

# Winnipeg Burns Club

It was a warmish January 25<sup>th</sup> in Winnipeg, when just under 75 members and guests of the Winnipeg Robert Burns Club assembled at the Holiday Inn Winnipeg South for the 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Burns Supper.

Club Piper Kirby McRae piped the Call to Dinner to seat the guests before piping in the Clan McLeod Society of Manitoba and the St Andrew's Society of Winnipeg, who both had once again reserved tables, and President Charles Cameron and his table.

Club Vice President Chris Halliday welcomed all assembled before calling on Colin Harris to lead the gathering in the singing of the National Anthem. Associate Club Chaplain Joyce Allen invoked the Grace Before Dinner and proposed the Toast to Absent Friends.



Following the Scotch Broth, the Haggis entered the room, as is the club's style, atop the hod (made by late President Lawrence Cormack) carried by club members **John and Colleen Allen**, piped in once again by Kirby McRae.



**Colin Harris** presented the Address to a Haggis.

After the haggis course, '**Highland Heart and Soul**', - former President **Craig Oliphant** and his eldest daughter on vocals-, with his youngest daughter, and a niece highland dancing, presented their first set of songs, followed, by the main course – a choice of either roast beef, or chicken kiev, with trifle, served family style, following as desert.

Dinner Committee member Linda Heibert then invoked the Grace After Dinner.



Following a brief interval, Compere Chris Halliday proposed the Loyal Toast and called

on Club Secretary Colin Harris to bring Greetings Frae Ither Clubs, with greetings from many clubs not heard from in past years, but only two from beyond the British Isles.



Club Member Doc Jardine proposed the Toast to Canada, using Jack Whyte's Toast to Canada for inspiration.

**Bill Christie**, Burns Club & St Andrew's Society member proposed the Toast to the Lassie's. In her reply, his wife Helen, invoked the memory of Manitoba, and Canadian suffragette Nellie McClung, just days before the centenary of the granting of the vote to women in Manitoba.



Following Highland Heart and Soul's second set, our own **Dr. Tony Grogan**, Past President of RBANA and Honorary Life Member, proposed a thought provoking, and often humorous Toast to the Immortal Memory.

President **Charles Cameron** then took the floor to thank all participants, and presented Tony with a Quaich (which he ensured was suitably filled) before Craig Oliphant led the assembly in Auld Lang Syne.

