

A REPORT FROM THE MEDICINE HAT CLUB.

Where others were affected by the recent Alberta floods we are okay. The Jolly Beggars Banquet is still on.
Our 2013 CANADA DAY PR EFFORT

Well, we had fun!! Our first official `Canada Day' Haggis on a Bap booth was a hit.

Various promotional ideas were tried, including variations of the famous (Austin Powers) Fat Bastard lines and songs, and our key promoters yelling out and suggesting that haggis was the natural Viagra of Scotland. This latter sales attempt actually appeared to work. Somewhere around 10,000 people attended this event held in Medicine Hat's Kin Coulee park.

We had people from many cultural and ethnic backgrounds try us out. Of special interest was one Scottish family from Dundee who now live in Uganda and were here for vacation (however that came to be). Their young boy, about 10 or so, looked a little hesitant on trying haggis outside Scotland. He took one bite and after a second, we then asked him, well?

He slowly broke out into a big grin and then gave us a big thumbs up. We also had a large English gentlemen who asked us what the best thing to ever come out of Scotland was? His answer, `the road to England'. Be that as it may he bought four and said it was the best haggis he ever had.

We also had a lot of interest in our upcoming 2014 Burns Dinner and I believe our efforts assisted in selling off three tables of eight. We also made a profit of just short of \$400.00.



Special thanks to those involved, including Chris and Kim Gerbrandt, Craig Elder, Alex Kirk, Bill Cocks, Mathew Hill, Adolf Seiler, Kristina Shoemsmith and Brenda Montgomery. We note that where we had some HP sauce for those that wanted a little zing, a suggestion was made to get some Guinness brown sauce from the Scottish Shop in Calgary for next year.

Also, a very special thanks to Malcolm Sissons, Eric Kean and the South Alberta Pipes & Drums. Malcolm (our Club piper) made a real effort to come by on his own to play pipes for us, and the entire band arranged two special performances right in front of our booth. I note the temperature was a record 35 to 37 degrees Celsius so it was a hot one

that did take a toll. How bad was it! Instead of one bottle of water, one shot of Whisky it was two bottles of water and one shot of Whisky!

Another humorous moment was when Malcolm and Mathew made up a sign that said 'Buy one haggis on a bap and the piper will play. Buy two and he will stop'.

We definitely will be doing this again next year!

On reviewing the photos you will also see that Chris, Ken, Mathew and Craig are wearing `Utilikilts'. These light weight, casual, machine washable kilt takeoffs are made in Seattle, Washington, and are very practical and comfortable for events such as these. Different styles are available and they even come in camo. If interested check out www.utilikilts.com

Yours in Burns,
Ken Montgomery
Club Secretary

