

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings! I trust you have all survived the traditional Burns dinner season. I was privileged to attend three special events. First up was the 44th annual Calgary Burns Dinner held Friday, 24 January 2020. The Calgary Club had reduced their numbers of guests from over 700 to about 450 this year, but as usual they put on a spectacular evening. I was not only privileged to be invited to attend this function and officially represent RBANA, but to be present to support Andy Harrower, the President of the Medicine Hat Burns Club and one of our Canadian directors who presented the Immortal Memory that night, and Henry Cairney, the recycled Vice President of the Calgary Club, 2nd Vice President of the RBWF, current Vice President of RBANA and also a member of the Medicine Hat Burns Club. It was also nice to see Andy was brilliant and had the attendees on their feet.

Second, I again officially represented RBANA at the Medicine Hat Burns Club's 14th annual dinner on Saturday, 25 January 2020. Here I was privileged to also present the Immortal Memory. Probably the best one I ever heard! The Medicine Hat club had 100 guests, and where Calgary's function is men only, in Medicine Hat, significant others are also invited. Having attended many men only or mixed events I can definitely say both have merit.



My last Burn's dinner was at the Officers' Mess at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Suffield on Friday, 7 February 2020, where the British army also has a presence, as it is at this location all their tank training is done. At this function there were sixty attendees, mixed, and I was extremely impressed at the quality event that was put on. Most noteworthy was the meal. This was prepared by a British army chef, who in my opinion

went way and above what anyone could have expected. For example, the haggis served was described as 'Prairie Haggis Salad'. This was spectacular! Imagine this, a small piece of haggis is placed on a plate with three pan fried scallops on top sitting on a bed of pickled beetroot and carrot drizzled with a whisky sauce. The piece de resistance however was a single piece of crispy, or as the Brits say, streaky bacon, set on the side of the plate. Please note photograph included. With the flavours and the presentation, say no more, brilliant! Here we have an excellent example of what one can do when we think outside the box. I also note you don't have to have a large event to have a successful event.



Moving on, I am very excited about our upcoming AGM in Atlanta. I am very aware that the Atlanta Burns Club and our AGM Committee are going out of their way to host a spectacular event and I look forward to attending. I of course encourage all of our members to be there as it will be quite an experience.

<http://www.rbana.org/2020-conference-atlanta/>

I also note that we will be suggesting some major changes to our Constitution & Bylaws at this AGM, the primary reason being to better clarify that we have something to offer and why we are a worthy organization to be part of. We also hope to better identify and clarify organizational responsibilities so we can better move forward. If you have not yet received a draft, you will be soon. I also look forward to you comments as I want all our members on board with this.

Anyway, that's it for now. See you in Atlanta.

Yours in Burns,
Ken Montgomery
President