

Jim Cunningham: as Guest Speaker in Maryland Caroline County Council for the Arts 9th Annual Burns Supper

Jim Cunningham is a former President of RBANA. He and Jean his wife are members of both The Robert Burns Society of Doon and The Halton Peel Burns Club

Jim & Jean Cunningham provided the following report on their visit :-

It was a pleasure and an honour to be invited to propose the Toast to The Immortal Memory at the 9th Annual Burns Night Supper, of the Caroline County Council of the Arts in Maryland USA.

Jim and Elina MacPherson were our hosts for the weekend and a good time was had by all. Jim is Immediate Past President of the Arts Council and a very learned Burnsian. They are regular attendees at RBANA Conferences.

80 guests attended the supper in Denton Country Club. We were the only “native born” Scots in the room. It was a pleasure and inspiring to see and hear the poems and songs of the Bard performed and celebrated by non-Scots. It again showed that the works of Robert Burns are truly international.

The Chairman for the evening was, The Arts Council President, Rob Honer, who did an admirable job in keeping the evening moving along and on time.

Mike McCarty gave a presentation and poem on “Longfellow looks at Burns”.

Jim MacPherson Jr. gave the “Selkirk Grace”. He certainly is following in his father’s footsteps. “The Address to The Haggis”, was a fine presentation, given by Cdr. Andy Mackel, USN, Ret. Husband and wife, Drs. Eugene and Abigail McNish, gave a very humorous “Toast to The Lassies and Reply”. At least they were married at the start of the Toast!!!!

Piper Randy Welsh played for the entry of the Haggis and throughout the evening.

Various, Burns songs and poems were presented throughout the evening.

“Auld Lang Syne” brought the evening to a close. Everyone in attendance agreed that it was a very enjoyable evening and are looking forward to their 10th Burns Supper next year.



Jim Cunningham