



2017 RBANA AGM & CONFERENCE 28-30 APRIL 2017 – MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA, CANADA

The Medicine Hat Burns Clubs is proud and very pleased to be hosting the 2017 RBANA AGM. Anyone who has previously attended a Jolly Beggars Banquet or annual Burns dinner celebration here in Medicine Hat can confirm that the Medicine Hat gang puts on a first class show. We intend to do so again. Also, where we promise to host a very special event we also note that with the exchange rate of the US/Canada dollar this is a very economical getaway for our US members.

The name "Medicine Hat" is the English translation of *Saamis* (SA-MUS) – the Blackfoot word for the eagle tail feather headdress worn by medicine men – or "Medicine Hat". Several legends are associated with the name from a mythical mer-man river serpent named *Soy-yee-daa-bee* – the Creator – who appeared to a hunter and instructed him to sacrifice his wife to get mystical powers which were manifest in a special hat. Another legend tells of a battle long ago between the Blackfoot and the Cree in which a retreating Cree "Medicine Man" lost his headdress in the South Saskatchewan River.

A number of factors have always made Medicine Hat a natural gathering place. Before Europeans arrived, the Blackfoot, Cree and Assiniboine nations used the area for hundreds of years. The gently sloping valley with its converging waterways and hardy native cottonwood trees attracted both humans and the migratory bison herds which passed through the area.

In 1883, the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) stopped to build a bridge across the South Saskatchewan River and a tent town was born. With the arrival of the railroad came the Northwest Mounted Police. They maintained law and order among the railway workers and First Nation's people of the area and made Medicine Hat a law-abiding town.

In the CPR's search for water, their drills accidentally struck gas west of the town, heralding the exploration that mapped out one of the largest gas fields in North America,

and Medicine Hat later being immortalized by Rudyard Kipling as having "all hell for a basement". Because of these reserves the city is also known as "The Gas City".

Medicine Hat is a city of 63,000 plus people located in southeast Alberta, Canada. It is approximately 295 kilometers (183 miles) southeast of Calgary and 149 kilometers (93 miles) from the nearest US border crossing at Sweet Grass, Montana.

We encourage those attending from outside Alberta to consider making attendance at this event part of a vacation getaway as this is a perfect opportunity to take in a visit to the Rocky Mountains and Banff or the world famous Royal Tyrell Museum of Palaeontology at Drumheller.

Our base hotel for the 2017 function is the Clarion Inn & Conference Centre located at 954-7th Street SW, Medicine Hat. Reservations can be made by going to guestservices@clarionmh.ca or calling 1.403.527-8844 and referring to RBANA 2017.

Registration fees are expected to be about \$150.00 per person. This includes tickets for the Friday night Meet n' Greet & Ceilidh and the 2017 RBANA AGM Banquet,