

President's Seasons Greetings, December 2011

*The lazy mist hangs from the brow of the hill
Concealing the course of the dark-winding rill;
How languid the scenes, late so sprightly, appear!
As Autumn to Winter resigns the pale year.*

*The forests are leafless, the meadows are brown,
And all the gay foppery of summer is flown:
Apart let me wander, apart let me muse,
How quick Time is flying, how keen Fate pursues!
Robert Burns: The Lazy Mist*



This is the time of year when we remember. Memories flood our thoughts.

Some are full of joy. Some bring hurt and pain. Such it is to be human!

2011 has been no exception. The anticipation of the RBANA Conference, hosted by the Winnipeg Club was somewhat dampened by the flooding problems in Manitoba.

The deaths of Jock Smith and his wife Donna brought sadness to our gathering.

How we missed his enthusiasm and joyful presence.

It was not much later that the death of our Past President Frank Campbell again saddened our hearts. Personally I am grateful for their encouragement. Their memory, for me, is an ever present echo of our organization.

I trust you are aware of the planning for the RBANA 2012 Conference, in beautiful Virginia in the coming Spring. Do check out all the information elsewhere on this website.

I look forward to seeing you, renewing friendships and making new ones.

We Burnsians are a wonderful family sharing so much knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Burns and his works.

I am happy to report the re-instatement to membership of the Scottish Society of Santa Barbara CA, but regret the loss of the Parry Sound Robbie Burns Supper group, due to the intransigence of their local venue.

Soon we will all be in fine fettle as we look forward to the January 25th and all the Burns Suppers that entails.

Wishing everyone a joyous Christmas and Happy, healthy New Year,

Chris Ballantine