



The Robert Burns Association of North America



RBANA 11th Annual Poetry Competition 2026

The **Jack Hume Heather & Thistle Trophy** is awarded annually for writing poetry in the style of Robert Burns. Jack Hume, who passed away a few years ago, was the founder of the Heather & Thistle Burns Club and a staunch supporter of RBANA. This is the eleventh year that the trophy will be presented for the competition, and entries are invited under the following rules and conditions:

- Entries should be submitted by email to:
rbanasecretary2026@gmail.com
- The deadline for entries is **Tuesday 31st March 2026**
- Poems submitted must be original and not previously published.
- Only RBANA members in good standing are eligible to win the trophy.
- Entries from non-RBANA members will be judged by the panel but are not eligible to win the trophy.
- The winner will be chosen by a three-member panel, consisting of Steve Newman, Associate Professor in the English Department at Temple University, Jim McLaughlin, a frequent winner of the competition and life member of Calgary Burns Club, and the 2025 Jack Hume Trophy winner Henry Cairney, Past President of RBANA and RBWF and life member of Calgary Burns Club. Entries will be submitted to the panel anonymously, and the panel's decision will be final.
- The winner will be announced at the 2026 AGM and Conference in Edmonton Alberta in June 2026.
- This trophy is awarded annually, and the winner is responsible for returning the trophy to the RBANA Secretary or President prior to the following year AGM & Conference.

Brian Cumming, RBANA Senior Vice President

Revised January 24, 2026