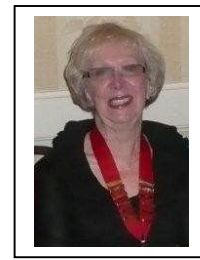


President Blog Fall 2011



Summer is past, Fall is upon us and all the activities that will follow in the next year where we Burnsians have opportunity to meet share and become involved.

I am happy to inform you that the 2012 RBANA conference will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia. In response to the criteria set by the association's executive, namely that the venue be an attractive destination, can be readily accessed by "Train, Plane & Automobile" and at an appropriate time of year, taking account of climate etc.

The conference committee, Jim Cunningham {Convener}, Jean Cunningham {Secretary}, with myself {Chair} & Ron Ballantyne {Treasurer} visited Williamsburg in early July and following some serious constructive negotiations with a number of hotels have contracted with the Hospitality Inn, for the 27th, 28th, & 29th April 2012.

Byron Adams an independent member and former RBANA director, resident in Virginia, will be our "man on the ground". Leslie Strachan has also volunteered to be involved in that capacity.

Needless to say, I am excited. The notification will be on the website as details are confirmed.

The reception of the announcement at the Robert Burns World Federation Conference in Peebles was very positive and we expect a goodly number will join us.

The Conference in Peebles was very well attended and was the highlight of our trip to Scotland. At the Federation AGM, a moment of silence was held for Frank Campbell, Jock Smith & Donna his wife. There were 16 Canadian delegates; Calgary, Winnipeg, Niagara Falls, and Halton Peel were well represented.



David Baird Installs the new President Jim Sheilds



The formal dinner on Saturday Night at Peebles Hydro

The weather was indeed cool but thankfully little heavy rain while we were there. Our vacation took us from Glasgow to Nairn, then to Banchory, South to Lanark and on to Ayrshire.

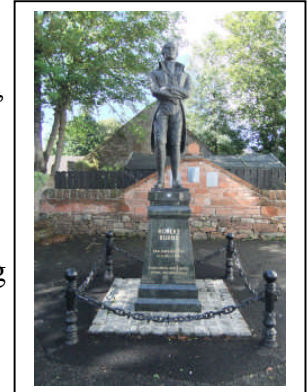


We visited the Cairn at Leglen wood, where we met a visiting group from Kyle Academy. The following day we visited the New Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway, then spent some time in Ayr.

We made our way South, visiting the recently erected statue in New Cumnock, at the Mary Morrison Memorial Garden, then on to Dumfries, where we enjoyed a wonderful overnight at Friars Carse Hotel, before making our way to Peebles the next day.

It is by our attending such gatherings that we feel very much part of the world wide Burns family.

It brings a sense of belonging and friendships are developed and nurtured.





The Leglen Wood Cairn.
The new Gates were donated by the Calgary Burns Club

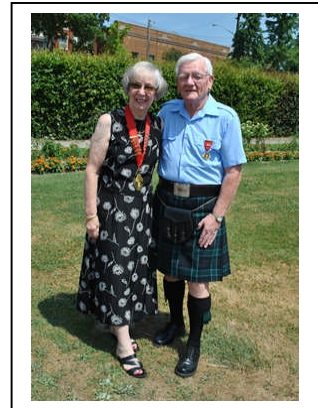


Friars Carse Hotel the former residence of Burns friend
Captain Robert Riddell

Back on 24th July a number of members of the Halton Peel Burns Club gathered with Mr John Little and several members of the former Bonnie Doon Burns Club. We met at the Gage park in Hamilton ON for a service of remembrance at the Cairn which was erected there in 1984. The service was conducted by Rev. Dr. Francis Chisholm who officiated at the inaugural dedication. It was noted that the cairn was in need of some maintenance and Duncan Beattie offered to approach the authorities about it.



John Little &
Dr. Francis Chisholm
at the cairn.



Chrys with RBANA
Past President
Jim Cunningham
alongside the cairn.

I wish you and your various clubs and associates an active, meaningful season.
Do mark you calendar for April 2012.

See you in Williamsburg

Happiness is but a name,
Make content and ease thy aim,
Ambition is a meteor-gleam;
Fame, an idle restless dream;

Lines Written In Friars'-Carse Hermitage; 1788 R. Burns

Chrys Balladyn