonorous tones of Hugh McFadzean reciting Grace Before Meat, through the hilarity of Gordon McCulloch’s and Brian Cumming’s removes, to Merv Howitt’s Loyal Toast, the addresses matched the unsurpassed quality of the traditional supper of smoked Atlantic salmon, cock o’ leekie soup, roast beef, neeps n’ tatties, haggis wi’ a’ the honours, and Scotch trifle. The highlight was Jim Osborne’s Address to the Haggis. The courses were interspersed with songs of Burns performed by the Calgary Burns Club Singers under the able direction of Ron Pratt and the piping, drumming, and dancing of the perennial favourite Calgary Police Service Pipe Band.

After the interval, President Jim Hutchens introduced his head table and the guest speaker of the evening,



Dr. Peter Hughes, O.B.E., who proposed the toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. George Muir proposed a humorous and heartfelt toast to the Lassies, and Dr. Paul Armstrong proposed the toast to Absent Friends.



**President Jim Hutchens**

### **Dr Peter Hughes**

Through gaining the cooperation of practically everyone down the line and much cooperation from those involved in the program and those who stepped up when asked, the evening met all of its objectives and did so within 3 minutes of its scheduled time frame under the detailed itinerary.

Respectfully submitted by

Jim Hope-Ross  
1<sup>st</sup> VP and 2019 Burns Supper Convener