

## **Burns Statue In Fredericton, New Brunswick**

Quite by coincidence the RBANA President Chrys Ballantyne chose a photo of the Fredericton statue of Robert Burns as the feature on her Seasons Greeting sent to RBANA members and Burnsian friends World Wide.

In 2008 the statue had been removed for cleaning and repair, which has been done, but the pedestal was discovered to be compromised due to the repeated flooding from the St John River, on the bank of which the statue has stood for 100 years.

A recently elected City Council had decided they would not pay for the rework and necessary relocation of the pedestal and statue and suggested it was up to the Scottish community to provide the funding for the maintenance of this work of art.

The local Scottish Community had been lobbying for 3 years to have the statue remounted but were having no success. With the latest Council decision they were “up-in-arms” about the failure to acknowledge their responsibilities. The appeals were fronted by Daniel Taylor past President of the New Brunswick's Scottish Cultural Association. This man was also responsible for persuading the Canadian Government to finally declare April 6<sup>th</sup> as Tartan Day.



Daniel sent out an appeal to Scottish Cultural Associations to support their pleas to the Fredericton Council.

Your Secretary, Ron Ballantyne, was asked by President Chrys and the RBANA executive to respond to this appeal and there was ongoing communication.

Since the image of the statue had been sent far and wide, weeks previously, Ron sent the same greetings card to each of the Councilors, pointing out the ridiculous situation they had created in the eyes of the world. This information was passed by Daniel to the local press and TV and there was a flurry of attention given to the issue.

On January 12<sup>th</sup> Mr & Mrs .J.K. Irving, came forward and generously offered to provide the funds to complete the re-mounting of the statue.

Dan Taylor sent a letter of appreciation to RBANA for the support they received.

The news items relating to the issue can be accessed at:-

<http://dailygleaner.canadaeast.com/cityregion/article/1357687>

<http://dailygleaner.canadaeast.com/cityregion/article/1369522>