

The RBANA Tattler



A periodic publication of the Robert Burns Association of North America. Sept. 2009

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The Robert Burns Association of
North America.
Club # 1024
Affiliated with the Robert Burns
World Federation Ltd.
Kilmarnock. Scotland.

THINK
BURNS

Presidential Ponderings and Prognostications.

Follow Me.

*Follow me across the wide, wide ocean,
Follow me to where it meets the sand,
And I'll show you a place that I've dreamt of
all my days –
Follow me to Bonnie Scotland.*

*Follow me to where the heather blossoms,
Come and see the beauty of the Isles,
Where the eagle flies high and you'll hear the seagull cry.
Follow me, come follow me. (Anon)*

And you did just that!

Some 27 delegates and guests traveled from North America to Edinburgh to attend the AGM and Conference of The Robert Burns World Federation.



The North American contingent.

The Heather and Thistle Society

“Geàrd Mille Failte”

“One Hundred Thousand Welcomes”

This age old Gaelic greeting is a timeless expression of Scottish hospitality and goodwill.

We can't think of a better way to welcome you to the Houston Heather and Thistle Society
56th Annual Burns Supper.

This year's Burns Supper presented particular difficulties for Jim Monteith and his committee. There were contractual issues with the hotel and because of the economy ticket sales were a problem. Jim's team rose to the challenge and the event was voted one of the best ever. About 450 attended and had a great time. Thanks to Jim Monteith for his efforts and to all who helped. Thanks also to our performers Charles McKay, Charles Wharton and of course RSCDS, Houston Highlanders, St. Thomas Episcopal Pipe band and dancers and Hugh Morrison and friends. We are already working on next year.

Burns Statue presented to the Society at the Burns Supper.

We had a most pleasant surprise at this year's supper when Lance Davis, an Australian residing in Scotland, presented the Society with a beautiful statuette of Robert Burns in the size and style of an Oscar. After some digging around, we have established that Lance and his friend Dave Stuebener with their wives and guests have been attending our event for the last ten years or so. Andrew Drysdale, a friend of Lance's runs a foundry in Scotland, one of the last, and found a pattern for the statuette dating back to the 1840s, and when he heard of the 250th Anniversary event he cast the piece and gifted it to Lance for us. We have decided that it will be given at each year's supper to the organizing chairperson, and Jim Monteith is the well deserving first recipient.

Thanks so much to those who were responsible for this handsome gift.

Burns Club a Hoot in their Annual Performance.

Modesty forbids me to claim that the Burns Club show at last month's meeting was of a high standard, but we certainly had fun doing it, and judging by the reaction of the audience of over 40 members and guests present they enjoyed it too. There were particular compliments about the acting this year:- lots of action! Thanks to Jack Hume and the group for their efforts putting this on once again.

The Heather and Thistle Society of Houston Texas

What's in a Name

Halton/Peel Burns Club. How it Began

In January 2000, Jack Jackson, who was an individual member of the Robert Burns World Federation, had the idea of forming a local Burns Club. He approached his friends Jim & Janet Orwin as possible members and Janet agreed to act as Secretary during the start up phase.

The World Federation advised that there was a Niagara Falls Canada Burns Club, but none in the Greater Toronto Area. Jack, his wife May, Jim, and Janet were invited to a Niagara Falls Club meeting in February by May Crawley who was also Past President of what is now the Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA).

Around the same time Chrys Ballantyne met Bill Molloy, a member of the Niagara Falls Club, at a Strathclyde University Alumni Ceilidh. She mentioned to Bill that she would love to join a Burns Club but there was none in the area.

Bill was aware of the contact from Jack Jackson and said he would ask May Crawley to have Jack contact Chrys. They met for lunch at the Queen's Head Pub in Oakville in February, to discuss the idea of a local Burns Club and assess what each other's ideas were as to its structure and organization.

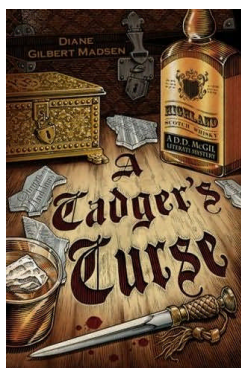
An inaugural meeting was held on March 17th 2000 at the home of Jack and May Jackson in Mississauga, with Jim & Janet Orwin and Chrys & Ron Ballantyne. These six constituted the founding members.

It was decided that the Club should meet monthly on the last Friday of each month except during the summer. At the first regular meeting of the Club at Chrys & Ron's home on April 28th 2000 two additional members joined. At that meeting it was decided to adopt the name Halton/Peel for the club, as the members were drawn from the Halton & Peel Regions.

Jack was appointed President, Chrys as Vice President, Janet as Secretary and Ron as Treasurer.

Jack, Chrys & Ron attended the RBANA conference in London in June of 2000 and following that event resolved the Club should become members of RBANA and Robert Burns World Federation. The Club has since then been represented at almost all subsequent RBANA conferences and in 2009 we were the host Club. The Club has grown to be an active and stimulating fellowship of Burnsians, now meeting in a commercial office with extensive audio/visual facilities, which greatly enhances presentations.

Editors note: The Halton/Peel Burns Club is a thriving entity with a most energetic membership and everyone of these members take some part in each meeting.



A Cadgers Curse

(The first book in the
D.D. McGil Literati Mystery series)
A novel by

[Diane Gilbert Madsen](http://www.dianegilbertmadsen.com)



Our newest member of Robert Burns Association of North American has written a new and exciting mystery novel.

Contact her at diane@dianegilbertmadsen.com

Continued on Page 4

A CADGER'S CURSE - THE ROBERT BURNS SECRET

[Midnight Ink](#)

November 2009

A Cadger's Curse – The Robert Burns Secret takes you from an exciting incident in Robert Burns life in the 1700's to Chicago in the 21st Century. The past meets the present when an artifact worth millions is uncovered. Is it real or is it faked? And who would kill for it? And how is it all connected to the problems at HI-Data and to DD McGill's dead fiancé?

Attention all Clubs. Wanted immediately.

Sponsors for upcoming Annual Meetings.

Contact Secretary Jean Cunningham.

Presidential Ponderings (Cont.)

"Homecoming Scotland" 2009 will be a year to remember for years to come.

Over 350 Delegates and guests from far and wide attended the conference, in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland.



On the Friday evening the First Minister of Scotland, Rt. Hon Alex Salmond

held a reception at the National Gallery. What a wonderful venue! What a wonderful reception!

In his remarks in the printed information brochure Alex said this

"It is a remarkable testimony to the power of Robert Burns, that in the 250th anniversary year of his birth, this conference gathers in Edinburgh to honour him. The universal and timeless appeal of his words has spoken to hearts and minds down through the generations, regardless of background or beliefs. His wit, compassion and integrity is recognized by those from Ayrshire to Argentina and his vast and brilliant work provides inspiration

for millions of people across the globe."

On Saturday morning the AGM was held at the President Suite in Murryfield Stadium with an overwhelming attendance. The exchanging of the 'Chains of Office' is always an inspiring occasion with William Dawson passing the Chain of Office to Michael Duguid. The office holders for the ensuing year are.

Michael Duguid, President.

David Baird, Senior Vice-President and
Jim Shields, Jr, Vice-President.



The co-ordination of this conference was pioneered by the late Harry McGuffog, and what a splendid effort. Towards the end the committee took over and May McGuffog continued with Harry's work. A noble deed. A man sadly missed.

Shirley Bell the CEO of the Federation, a friend of RBANA, a friend of everyone resigned her post for retirement at the end of the Conference. She too will be highly missed.





Top to Bottom: Jim O'Lone, Australia with RBANA President Frank Campbell. 2. Winner of Robert Burns Single malt.3.National Gallery 4.Jim and Jean Cunningham 5.Eileen & Jim Robertson 6.Nancy & Leslie Strachan 7. May & Alex. Crawley. 8. Frank Campbell with Shirley Bell. 9.Frank with Colin Harris ("the long & short of it") 10. Leslie with Chrys & Ron Ballantyne 11 The Scott Monument. Princess St. Edinburgh, 12 Chrys Ballantyne & Bill Dawson, {The Naysmith portrait is behind them.} 13 Feeding time for Angus & Tracy Middleton.



The Kilt

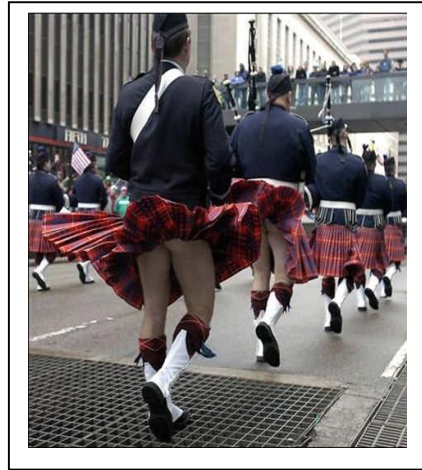
An embarrassing question has often been asked
That has plagued mankind doon thru the years
This query's been known to make Englishmen blush
And move monie a lassie tae tears.
It's a subject there's great speculation about
And has even caused blood to be spilt
It's hotly debated to this very day
Pray tell what's worn under the Kilt?

When you see the proud kilties march in parade
To the skirl o' the pipes and the drums
Are you seized by the urge just to sneak a wee peek.
And see if it covers his bum?

*Would it fill you wi' guilt if you tilt up his kilt
And get caught in the act by the Vicar
Or would it be worth it to really find out
If he wore jockey shorts or wee knickers?*

*And even the queen while inspecting the troops
Said "Dear Phillip I hate to sound 'glaikit'
But is it quite true that beneath their tutus
The poor darlings are stark raving naked?"*

*So when asked if there's anything worn 'neath the kilt
Whether up North or South of the Border
The answer my dears is that nothing is worn
Everything's in fine working order!*



*The Tartan day parade in New York
The subway revelations!*

Down wi' trousers and up wi' kilts.

Four distinguished looking retired RCAF vets are walking down the street window-shopping. Then they turn a corner and see a sign that says "Veterans Bar" over the doorway of an entry into an establishment that doesn't look all that well kept up. They look at each other then go in. On the inside, they realize in this case, they could judge the book by its cover.

The old bartender says in a voice that carries across the room, "Come on in and let me pour one for you! What'll it be, gentlemen?" There seems to be a fully stocked bar so the men all ask for a martini. In short time the bartender serves up 4 iced martinis - shaken not stirred and says, "That'll be 40 cents for the round, please." The four men stare at the bartender for a moment then look at each other - they can't believe their good luck. They pay the 40 cents, finish their martinis and order another round.

Again, four excellent martinis are produced with the bartender again saying, "That's 40 more cents, please." They pay the 40 cents but their curiosity is more than they can stand. They've each had two martinis and so far they've spent less than a dollar. Finally one of the men says, "How can you afford to serve martinis as good as these for a dime a piece?"

The bartender replies, "No doubt you've noticed the décor in here. And the outside ain't nothin' to write home about. I don't waste money on that stuff. But, here's my story. I'm a retired Sergeant Flight Engineer from the Canadian Air Force and I always wanted to own a bar.

Last year I hit the lottery for \$25 million and decided to open this place for real veterans. Every drink costs a dime, wine, liquor, beer, all the same."

"Wow. That's quite a story." says one of the men. The four of them sipped at their martinis and couldn't help but notice three other guys at the end of the bar who didn't have a drink in front of them and hadn't ordered anything the whole time they were there. One man finished his martini and, gestured at the three at the end of the bar without drinks and asks the bartender, "What's with them?"

The bartender says, "Oh, those guys are retired Scottish fighter pilots. They're waiting for happy hour."

From scenes like this, old Scotia's
 grandeur springs
That makes her luv'd at home, rever'd
 abroad
Princes & Lords are but the breath of
 King
'An honest mans' the noblest work of
 God'

Here's a bottle and a honest friend!
 What wad ye ask for mair, man?
Wha kens, before this life may end,
What his share may be o' care, man?.

Then catch the moments as they fly
 And use them as ye ought, man!
 Believe me, happiness is shy,
And come not ay when sought, man!

Wee sleekit cowerin' tim'rous beastie
 O, what panics in thy breastie!
 Thou need not run away sae hasty
 Wi' bickerin' brattle!
I wad be laith to rin and chase thee,
 Wi' murderin' prattle.

RBANA Tattler
2608 Waterford Way
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News Flash: RBANA
welcomes a new Club.
"The Burns Club of St.
Andrew"
From Florida.

"While wins from off Ben Lomond
 blaw,
And bar the doors wi' driven snaw,
 Ad hinge us owre the ingle,
 I set me down tae pass the time
 Ad spin a verse or twa o' rhyme
 Kin hamely westlin jingle:
While frosty winds blaw in the drift,
 Ben to the chimla lug,
I grudge a wee the great folks gift
 That live sae bien a' snug:
 I tent less, and want less
 Their roomy fireside
 But hanker, and canker,
To see their cursed pride."

