

Halifax Burns Club

The Halifax Burns Club's Burns Supper took place at the Delta Halifax Hotel on Saturday January 30th, 2016. A few hardy Club members met at the Burns Statue in Victoria Park in downtown Halifax on the Friday night. This year's gathering was held in a snowstorm! but they still managed to crack out a few songs before retiring for a warming 'nippie sweetie'

Our Burns Supper was a sold out event for a second year in a row, with 248 guests in attendance. During the Reception in the Bluenose Room the guests were entertained by a recital of "Tam O'Shanter" by one of the Club's long standing members, Edwin Millar. We were then piped through to the Baronet Room and called to order by our MC and past president David Glover. Club member and accomplished **Piper Ian MacIsaac** with drummer Matt Trecartin led the procession of the whisky, a fine Glenfiddich 15 year old single malt



The Club President Duncan McGregor gave the President's welcome which was followed by John Dunn giving the Toast to the Queen and all assembled singing "Oh Canada"

The piping in of the haggis was next with the "Borne Aloft" very ably completed with only minor singeing of his beard! by Joel MacNeil.

Alan Manchester performed an inspiring 'Address to a Haggis' loudly applauded by all present, he certainly did justice to 'The Great Chieftain O' the Puddin Race'

Joel MacNeil recited the Selkirk Grace and the guests sat down to a wonderful 4-course meal that included the devouring of 100lbs of Haggis!.



During the evening the guests were further entertained by **Edwin Millar**, complete with Tin Hat, Greatcoat and Lee Enfield 303, reciting "The Haggis of Private MacPhee" which while not a Burns Poem, was considered very apt as this year is the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, the setting for the poem written on Robbie Burns Day in 1916.

The Guest Speaker, a Club member and Past **President Mr. Jim Fletcher** was born and raised in "the Granite City" Aberdeen before coming to Canada at the age of 20. Jim who has a great knowledge of Burns and his works,

gave a fantastic toast to the Immortal Memory of the great Bard, Robert Burns, thoroughly enjoyed by all it was well researched and expertly delivered, very well done!



Shortly after the Immortal Memory the '**Awfiest Choir**' limbered up and delivered in fine voice to entertain the guests with a couple of songs.

A "Toast to the Guests" was delivered by Paul Roy and then our President Duncan McGregor closed out the event, giving thanks to the Burns Supper Committee, Ian Mitchell, Brent Townsend and Dougald Kennedy, plus the wonderful staff at the Delta and a special thanks to our MC David Glover for keeping us entertained and on programme as the MC for the evening. The evening was rounded out by the Awfiest Choir leading everyone in

"Auld Lang Syne" and "The Star of Robbie Burns"



The Head Table



The Gathering

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