

# Halton Peel Burns Club

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 the Halton Peel Burns Club held their 15<sup>th</sup> Burns Supper. This year we changed our pattern and returned to a catered venue, this time at the Holiday Inn Burlington. With more capacity we opened the attendance to family members and despite several members being unable to attend, due to vacationing and illness, we had attendance of 25. Our Club President Jim Steel welcomed everyone and then handed the evening over to the MC Bob Ritchie, who moved the meeting along smoothly with good humour.

Bob Ritchie piped in the Haggis followed by 'Poosi Nansie' **Doreen Ritchie** carrying the haggis and **Jim Steel** as Guard in attendance.



**Jim Cunningham** then delivered the address to the haggis in fine fashion. Rev Bob Docherty gave us the Burns Grace before dinner and later the after dinner grace. The Holiday Inn served the meal family-style, so everyone served themselves at the table. A nice touch was providing the haggis platter with pre-scooped portions, simplifying serving.



The Chief's Steak steak pie, delivered in a large Pie dish at each table, was a huge success.

Following the meal Roy Cummings gave the toast to our Twa Lands, reminding us how much the Scots had shaped Canada and cited Tommy Douglas, born in Falkirk, the 'father' of the Canadian health system, as a prime example. Ron and **Chrys Ballantyne** then gave us the toasts to the Lassies & the Response with good humour and quotes from the Bard.

The Immortal Memory was delivered by **Jean Cunningham**, noting that Burns was in effect a superstar in his time and yet contributed so much to our understanding of the human condition.



The evening continued with an informal ceilidh enjoying active participation from the members. The bawdy rendering of "Willie Brewed a Peck o' Maut" hilariously sung & 'hammed-up" by Ronnie O'Byrne, Ron Ballantyne & Vince Leahy was well received. There was no shortage of contributions

All good things have to come to an end, so we reluctantly ended the evening with a hearty Auld Lang Syne. A great time was enjoyed by all.



The 'Burns' carpet.

The Burns' door prizes

