

## Calgary Burns Club Supper 2017

The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Burns Supper was held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January in the Calgary Telus Convention Centre with 524 Members and guests in attendance.

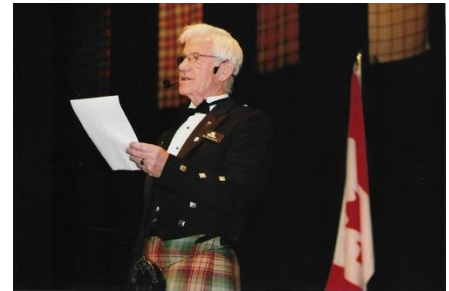
Trekker Armstrong, in his role of 1<sup>st</sup> VP and organizer of the event, acted as MC for the first part of the evening and introduced the various presentations and acts during the evening. Merv Howitt gave the Selkirk Grace and David Hood, William Lawson, Bruce Gordon and Paul Kane delivered the Removes. As part of our traditional evening, the Loyal Toast was presented by Bill Spiers.



A replica of a Robert Burns statue was provided as a take away for each table. Each of these statues takes a lot of work to produce by our dedicated club members; Tony Grace, Bill Laing, Paul Armstrong, Jim McLaughlin, Bill MacLachlan and Trekker Armstrong.

The guests were treated to some wonderful singing through the evening from Ron Pratt and the Calgary Burns Club Singers, who performed, “O Canada”, Scots Wha Hae”, “Hail Caledonia”, “Bring On The Whisky”, “Birks of Aberfeldy” and “The Star of Rabbie Burns”.

The Haggis was carried by Jim Osborne accompanied by Sword-bearers Ken Carr and Steven Campbell, and piped in by 2 members of the Calgary Police Service Pipe Band. Jamie Osborne, son of Jim Osborne, then delivered the Address to the Haggis.



In the spirit of celebrating Canada’s 150th anniversary of Confederation the supper’s program included recognition of the Scots’ contribution in making us who we are as a country. In honour of Canada’s Anniversary, the Club’s Bard Jim McLaughlin recited his poem “The Scots Who Built This Canada”. In addition, a copy of Club Life Member Jack Whyte’s “Toast to Canada” was provided to each table to take home.

During the first half, the Calgary Police Service Pipe Band entertained the guests with a selection of Scottish songs from their Pipes, Drums and Dancers.



After the interval, the head table was piped in by Club Member Kyle Scott and consisted of the Calgary Burns Club President Henry Cairney, the speaker for the evening, Willie Gibson, Gordon McCulloch, Gerry Wood and the Club’s newest Ordinary Member Don Humphreys, Edmonton Burns Club President Scott Montgomery and the President of Robert Burns Association of North America {RBANA} Colin Harris. The MC duties were then passed from Trekker Armstrong to President Henry Cairney who gave the President’s remarks.

An entertaining and unique “Immortal Memory” was then delivered by Willie Gibson who flew over from Bonnie Scotland for the event.

A humorous and engaging Toast to the Lassies was delivered by Gordon McCulloch with no lassies present to counter a reply. An emotional Toast to Absent Friends was offered by Gerry Wood followed by the song “Absent Friends” from the Singers.

Henry Cairney then gave his closing remarks and the evening concluded with the singing of “Auld Lang Syne” in a recording hauntingly led by our recently passed absent friend, Trevor Ramage.

