



The Tattler

Autumn Edition

Words from the President

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The Robert Burns Association of North America
 Club #1024

Affiliated with the Robert Burns World Federation Ltd

Greetings to all members of RBANA. I hope you all had a great Summer. Certainly the weather in our part of North America was very pleasant.



It seems a long time now since our AGM at Niagara Falls, and a lot of water has gone over those falls since then.

It was agreed at the AGM that, if RBANA could afford it, we should contribute \$500 to the World Federation President's appeal for donations to reduce the Federation's financial deficit. Your executive decided that we were in the financial position to make the donation, and I had the pleasure of handing the Sterling equivalent of \$500 to retiring president Bob Stewart at the end of the AGM in Glasgow on September 7th. This donation brought the total collected to just short of the 10,000 GBP target set by President Bob. On hearing this, I suggested that, if any gentleman happened to have a "skip bunnet" with him, we could pass it round to see if we could reach the target. No bunnet was available, but two ladies present made donations which brought the total up to the target figure. Weel done the lassies !!

On Sunday September 8th, we were taken by bus to Glasgow Cathedral for our Annual Service. A truly inspiring service in a truly inspiring pre-reformation cathedral.

I know that "Tattler" editor Colin has his report & photos of the Glasgow AGM so I don't want to be repetitive & steal his thunder.

On the next day, Monday, I was invited by our new Federation President to visit the Globe Inn in Dumfries where she entertained me to lunch. After a tour of the Globe Inn, we were joined by Federation Past President, David Baird and we walked past Burns' house to St. Michael's Church where Jane laid a wreath on Burns' tomb in the mausoleum before she left us to catch a bus to Glasgow to go on a Portugese holiday with her family.

Two weeks later, I caught up with President Jane again, this time in Medicine Hat, Alberta, where we were both guests of the Medicine Hat Robert Burns Club - the newest members of RBANA - at their "Jolly Beggars Banquet".

This is a young & very active club in which the British Forces appear

In This Issue	
President's Message.....	1
Glasgow 2013.....	3
Medicine Hat	5
Year of the Haggis.....	6
President Joins Council	7

Words from the President continued

to be strongly represented as they have a training base in the area. In fact, I recognized some elements of Mess Nights during the dinner during which, President Jane & I were inducted as "Honorary Cronies" & were made members of "The Order of the Monkey". I was impressed by the number of functions they hold during the year & the enthusiasm they have for Burns.

I was a bit hampered during my address to them by an acute attack of laryngitis, but managed to get my message over to the company and found them very keen to attend next year's AGM in Columbia and they are seriously considering hosting an AGM in "The Hat" in the near future.

Earlier in the summer, Vice President Robert Boyd of the Houston, TX, Club was in touch with me, telling me that they are holding their Burns Supper in July to celebrate Burns' death instead of his birth. This, in fact, goes back to the earliest Burns Suppers which for the first eight years of their existence were held on or about the

anniversary of his death. For those of us who belong to more northerly clubs, this might mean a better attendance at our suppers as the weather would not prevent many attending. Better still, why not celebrate both dates? In Winnipeg, we have a memorial service at the Burns statue near July 21st. Should we think of a more formal function?

I have also heard from the Winter Texans with plans for a still larger Burns Supper for the third annual supper at the Llano Grande Lake Park in Mercedes, TX. Perhaps this year I will be able to persuade them to become members of RBANA.

Well, the season for meetings is starting up again, & I wish you all a successful season. Enjoy your meetings, & above all, your Burns Suppers.

Yours in Burns,
Tony Grogan.

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Regular visitors to the overseas Federation Conference will be aware that the Federation Shop is the place to buy Burns and Federation related material. From books to table napkins, a whole range of items are regularly available throughout Conference weekend. What North American Burnsians may be less familiar with is the Burns Shop page on the new, improved Federation website.

A recent visit to the website found a dozen different categories of merchandise, from badges to DVDs & CDs. Among the 32 books for sale are some non-

Burns, but still Scottish related offerings, including a small cookbook and history books for children.

Also available are ties for the men, and scarves and pashminas for the ladies, as well as jewelry, and gifts. With Burns Supper season coming, you might be interested in the tableware, be they placemats or place cards, napkins or menu cards, there is even a Burns Federation mug.

Likely, however, of most interest to North Americans, concerned with the cost of postage, you can pay for next year's membership on-line.

The Federation uses Paypal for its online transactions.

Federation Meets In Glasgow

The Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow was the venue for this year's Burns Federation Conference held the first weekend of September. Whether arriving through the front door, overlooking Hope St, (right) or directly from the attached Central Station, having arrived by train, guests were greeted by an efficient and hospitable staff. It truly was a "grand" hotel.

Those Burnsians who arrived on Thursday were able to take in the President's Gathering, a welcome innovation by Chief Executive Allison Tate and the indefatigable Corinne Buivenga at Federation Headquarters. The evening consisted of a six round quiz, interspersed with entertainment from the participants. The quiz, much like a British Pub Quiz event, was for teams of five, most of whom, because of the setup of the room, faced a second team round the second table, (but nobody cheated – I hope).

Though the winning team was a formidable one, of Ayrshire Presidents, including past Federation President Angus Middleton, "The Foreigners" a team consisting of RBANA stalwarts, and Federation Directors May Crawley and Leslie Strachan, and their spouses, and Tattler Editor Colin Harris, finished in a tie for third overall, and won the General Knowledge round.

Friday provided an opportunity to renew auld acquaintance, and make new ones at the Welcome Dinner and Ceilidh. This of course after shopping on nearby Buchanan Street, or a walk along the Clyde, or whatever.

The highlight of the Friday night dinner was a condensed presentation of "Clarinda, The Musical" with stars Mark Kydd and Michelle Bruce.

The Federation's AGM was held Saturday morning, where a new executive was elected. It was confirmed that Ronnie O'Byrne of the Halton Peel Burns Club will succeed May Crawley as Canadian Director of the Federation. Also at the AGM outgoing President Robert Stewart presented the Federation's highest honour of Honorary President to three long-time members, George and Enez Anderson and a

"speechless" former Chief Executive Shirley Bell.



A tour of Glasgow from a double decker bus was arranged for the afternoon, in two shifts, the first occurring concurrently with the excellent seminar by Helena Anderson Wright and Irene Furneaux, of the Enlightened Burns project on the connections between Burns and anti-slavery campaigner Elizabeth Kemble.

Also, the Mitchell Library opened its Burns Collection for any delegates who wished to visit. The

Saturday Dinner & Dance began, as is customary with the inauguration and the passing of the chain of office to new President Jane Brown, the popular manageress of the Globe Inn in Dumfries.

Sunday morning, those delegates not rushing off home, were transported to Glasgow Cathedral for the service of worship.

Following the return to the hotel delegates prepared to return to their homes, or continued their vacation in other parts of Scotland.



L—R Past Presidents George & Enez Anderson; May Crawley, Shirley Bell, Alex Crawley

Photo used with kind permission of RBWF

Federation Meets In Glasgow (Continued)



President Jane Brown received the Chain of Office from Past President Bob Stewart



The spectacular ballroom that was the venue for the banquets and AGM, before Saturday night banquet.

Photo by Ann Cromack (Izat Photography) for RBWF Ltd



Above: The dynamic duo—Chief Executive Alison Tait with new President Jane Brown

Below: RBANA President Tony Grogan

Photos by Ann Cromack (Izat Photography) for RBWF Ltd



The colourful ballroom ceiling blue one evening red the next.

Photo by Ann Cromack (Izat Photography) for RBWF Ltd



President Jane Visits Medicine Hat



L to R RBANA President Tony Grogan; Cpl Sean Chittendon, ADC to the President; RBWF President Jane Brown; Maj. Les McCulloch, Hon Member; Bill Cocks, Club Gaird & Chaplain; Ken Montgomery, Club Secretary



The Medicine Hat Burns Club, RBANA's newest member club, located 3 hours south east of Calgary, had the honour of newly installed Burns Federation President Jane Brown attending their Jolly Beggars Banquet in September, just two weeks after the Federation Conference.

It was Jane's first overseas trip as President. RBANA President Tony Grogan also attended.



Above: President Jane speaks to the Cronies as her Aide-de-Camp looks on

Left: The Cronies, with their new Honorary Cronies front and center.

Photos by Kyle Gerbrandt for Medicine Hat Burns Club

Federation Declares 2014 Year of the Haggis

The Robert Burns World Federation is identifying the year 2014 as the Year of the Haggis.

This initiative is in co-operation with the Scottish Federation of Meat Traders (SFMTA) and supported by sponsorship provided by Grampian Oat Products and Scobie & Junor.

The announcement was made by Marketing Convenor Murdo Morrison to Robert Burns World Federation members attending the Annual General Meeting and Conference in Glasgow on Saturday 7th September 2013..

International representatives from Robert Burns Clubs in Canada, United States, Australia, New Zealand and a group from Norway were attending together with delegates from Scotland, England and Northern Ireland.

A range of associated activities are being planned throughout Scotland which will include Burns Clubs, Makers of Haggis, and community involvement. The full programme will be announced prior to St Andrew's Day in November.

The number of Burns Suppers in Scotland alone has been estimated as running into thousands. Church organisations,

many charities and fund raising causes, can be added on to Burns Clubs, Bowling Clubs, Golf Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Sailing Clubs, Masonic Clubs, Caledonian Clubs, Clan Societies, Schools and Colleges, Guilds, Groups and Associations, Councils and Conventions and a variety of other Clubs. Burns Suppers make a major contribution to charities.

Haggis, although mostly identified with Burns suppers is, for all reasons, a suitable food for all seasons and adds a touch of Scottish authenticity throughout the year.



The year 2014 will have Scotland as a focal point for visitors from all over the world who are attending major events based in Scotland such as the Commonwealth Games, The Ryder Cup, the Commemoration at Bannockburn, all enhancing the year of Homecoming.

The members of the Scottish Federation of Meat Traders will be receiving a poster for display, together with a participation certificate, identifying them as suppliers of Haggis in this special year. They will be supplying their own unique brand of Haggis, many of them prepared by closely guarded secrets, and will be available for events throughout the year.

Halloween

**Upon that night, when fairies light
On Cassilis Downans² dance,
Or owre the lays, in splendid blaze,
On sprightly coursers prance;
Or for Colean the rout is ta'en,
Beneath the moon's pale beams;
There, up the Cove,³ to stray an' rove,
Among the rocks and streams
To sport that night**

RBANA President Elected to Board of Heritage Council

The recently created Scottish Heritage Council of Manitoba Inc has recognized RBANA as a Member Organization, and elected President Tony Grogan to its Board of Directors.

The Council, an organization formed to foster co-operation and communication between the numerous Scottish organization voted, at its first Annual General Meeting, to recognize as a member organization “any National or International organization of Scottish Culture or Heritage” in which a Manitoban holds Executive Office.

Following that motion Dr. Tony Grogan was nominated, and elected, for a two year term, to the 12 member Board. Among the other directors are for-

mer RBANA Board Members Don Rennicks and Colin Harris, and other members of the Winnipeg Burns Club.

The Heritage Council had its roots in an ad-hoc committee which organized the Tartan Day celebration in 2009. The steering committee of the unincorporated Council, which became the founding Board included Burns Club past president Roy McLeod and late President Lawrence Cormack.

The Council continues to organize the annual Tartan Day event, an annual parade in September, and in 2012, undertook the commemoration of the bicentennial of the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers to the Red River area.



RBANA 2014 CONFERENCE

University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina

The 2014 RBANA conference is to be held in Columbia, South Carolina, in association with the University.

The University Library is the home of the G Ross Roy Collection, the largest collection literature by and about Robert Burns outside of Scotland.

The conference will be held on the 25th & 26th April 2014

More details will be available in the near future.

Keep an eye on the website www.rbana.com

