



The Tattler



Autumn 2023 Edition
St Andrew's Day Edition

Officers & Directors:

President	Paul Kennedy
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Secretary/Treasurer	Jamie Osborne
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Canadian Directors:	Ken Montgomery Brian Cumming Charles H Cameron
US Directors:	George McClellan Bill Fulton Phyl Smith
Hon. Presidents:	May Crawley Jim Cunningham Ron Ballantyne Chrys Ballantyne

Contacts:
RBANA
610-54th Avenue SW
Calgary AB
T2V 0C8

Editor
Colin Harris
amansaman@hotmail.ca

Webmaster
Jamie Osborne
contact@rbana.com



The Robert Burns Association
of North America

Affiliated with the
Robert Burns World Federation Ltd
Kilmarnock Scotland

Club #1024

President's Message



Greetings fellow Burnsians, Here in my neck of the woods, we recently held our first ever Halloween event by celebrating our first ever **Burns and a Celtic Halloween** on Saturday October 28th at the Mount Holly Lyceum of History and Natural Science. The Lyceum was chartered by King George III in 1765 as the Bridgetown Library. In 1860 it was incorporated and became known as the Burlington County Lyceum of History and Natural Science. Members of the SJCS carved pumpkins, and presented videos, slide shows and an oral presentation of **Tam O'Shanter** to a background of slides from the famous Paisley artist, Alexander Goudie depicting scenes from the famous Tale. The SJCS also provided a few other presentations on the history of Halloween (Samhain), and a reading from a news article first printed in The Pennsylvania Gazette, October 22, 1730, on the **Mount Holly Witch Trials**, and reportedly written by Ben Franklin. A good time was had by all and a decision was made to make this an annual event.

The South Jersey Celtic Society held its Quarterly Whiskey Tasting to a small group of Burns and Whisky enthusiasts on 18 November 2023 at Mount Holly's Train Wreck Distillery.

A full article on this event is elsewhere in this newsletter.

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President's Message (continued)

South Jersey is also very excited about hosting next year's AGM and Conference and hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend. The AGM, which will be May 3 – 5, 2024, and will be right here in historic Mount Holly, New Jersey. Mount Holly is less than 30 Miles from Philadelphia, less than 60 miles from Atlantic City, and just under 80 miles from New York City, so plan to stay a few days if you can. We have a lot

scheduled for the weekend including historic walking tours of Mount Holly, a Pub Crawl, Distillery visit and tour, an Afternoon Tea, the traditional RBANA Golf Tournament and other activities. Keep an eye out for the registration forms coming shortly.

Thank you,

Paul Kennedy

President, Robert Burns Association of North America

The Tattler encourages all clubs to submit news of club events or activities. As well, all members are reminded they are welcome to submit articles or essays on Burns or Burns related topics for publication.

The deadline for submissions for the Winter Edition is Thursday February 15.

The edition will be published and distributed February 29.



Happy St. Andrew's Day



The Robert Burns Association of North America



RBANA 9th Annual Poetry Competition 2024

The **Jack Hume Heather & Thistle Trophy** is awarded annually for writing poetry in the style of Robert Burns. Jack Hume, who passed away a few years ago, was the founder of the Heather & Thistle Burns Club and a staunch supporter of RBANA. This is the ninth year that the trophy will be presented for the competition and entries are invited under the following rules and conditions:

- Entries should be submitted by email to secretary@rbana.com
- The deadline for entries is **Sunday 31st March 2024**
- Poems submitted must be original, and not previously published.
- Only RBANA members in good standing are eligible to win the trophy.
- 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, consisting of Steve Newman, Associate Professor in the English Department at Temple University, Jim McLaughlin, a frequent winner of the competition and member of Calgary Burns Club and the 2023 Jack Hume Trophy winner Jim Alexander from Atlanta, GA. Entries will be submitted to the panel anonymously, and the panel's decision will be final.
- The winner will be announced at the 2024 AGM and Conference in Mount Holly, New Jersey in May.
- This trophy is awarded annually, and the winner is responsible for returning the trophy to the RBANA Secretary or President prior to the following year AGM & Conference.

Mark Ferguson, RBANA Vice President



2023 Winner Jim Alexander, RBANA
Vice President Mark Ferguson and the
Hume Trophy

Federation Meets in Dumfries

Dumfries welcomed Conference back this year on the back of a highly successful 2022 Conference held in the town.

Around 100 delegates enjoyed unseasonably warm and sunny weather which enhanced the experience of the town which Burns lived and died in. The venue for Conference was the Cairndale Hotel, an imposing Victorian building within a short distance of the town centre and more importantly, the Burns Quarter.

A number of delegates arrived on the Thursday evening and after dinner, the customary light-hearted but fiercely competitive quiz took place. We welcomed delegates from the USA, Canada, Australia, Portugal, Ghana, Northern Ireland, and all over Scotland. The Annual General Meeting took place on



Jean was elected without opposition and is a highly regarded and respected Burnsian. Jean is a very popular appointment with the membership.

Delegates were treated to an extravaganza of the very best of the Burns experience in Dumfries. Bobby Jess returned with his highly popu-

lar and enjoyable walking tour of the Burns Quarter in Dumfries. On a tour which took about 90 minutes, Bobby guided the delegates through the significant site of Burns interest. Included in his tour were visits to the Burns statue, Burns House, the Globe Inn, St. Michaels Church and graveyard and the Mausoleum. An extensive tour of the Theatre Royal was made available by the Guild of Players who own the theatre. The theatre is the oldest working theatre in Scotland, having opened in 1792. Burns had a huge inter-



est in the Theatre Royal and attended and performed several pieces there. This included "A Scots Prologue" and the groundbreaking "Rights of Woman" which he wrote for Louise Fontanelle. The theatre which at one stage

the Friday afternoon, the second year that this has been done. The change of day seems to have been a popular decision, allowing delegates all day on Saturday to enjoy the Burns experience. Neil McNair was elected as President for 2023/24, Peter Pringle Senior Vice President and Jean Abdulrahim, a long standing and active member of the RBWF Junior Vice President.

could seat 1,000 people has gone under several redevelopments over the years and was extensively remodelled in 2015. Many of the original architectural features, including the exterior of the building remain intact. A highlight of the tour of the theatre was the performance of several young local Burnsians which received a standing ovation.

Professor David Purdie, (left) a distin-



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Federation Meets in Dumfries

guished academic, writer and author, delivered a lecture on Saturday afternoon “A Rosebud in Winter.” This was based on the events of the winter of 1787 when Burns was incapacitated with a serious ankle injury in Edinburgh. Twelve year old Jenny Cruickshank, a harpsichordist collaborated with Burns on several songs. In return, Burns dedicated a song to her, “Rosebud”. Our sponsors, Annandale Distillery once again put on a tour of the distillery at Annan which was enjoyed by our delegates who were not members of the temperance movement! The Gala Dinner on Saturday night saw Neil MacNair and the Vice Presidents receive

their chains and outgoing President, Alan Beck, his Past President’s medal. A ceilidh followed dinner with music and song from the popular Wille McRobert and John Cas-kie.

The weekend wound up with Sunday worship in Burns Kirk, St. Michaels. The service was led by Rev. Graham Finch, President of Kirkcudbright Burns Club and Vice President of Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association. Wreaths were laid at Burns Mausoleum, with a lament being played by Pipe Major Callum Watson.

Conference 2024 will be held in Irvine, Ayrshire.

Submitted by
Ian McIntyre
Conference Convenor



RBWF Past Presidents at Conference:

Alan Beck, 2022-23; David Baird, 2010-11; Jim Robertson, 2002-03; David Smith, 1994-95; Ian McIntyre, 2017-18; Mike Duguid, 2009-10

Marc Sherland, 2020-21; Enez Logan Anderson*, 1987-88; Wilson Ogilvie, 1985-86; Jane Brown, 2013-14; Bob Stewart, 2012-13; Angus Middleton, 2006-07.

* Enez Anderson passed away October 27.



Convenor Ian McIntyre, Piper Calum Wilson and President Neil McNair at Mausoleum



Alan Beck with the D & G Schools Competition winners at the Theatre Royal.



RBANA President Paul Kennedy with Alan Beck



JVP Jean Abdulrahim, SVP Peter Pringle, Neil McNair and Alan Beck exchanging Chains of Office



Young Burnsian Rowan Hastie performed at dinner Saturday night.



Following Church the remaining attendees had lunch at the Globe Inn, hosted by Annandale Distillery

Federation President Visits Calgary

The time was 2:45pm on October 23rd, and I was sitting in the cell phone parking of the Calgary International Airport when I noticed the first snowflakes of the year start to come down.

That is when I got the text from Neil and Audrey saying: "Plane has landed". Right away I thought, "Thanks a lot, you brought that snow with you!". I of course had a good laugh with them with this as I took them on a once in a lifetime experience, driving rush hour on Deerfoot Trail during the very first snowfall of the year! Seriously, how many visitors to Calgary can say they have experienced this? After some bumper to bumper, and a few honks, we finally made it to the hotel, where we sat down for a coffee and chatted briefly.



On the evening of October 24th the Calgary Burns Club hosted Neil McNair and his lovely wife

Audrey for the meet and greet of the RBWF President. Although the weather was not very good, and not all were able to attend, we still had a decent turn

out of members and spouses, and the evening programs ran on time. We started the evening with some cocktails and socializing, with Neil and Audrey mingling and introducing themselves to members. Everybody had a bite to eat, and once all were seated with some hors d'oeuvres, I gave an introduction to Neil and his wife. Neil then came up and gave a brief but informative talk about the RBWF and some projects currently in the



works. He also asked that people come talk to him and let him know what they think is working or not working in the Burns community, as he would like to see if he could help promote or resolve these ideas and concerns.

After another outstanding performance by the Calgary Burns Club singers, led by Ron Pratt, of 3 Burns songs, Duncan Grey, Ae Fond Kiss, and Hey Johnnie Cope, we made our 2 guests of honour, Honorary Calgarians. Elaine was unable to be with us this evening,



but no stranger to the Club, Liz McLeod (daughter of one of our earlier members Bob Young) stepped in

to give the Oath and present them with their white hats! This ended the formal part of the evening, but continued on with some camaraderie. All in all, our guests had a wonderful time meeting the Club and it's members, and I know the same with our members meeting Neil and Audrey.

Submitted by

Jamie Osborne
1st Vice President, Calgary Burns Club
Treasurer, Robert Burns Association of North America

The Cumming Report

I attended the 8th Annual Lethbridge Jolly Beggars dinner on Saturday September 30, 2023. The event was held at Country Kitchen Catering. Mike Duffy organized the event and was the Master of Ceremonies. Mike is a big Monty Python fan, and the Chieftain O' the Nicht was King Arthur from Monty Python and Holy Grail being told why the Lethbridge Jolly Beggars did not have Chieftain.

The event started traditionally on Friday night with a curry nosh at the Mango Tree Restaurant, followed by a whisky tasting at the hotel and music practice with the Calgary Burns Club Singer (myself) and six Lethbridge and Medicine Hat cronies.

On Saturday night there were 29 cronies in attendance including CBC president Rob Pinkerton.

All participants were given song sheets, and all sang along to Bring On the Whisky, Killiecrankie, and Barrett's Privateers. Don Girling from Medicine Hat piped in the haggis and Bill Halley recited Address to A Haggis.

I was honoured to do as Mike put it, a "Wee Bit of An Immortal Memory"

One of the featured whiskies at the World-Famous Jolly Beggar's Whisky Bar was 30-year-old XOD Xtra Old Particular Teaninich. The bottle was number 19 of only 200 filled. Drams

were \$45 each and all who had one, enjoyed it.



Melissa Stolte was Poosie Nancie, with Gwen Chadsey and Amanda O'Keeffe as the whisky bar lasses.

As usual the food was delicious, the entertainment varied and great and the camaraderie thoroughly enjoyed.

Submitted by
Brian Cumming
Director, Canada West
RBANA

Medicine Hat Jolly Beggars Dinner

This year's Jolly Beggars event, the 14th such, on October 27-28 is considered to be another tremendous success, and again, perhaps the



Club's best ever done (noting we (I) say that every year). To support this, I note that all attending were very impressed when presenting his address, the 2023 Chieftain, RBWF President Alan McNair, stated, *"Having been at Burns suppers all over the world, Medicine Hat Jolly Beggars is a world class event. Dare I say it, it may even be the best in the world."*

Where the Club and I hosted our annual Chieftain's VIP Ceilidh, along with my wife Brenda (aka, she who must be obeyed) at the Montgomery Pub on the Friday night before the official function, that was another success, especially as the Club saw the return of Club Vocalist and Honorary Club Member Jennifer Brown (she and her family having relocated to Texas for the last few years), who also sang at the big event, and the other ad hoc entertainment done by attendees that was brilliant.

The Friday evening event started with the induction of the new Medicine Hat executive, President Rob Cowan, and Vice President John Campbell, Past President Andy Cowan, Gaird and Chaplin Mathew Hill and Secretary/Treasurer Ken



Doug Matheson, and past presidents Keith Robinson and Scott Montgomery along with Medicine Hat immediate past president Andy Cowan, past president Bill Cocks, and Mike Duffy from Lethbridge who is also a Medicine Hat past president.

Haggis pizza and honey brushed salmon accompanied an evening of entertainment by cronies from Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Edmonton, and Calgary. The new Medicine Hat Poosie Nancy, Mel Hullah, began her duties keeping glasses filled from

the ample whisky selection. Ken McMillan, Keith Robinson and Neil assisted Brian Cummin in performing Halloween, a long tongue twisting Burns poem All 28 stanzas!

This year we had a Halloween theme due to the date of this years function, and we were privileged to invite and induct twelve (12) new members to our Order of the Monkey. Since this event we also acquired six (6) of these Monkeys as new members. As indicated, as this years event was so close to Halloween, we decided to go with a Halloween theme including Tam o' Shanter by Bill Cocks with a fog machine, which also involved a pumpkin carving contest, on Saturday, involving out of town cronies Keith Robinson, Neil McNair, Mike Duffy, Naill Toey (Calgary) and Brian Cumming, who collectively carved 11 pumpkins for the

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Medicine Hat Jolly Beggars Dinner continued

event. An hour and a half was allotted to complete this very messy task before the room was given up to a children's birthday party. Only Mike cut himself. Twice!

The pumpkins were later displayed at the venue, the Medicine Jolly Beggars was held at the Medicine Hat Golf and Country Club. New whisky bar lasses, Taralyn Musfelt and Shelby Pavlovic, who dressed as witches for the Halloween theme, kept all well hydrated. The featured whisky at the "World-Famous Jolly Beggar's Whisky Bar" was Talisker Special Release 2023.

The sumptuous multi course meal included rack of lamb, with pumpkin pie for desert.

It proved brilliant!

The Halloween theme also went over well, as did the food (a six course meal), where I note this year we introduced a little caviar with our salmon starter. The whisky, wine, ambience and camaraderie was also spot on, and very much appreciated.

It is also clear that our custom made banquet table (right) for everyone attending to sit at together also helped to make the night a success.

Also, special thanks to Club VP John Cameron for using his personal and business (MNP) connections to have the Silver Sage Hutterite Colony at Nemiskam donate thirty (30) pumpkins for our cause. What a cultural connect!



Another new twist for this year's event was that at the break we switched the seating plan, so that after the break, everyone got to sit beside someone new. This proved to be a welcome change and was appreciated.

To the left is RBWF President and Chieftain o' the Nicht, Neil McNair being presented with his custom trencher (traditionally used to carry the Haggis). The Club is also very appreciative for the assistance and sponsorship from the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) and the BATUS Workshop for cus-



Pouring Major Andy's Athol Brose

tom making this year's presentation trenchers, and was pleased to have BATUS Commander Lt Colonel Tim Holmes attend as he is retiring mid December.

This year's event had many attendees from all over the world attend. We think a very interesting and positive cultural collaboration that Burns himself would appreciate.

To simplify and clarify our message to all, is that all we need to do as Burnsians is to show that Burns, and all his stuff can be fun, and may be enjoyed by all, and if we do that, we will succeed. To us, its that simple!



Submitted by
Ken Montgomery
Director, Canada East
With contributions from Brian
Cumming



President Rob Addresses the Cronies



The Chieftain arrives



President Inducts the new Monkeys



2023 Chieftain get's into the spirit



THE 2023-25 MHBC CLUB EXECUTIVE

Immediate Past President Andy Cowan, President Rob Cowan, Secretary Treasurer Ken Montgomery, Mathew Hill, Gaird & Chaplain and Vice President John Cameron, with our the new Poosie Nansie, Club Piper Malcolm Sissons, 2023 Chieftain, RBWF President Alan McNair and his Aide-de-Campe RCMP S/Sgt Mike Courty.

Atlanta Fall Ceilidh

What a fantastic evening we had at the Burns Club of Atlanta Fall Ceilidh on Saturday, September 30, 2023! We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who joined us for this unforgettable event. Your presence and enthusiasm made it a truly remarkable gathering. Special appreciation is due to those generous souls who donated cash and items for our silent auction. (right) Your contributions helped make the evening a resounding success. The silent auction was a lively affair, and we are grateful to Alan & Melanie Mackie for their coordination, ably assisted by Mickie McDaniell. Your support was instrumental in raising funds for the club.

The night's musical entertainment was an absolute delight, thanks to the talent of Keith Dunn and his guest guitarist, Ryan. Their spirited performance and eclectic range of Scottish and Irish music was well received. We're truly fortunate to have such gifted musicians as part of our Burns Club family.

Michael Scott's upbeat melodies on his small pipes, accompanied by Keith's fiddle playing added a distinctive Scottish touch to the event, and Michelle Bard's enchanting vocal performance transported us to the rolling hills of the Highlands. We'd like to give them a special round of applause for their wonderful contributions.



The sing-along of Scottish and Irish songs was a highlight of the evening, and we appreciate everyone who joined in to make it a memorable experience. Your voices echoed with warmth and camaraderie, capturing the spirit of the night. Even those who, on being handed the lyrics sheet, gave me a look of

incredulity or suggested that their contributions would not be welcomed, gied it laldy!

Eddie Morgan deserves a particular shout-out for his recitation of Burns' 1786 poem,

"The Twa Dogs," and his enlightening explanations of the background story. His eloquence added depth and meaning to the evening.

A big thank you goes out to Bill Tucker, the culinary wizard behind the succulent Boston Butts and mouthwatering barbecue sauces. You kept our appetites satisfied and our taste buds singing with joy.

Paul and Susan Douglas were the unsung heroes of the night, tirelessly setting up tables, organizing the buffet items, capturing photographs, and helping with cleanup. Your hard work did not go unnoticed and was greatly appreciated.



Submitted by
Mark Ferguson

Was Robert Burns Just a “Simple” Plowman?

I get tickled by the often casual use of certain adjectives which, in and of themselves are harmless, but incorrectly plants a false picture in the readers mind of a person, place or thing which, it is usually expected, should beg no further explanation. The power of words to the skillful wordsmith can be devastating or uplifting. Those words, as used by the writer, presumes the reader is intelligent enough so his definitions are understood and accurate. Words used, that are thrown out onto the page should, in one glance describe the reader accurately the idea or image of what the writer was describing. The word ‘*simple*’ came into view as potentially offensive when I was reading the flyleaf of a Burns Biography I recently purchased at a second hand bookstore. It was: *Robert Burns: A Biography with Selected Poems*.

The offending line was: “Robert Burns was born in 1759, a “simple” farmer’s son from rural Ayrshire, in Scotland.” Now, of course, Behar was doubtless referring to the elder Burns and throws out the word ‘simple’ with the casualness of an easy conversation among friends. But the word simple has so many connotations that it actually does beg further explanation.

There is enough history about the Burns family to know that neither the elder Burns nor his bairns were simple. So why use that word? Probably because the Burns family was poor meaning they had little or no personal assets. No land that wasn’t rented, no farm equipment that wasn’t leased and no funds to provide for the same. Living was a daily, frugal exercise in subsistence survival so life was hard and necessarily unencum-



bered, in other words, simple! The man who could author the world’s most famous anthem to human freedom, “A Man’s a’ Man for a’ That,” is most certainly not ‘simple’ by any description. Burns was very complex and his writings over the years drew a bewildering range of claimants. Even the Russians, through the Soviet era to today, believed Burns had to have been one of them because his poetry spoke directly to their condition.



In his expressed desire to show that all men were equal, the above mentioned poem has no equal, but it was not his last word on the subject. Burns wrote another similar poem titled: “Lines On Meeting With Lord Daer.” Lord Daer was the son of the

Earl of Selkirk and somewhat of a “poof”. But hear Burns yourself:

This wot ye all whom it concerns,
I, Rhymer Robin, alias Burns,
October twenty-third,
A ne’er to be forgotten day,
Sae far I sprachled up the brae,
I dinner’d wi’ a Lord.

I’ve been at drunken writers’ feasts
Nay, been bitch-fou ‘mang godly priests,
Wi’ rev’rence be it spoken!
I’ve even join’d the honour’d jorum,
When mighty Squireships of the quorum,
Their hydra drouth did sloken.

But wi’ a Lord!—stand on my shin;
A Lord—a Peer—an Earl’s son,
Up higher yet, my bonnet!

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Was Robert Burns Just a “Simple” Plowman? continued

And sic a Lord!—lang Scotch ells twa,
Our peerage he o'erlooks them a',
As I look o'er my sonnet.

But O for Hograth's magic pow'r!
To show Sir Bardies willart glow'r,
And how he stared and stammer'd,
When goavin, as if his led wi' branks,
An' stumpin on his plowman shanks,
He in the parlour hammer'd.

I sliding sheltered in a nook,
An' at his Lordship steal'd a look,
Like some portentous omen;
Except good sense and social glee,
An' (what surprised me) modesty,
I marked not uncommon.

I watch'd the symptoms o' the Great,
The gentle pride, the lordly state,
The arrogant assuming;
The feint a pride, nae pride had he
Nor sauce, nor state that I could see,
Mair than an honest ploughman.

Then from his lordship I shall learn
Henceforth to meet with unconcern.
One rank as well's another;
Nae honest worthy man may care
To meet with noble youthful Daer
for he but meets a brother.

Further to dispelling any notion of Burns' simplicity, a peek into his teen-age life reveals a level of intellectual confidence that

elevates him far above that easy adjective, “simple.” Few know that at age nineteen, Burns was sent by his mother to receive an education in land surveying. The surveying Master was Hugh Rodgers in the Ayrshire village of Kirkoswald who, himself enjoyed wide fame for the accuracy of his surveying abilities. At the time, due to technological advancements in surveying equipment and techniques land surveying was becoming the new fashion for potential lucrative employment.

Records show that Burns studied the art for nine months beyond his initial basic education. The surveying skills Burns learned actually served him later in his application for employment with the Kings Excise. A knowledge of measurements was essential to the excise profession. Surveying was the only professional training Burns ever received in his life. He wrote about it in his famous biographical letter to Dr. John Moore. The question is: why didn't he remain a land surveyor? Working with flax, as he also did, does not count as a profession. Interestingly, the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) awarded Robert Burns a posthumous membership at a meeting of its International Governing Council, Edinburgh, 19 November 2012.

Submitted by George McLellan

The Cameron Report



For the Winnipeg Robert Burns Club, it was the start of another year, on 21 October 2023 at our AGM, no elections were held, as all Board Members serve two year terms and were elected

last year.

We had The Match Stock Men as Entertainers, while Colin Harris, our Recording Secretary read from the works of Burns appropriate for the time (Man Was Made To Mourn). 18 November 2023, we had the Irish Cowboy entertain us with a variety of Celtic songs, a recital of Sam McGee by Robert Service. As detailed elsewhere, the local Scottish community celebrated St Andrew's weekend for the 152nd year in Winnipeg.

Robert Burns Clubs and Individuals in Canada Central remain a mystery to me as the only Club that response I have received was from Ronnie O'Byrne.

I have requested the Scottish Gentlemen's Club, of which I am a member, to entertain the possibility of becoming a Member of RBANA, but, as of writing this, have not yet heard back from them.

On the 06 November 2023 the Winnipeg Robert Burns Club received this request:

Dear Winnipeg Robert Burns Club

We recently sent you an email to invite you to be part of a public-facing digital directory of organisations around the world affiliated with Scotland.

In order to ensure that as many organisations as possible get the opportunity to be listed we have extended the deadline to 15 November 2023. This directory will be launched on scotland.org later this year, to coincide with St Andrew's Day.

As an organisation with a link to Scotland, we

would like to invite you to be a part of the directory. The directory will include your organisation or business name, a short description of your organisation's activity, and links to your website or social media channels. Anyone visiting scotland.org will then be able to find and reach out to organisations in regions around the world.

Our approach to diaspora engagement is inclusive – we welcome those with ancestry or heritage links, our educational and alumni communities, those with Scottish business links, or a wider connection to Scottish culture.

If you would like to be included in the scotland.org diaspora directory, please complete this short form by 15 November. Our privacy notice outlines data usage on our website.

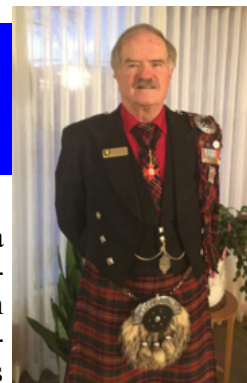
This service is free of charge and we will be reviewing the directory listings on a regular basis. If you do not wish to be included this time there will be opportunities at later dates.

We recognise that there are already many established and passionate organisations around the world who work to bring together and support these diverse Scottish communities.

If you have any questions, please contact the Scottish Connections team at diaspora@gov.scot.

Warm regards

The Scottish Connections team at the Scottish Government



The Forms have been completed and forwarded to Scotland.

Submitted by

Charles H. Cameron

President: Winnipeg Robert Burns Club
Director Central Canada for RBANA

Winnipeg Celebrates St Andrew's Day

The St Andrew's Society of Winnipeg began their 152nd celebration of St Andrew's weekend on Friday November 24 with the raising of the Saltire outside City Hall, a ceremony presided over by Mayor Scott Gillingham, who made certain to wear his Hanna tartan tie, reflecting his own Scottish roots. This was followed by the traditional haggis tasting



The Band of HMS Chippewa, a naval cadet unit, and their Prairie Sailors Combo; The Warrior Drum unit of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band, provided most of the musical enter-

tainment, with the addition of one of SASOW's Pop-Up Pipers, and Piper Cameron Dawson playing



for a highland dancer. The evening was presided over by local television news anchor Janet Stewart, and included Greetings from Manitoba's Lieutenant Governor, the Anita Neville, a SASOW Honorary Patron, Grace by First Nation's Elder Jim Bear, another Honorary Patron, and descendant of Chief Peguis, who welcomed, and assisted the original Scottish Settlers; and a welcome from outgoing President Pam Simmons. 115th President Evelyn Mitchell delivered the Toast to the Society. The Toast to Canada was delivered by SASOW Treasurer James Munro, and replied to by former City Councillor, and 113th President Jae Eadie. The main speech of the night, the reply to the **Toast to the Day An' A'**



The 152nd St Andrew's Dinner was held, at the Caboto Centre Saturday night. With the added touches, given the venue, of homemade focaccia, prior to the meal, and an Intermezzo following the salad, of a lemon gelato, the meal included all the usual elements of haggis, neeps and tatties, Angus prime rib of beef, with Yorkshire pudding, potato and vegetables, and chocolate cake with strawberry garnish.

Wha Honour It, was by Daniel McConnell, the President and CEO of the North West Company, a Winnipeg multi national retailer with

wellcomed, and assisted the original Scottish Settlers; and a welcome from outgoing President Pam Simmons. 115th President Evelyn Mitchell delivered the Toast to the Society. The Toast to Canada was delivered by SASOW Treasurer James Munro, and replied to by former City Councillor, and 113th President Jae Eadie.

The main speech of the night, the reply to the **Toast to the Day An' A'**



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Winnipeg Celebrates St Andrew's Day

roots in Canada's pre confederation fur trade. Following the Toast to King, by member Lisa Gardewine, and the transfer of the badge of office to 117th President Peter Heavysege, the evening ended with singing of Flower of Scotland, Auld Lang Syne, and God Save The King.

(It is perhaps worth noting that in addition to being the Patron Saint of Scotland, Saint Andrew holds the same status in a number of other countries, as well as three towns in Italy, Amalfi, Salerno; Pienza, Tuscany; and Sarzana, Liguria.)

The weekend ended with a service of worship at Winnipeg's First Presbyterian Church. The assembled members of the Society processed in behind Piper Matthew Owen-Hunt who played Highland Cathedral. President Heavysege delivered the first reading.



Think
Burns

South Jersey Whiskey Tasting

The South Jersey Celtic Society held its Quarterly Whiskey Tasting to a small group of Burns and Whisky enthusiasts on 18 November 2023 at Mount Holly's Train Wreck Distillery. (right) Featured were two offerings from Annandale Distillery, not currently available in the US; **Man O'Sword (after Robert the Bruce)** - 2015 OLOROSO SHERRY BUTT, and **Man O'Words (after Robert Burns)** - 2015 OLOROSO SHERRY BUTT. The other two selections were **Octomore 13.1** 59.2 ABV – 2015 Harvest from **Bruichladdich** Distillery; and **Craigellachie**, 13 Yr. Old EX-BOURBON and EX-SHERRY CASKS then finished in (French) Armannac Casks, 46% ABV. Paul Kennedy and John Adams led the session walking their guests through the nosing and tasting process after giving a short history of the Annandale Distillery and its two offerings. Following the tasting of all four whiskies, the group moved outside to enjoy a bonus dram of their favorite whisky of the day with a cigar especially selected to pair with the whiskies to the Train Wreck's fire-pit behind the distillery.



Annandale was the clear favorite whether it be the Peated Man O' Swords, or the unpeated Man O' Words. SJCS's next Scotch and Whiskey tasting is scheduled for February where they will pair a selection of Scotch and

Irish with Chocolate from our local Chocolatier in honor of Valentines



Day. This special romantic tasting will be directed to their whisky loving couples and their growing

number of "Whisky Chicks".



The RBANA Academy of Speakers

President, Paul Kennedy, and the Executive Committee of RBANA, are delighted to announce that the RBANA Academy of Speakers is now an integral part of their offering and support to Burns Clubs and the wider Burns community in North America and beyond.

The six members of the academy are renowned speakers and performers of Burns works - additional information can be accessed via RBANA website at www.rbananew.com

The RBANA Executive Committee has also changed their by-laws to accommodate the selection process of becoming a member of the Academy - and a performance code - to ensure the high standards of RBANA are established and maintained when representing the organisation around the world.

The six initial members of the RBANA Speakers Academy are:

Jane Brown: Hon Pres. RBWF Ltd, Dumfries, Scotland

Henry Cairney: Calgary Burns Club, Alberta, Canada

Andy Harrower: Medicine Hat Burns Club, Alberta, Canada

Les Strachan: RBANA, Virginia, USA

Phyl Smith: St Andrew Society of Sarasota, Florida, USA

Ronnie O'Byrne: Halton Peel International Burns Club, Ontario, Canada

