

## President's Blog.

In the year 2000 I attended a Robert Burns Conference in London Ontario, and left inspired and determined to be part of such an exciting organization.

I never thought that 10 years later I would be honoured to be elected President.

Having attended most of the intervening conferences within the last 10 years and talking to many of the last past Presidents I am aware of both the honour and the responsibility.

RBANA has elected a new enthusiastic executive team. At a brief committee meeting we defined the challenges we face and will endeavour to fulfill during our mandate.

There is no doubt that communication is essential and in this electronic age the distances in North America are vast so we need to harness the Internet and possibly Facebook for our purposes.

Jock Smith was instrumental in the formation of our website and now Ron Ballantyne has taken over as the administrator.

To meet once a year is certainly wonderful as we do enjoy the fellowship and knowledge of other Burnsians whom we have come to know and appreciate, however it is essential that we keep in contact throughout the year so that the President and the committee do not function in a vacuum.

To achieve this we must make greater use of the website to communicate and disseminate information.

It is no surprise that many of our members are in their senior years so the challenge of encouraging new members and clubs is of paramount importance. Tony Grogan & Don Rennicks in Canada and Kathleen McGlew and Jock Smith in the US have taken on the responsibility to pursue this while also contacting Clubs whose membership has lapsed.

An interest was expressed that RBANA have an identifying badge of our own. Robert Boyd is coordinating this and he should be contacted with design ideas.

The Tattler and the RBANA Bulletin prior to it has been an integral part of communications over many years and contributed greatly to our organization. Frank Campbell and Colin Harris will continue to produce this which will be published on the website. In the past only one copy was sent to the secretary of each club, and that tended to limit its distribution.

By publishing on the website every member with internet access can open it and download a copy if desired. It is hoped that clubs can arrange to provide prints for those who do not have Internet access, which should greatly improve communication with the membership

Frank Campbell proposed at the AGM that proper financial fiscal responsibility be followed and a detailed financial statement be presented at the AGM.

As you will appreciate this is an enthusiastic committee at your service, and I appeal to our member clubs and members to please become an active participant to make this organization grow and prosper.

It is crucial that clubs come forward to host future Conferences particularly for the years 2012 (USA) -2013(Canada) & 2014 (USA).

Next year the conference will be hosted by Winnipeg and it is hoped there will be a broad representation from member clubs.

Quotation: *Then catch the moments as they fly,  
And use them as ye ought , man:  
Believe me, happiness is shy,  
And comes not aye when sought, man.*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cheryl Ballantyne". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.