

The Tattler

Summer Edition

Words from the President

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The Robert Burns Association of North
America
Club #1024

Affiliated with the Robert Burns World Fed-
eration

Hello to all North American Burnsians. So far, this year has been very busy and eventful. First of all we all had our Burns Night celebrations, which by all accounts kept up our traditions in fine style. Then our Secretary, Don Rennicks,



injured his back, and has been unable to walk or drive, & was unable to prepare a Secretary or Treasurer's Report for the AGM in Niagara Falls. Don's wife, Dianne, is also ill & Don has had to resign as Secretary/Treasurer & also as Director of RBANA. This leaves us with a big gap on the Executive which we are working to fill. At present, Ron Ballantyne is soldiering on with what help some of us can give him. Vice President, Robert Boyd volunteered to act as Recording Secretary for the Executive Meeting and later for the AGM. Thank you Robert. Some of the invoices for membership were not sent out in time for the renewal time of New Year, but this has now been attended to & everyone should have their notices by now. Please respond promptly as RBANA cannot function without your subscriptions.

The AGM in Niagara Falls, Ontario was easily the best Renate & I can remember attending. We renewed many old friendships & made some new ones. There have been many messages congratulating the organizing committee on a job well done. During the executive meeting held on the Friday, the resignation, due to ill health, of our Secretary/Treasurer, Don Rennicks was noted with regret. The editor of "Tattler" – Colin Harris - had also indicated that he was finding a great deal of difficulty in obtaining articles for inclusion and has become rather disheartened in continuing as editor. A discussion showed that this is not a unique situation as Bill Dawson the editor of "The Burns Chronicle" has a similar problem. In any event, please send your club news to Colin for inclusion in the "Tattler". I am sure you will all agree that under Colin's editorship, the Tattler keeps us aware of what goes on throughout RBANA. It can only continue to do so with all our help. Colin has agreed to continue as editor meantime. The appeal from World Federation President Bob Stewart for funds to reduce the present financial deficit was also discussed and RBWF President Bob was able to speak to this. It was agreed at the AGM, that a donation should be made. The executive will deal with this in the near future. During the AGM, Robert Stewart, President of the Robert Burns World Federation, brought greetings from that body and then invested both May and Alex Crawley as Honorary Presidents

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Words from the President continued

of the World Federation. May has been the Canadian representative to the World Federation for several years. Next year's AGM and Conference will be held on the last weekend in April 2014 at the University of South Carolina in Columbia SC. Please plan to be there if at all possible.

Federation President Honours Crawleys

As announced during the Niagara Falls conference, President Bob Stewart and the Board of Directors of The Robert Burns World Federation are delighted to confer the award of Honorary President to both May and Alex Crawley.

According to the Federation: "The contribution by May and Alex Crawley to the well being of the Burns Federation and its successor The Robert Burns World Federation has been immense. May and Alex were founder members of NAAFB and its successor RBANA. When NAAFB was being changed over to RBANA both May and Alex did everything in their power to ensure the aims and objectives of the Federation were enshrined in the new Organisation and they have continued to promote the RBWF In North America and further afield. They have an almost perfect attendance at Federation conferences for over 30 years which

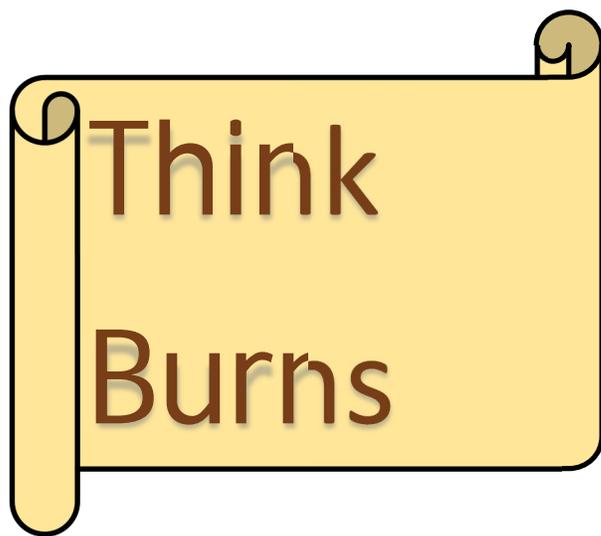
ably demonstrates their support and loyalty to our Organisation. May has carried out her duties as Canadian Director with diligence and has enjoyed the complete support of Alex in this task."

RBANA members congratulate Alex & May on this high honour, granted firstly, in 1896, to the Earl of Roseberry, to Andrew Carnegie in 1909 and to Scots such as Kenneth McKellar, Sir Jimmy Shand, John Cairney, but rarely accorded to North Americans. The late G Ross Roy was the last American. It should be noted that the first Canadian accorded the honour was William Anderson Weir of Winnipeg, in 1940 for his stalwart efforts in the erection of the Burns Statue in Winnipeg.



RBANA Secretary Resigns

As noted in the President's message, Don Rennicks has resigned his position as RBANA Secretary-Treasurer. A back injury during preparation for the Niagara Falls conference, exacerbated a pre-existing condition, confining him to bed for several weeks. The board accepted the resignation with regret. RBANA wishes Don all the best.



RBANA Meets At Niagara Falls

The Four Points Sheraton Hotel, overlooking the Horseshoe Falls, provided the venue for the 2013 RBANA Conference & Annual General Meeting in April. The conference was honoured by the presence of the Robert Burns World Federation President Robert Stewart, his wife Frances, their friends, George & Mary Letham from the Cupar Burns Club and Past President and Honorary RBANA members Jim & Eileen Robertson.



Most of the 50 delegates arrived on the Thursday and the weekend kicked off with the golf tournament on Friday morning. Seven hardy souls ventured forth in 10°C blustery conditions and claimed to have a great time! Ronnie O'Byrne again was the winner of the day.

While registration was underway on Friday afternoon, the directors met in the boardroom, followed by a wine reception in the hospitality suite. Dinner that evening took the form of a Burns Supper and there were 100 in attendance.



Alan McKenzie, RBANA Board member and President of the Halton Peel Club acted as the Master of Ceremonies. Bill Molloy from the Niagara Falls Club addressed the haggis with great aplomb (upper left) and an impressive Immortal Memory was delivered by Les Strachan (lower left) from Bedford Virginia. Tony & Sheila Grace, from Calgary, provided an amusing toast to the Lassies and the reply.



Music for entertainment & dance was provided by Joan Ballantyne, the band Itsjustus and Bob Ritchie our Piper. A special guest, singer Nils Brown, accompanied himself on his guitar & performed Burns' songs to the settings from Thomson's Scots Musical Museum. He also joined the band & Joan in several pieces. Ronnie O'Byrne, Bill Molloy &

Alex Crawley regaled us again with their comedic rendition of "Willie Brewed a Peck 'O Maut". Others added to the evening with poetry and song. By all reports a great evening.

On Saturday morning the delegates assembled for the AGM. Secretary-Treasurer Don Rennicks was absent due an injury, so Vice President Robert Boyd stood in as Secretary. When Robert Stewart (right, with wife Frances) brought greetings from the World Federation he



invested both May & Alex Crawley as Honorary Presidents of the World Federation.

The afternoon, as is usual, was reserved for the study sessions. The first seminar was by Dr. David Murray (below with President Tony Grogan) on "Burns, Germany and a' That. We were surprised to learn of the interest there in Burns and of his influence on Germany. Did you know that Bismarck proposed to his wife by singing "My Luv is Like a Red Red Rose"??

That seminar was followed by the Jim Connor Memorial Quiz. Jim Cunningham prepared an excellent and challenging set of questions. There was a lot of competition but the trophy was again won by David Murray of the Halton Peel Club.



The second seminar "Burns Musical Connections" was presented by Nils Brown & Ronnie O'Byrne. Nils has researched the 'Scots Musical Museum', so he sang for us and described the music that Burns chose for his lyrics.

At the Saturday evening Formal Dinner, following the speeches and greetings, the RBANA Golf trophy was presented by Tony Grogan and the Jim Connor Memorial Burns Quiz bowl by Elma Connor.

Joan & Nils again provided us with great music and the opportunity again to dance. There was not much space left on the floor!

Ronnie O'Byrne offered his special rousing rendition of "Scots Wha Hae" and during the singing all the men in the room spontaneously joined Jim Cunningham with the bodhrán and paraded around the floor. Quite a sight!

A highlight of the evening was the duet "Time to Say Goodbye" sung by Joan Ballantyne & Nils Brown to wrap up the entertainment.

Nils then sang Auld Lang Syne to the original set tune, then all assembled joined hands for the more commonly used tune, to close the evening.

On Sunday Morning we attended a short ecumenical service led by Rev. Bob Docherty of the Halton Peel Club and then took our leave, looking

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RBANA Meets At Niagara Falls continued

forward to the next conference in Columbia, South Carolina on April 25 & 26 2014.

Credit and thanks are again due for the organization and efforts by the Conference committee, chaired by Jim Cunningham, with Jean Cunningham, Ron & Chrys Ballantyne & Ronnie O'Byrne.

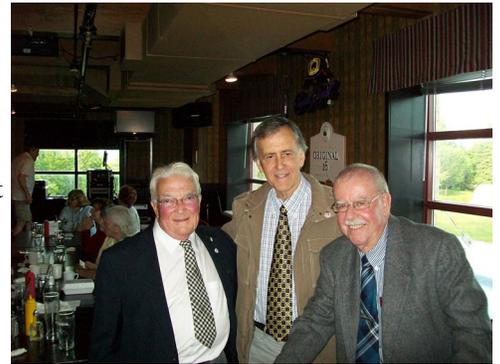
Australian Gordon Ashley Visits North America Researching Book on Burns Statues

Gordon Ashley, the former Australian legislator who, at Aberdeen in 2010, brought the attention of the Federation to the endangered status of the oldest existing Robert Burns statue in the world in Camperdown, is preparing a book on the Burns statues around the world.

His research has brought him back to North America in the recent months and weeks. Following last year's work in Boston and Vermont, he returned to the United States this spring, crossing the country through St Louis, Chicago, Denver, Cheyenne Wyoming and San Francisco.

Following the Camperdown Festival in Australia, (see story page 5) Gordon returned to San Francisco, before crossing Canada with stops in Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg and Toronto.

His visit in Winnipeg included dinner with members of the Winnipeg Robert Burns Club at an Irish pub at the historic Forks, attended by President Tony Grogan, Winnipeg club President Don Rennicks and organized by club secretary and Tattler editor Colin Harris.



L to R RBANA President Tony Grogan, Gordon Ashley, Winnipeg President Don Rennicks

Princess Royal Unveils Burns Sculpture in Dumfries

Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, visited Dumfries in early July to unveil a sculpture to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The installation - a large block of carved sandstone - is called Robert Burns Rock.

It has been crafted by stonemason David Little from a design by artist David Gulland and reflects elements of poems like Tam o' Shanter and To a Mouse.

The rock has been gifted to Dumfries by the People's Project and is sited at the gates to St Michael's Church, facing the Jean Armour statue across the street.



Camperdown Celebrates Burns

Tartan kilts, bagpipes and a bit of whisky were embraced in Camperdown Australia the first weekend of July for the Robert Burns Scottish Festival.

Building on last year's inaugural celebration, hundreds of people enjoyed a full weekend, with Scottish themed produce at street stalls, a Festival launch and "Deer Stalkers Ball" which featured a Toast to the Immortal Memory, and Address to the Haggis by Federation Past President Mike Duguid, concerts, pipe and highland dance competitions and exhibitions.

Corangamite Shire councillor Ruth Gstrein said the cold and at times wet weather failed to dampen spirits.

"It has been Scottish weather for a Scottish festival," she said. "Everything has gone to plan.

"The music has just been superb. We've had packed venues."

Councillor Gstrein said the festival had provided an economic boost to the town, with most businesses taking advantage of the influx of visitors.

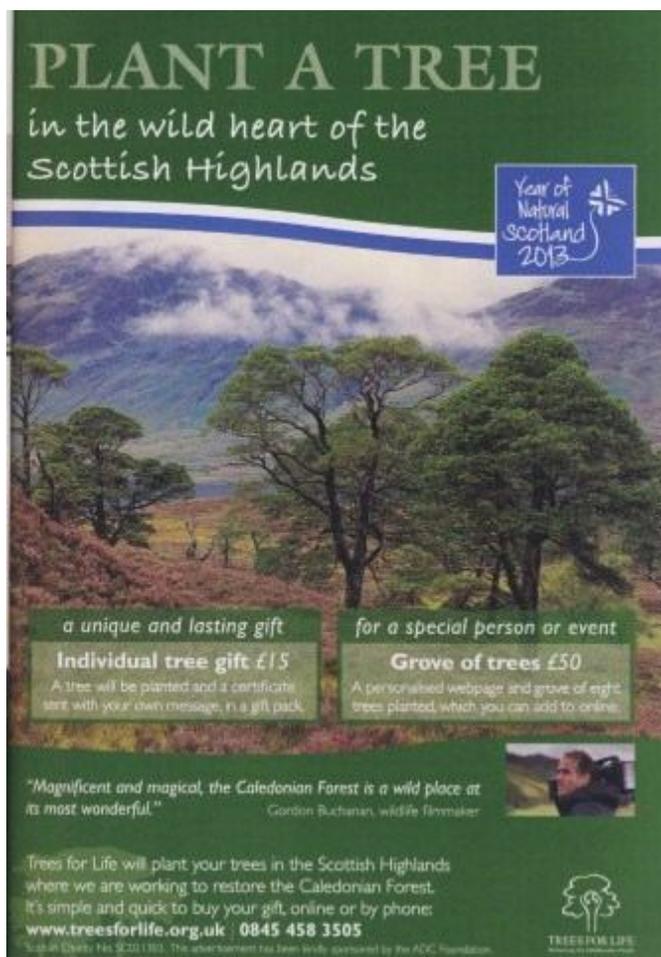
"It has just been marvelous. Certainly there have been a lot of visitors."

Camperdown's link with Robert Burns was strengthened after the restoration and relocation of a vandalised statue of the poet and his dog, Luath, a project championed throughout the Federation by former Victoria legislator Gordon Ashley.

The statue was created by sculptor John Greenshields in Scotland in 1830. It is the only one to have been based exclusively on the earliest-known portrait of Burns by artist Peter Taylor, about 1786.



The restored Greenshields statue



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Gordon Buchanan, wildlife filmmaker

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Trees for Life

Sarasota Remembers Frank Campbell With A Tree

The St Andrew Society of Sarasota honoured one of their leading lights, and RBANA Past President, the late Frank Campbell with the dedication of tree. The gesture is part of the Trees For Life project to restore the Caledonian Forest in the Highlands of Scotland. (See ad at left)

Society member Diane Madsen made the arrangements and members of the Society's Burns Club all contributed.

A certificate acknowledging the contribution was been presented at the Sarasota Burns Supper and has now been forwarded to Frank's son.

Frank Campbell was for many years a staunch supporter of both the Federation and RBANA and the founding editor of the Tattler.

Medicine Hat Celebrates Canada Day

The Medicine Hat Burns club reports that had fun on Canada Day.

“Our first official ‘Canada Day’ Haggis on a Bap booth was a hit,” according to Club Secretary Ken Montgomery.

“Various promotional ideas were tried, including variations of the famous (Austin Powers) Fat Bastard lines and songs, and our key promoters yelling out and suggesting that haggis was the natural Viagra of Scotland. This latter sales attempt actually appeared to work.”

There were around 10,000 people attending the event held in Medicine Hat’s Kin Coulee park.

People from many cultural and ethnic backgrounds tried them out. Of special interest was one Scottish family from Dundee who now live in Uganda and were visiting Medicine Hat on vacation. Their young boy, about 10 or so, looked a little hesitant on trying haggis outside Scotland. He took one bite and slowly broke out into a big grin and then gave a big thumbs up.

There was also a large English gentlemen who asked what the best thing to ever come out of Scotland was? His answer, ‘the road to England’. Be that as it may he bought four and said it was the best haggis he ever had.

There was also a lot of interest in the upcoming 2014 Burns Dinner and, according to Montgomery, their efforts assisted in selling off three tables of eight. The club reports also a profit of just short of \$400.00.



Special thanks to those involved, including Chris and Kim Gerbrandt, Craig Elder, Alex Kirk, Bill Cocks, Mathew Hill, Adolf Seiler, Kristina Shoesmith and Brenda Montgomery. We note that where we had some HP sauce for those that wanted a little zing, a suggestion was made to get some Guinness brown sauce from the Scottish Shoppe in Calgary for next year.

Also, a very special thanks to Malcolm Sissons, Eric Kean and the South Alberta Pipes & Drums. Malcolm (Club piper) made a real effort to come by on his own to play pipes for us, and the entire band arranged two special performances right in front of our booth. With a record high temperature of 35 to 37 degrees Celsius so it was a hot one that did take a toll. How bad was it! Instead of one bottle of water, one shot of Whisky it was two bottles of water and one shot of Whisky!

Another humorous moment was when Malcolm and Mathew made up a sign that said 'Buy one haggis on a bap and the piper will play. Buy two and he will stop'.

Montgomery reports that will definitely be doing it again next year!

Burns Comes Home

Scotland’s First Lending Library Celebrates Gift of First Editions

Scotland’s First Lending Library is delighted to announce an astonishing gift of over 200 Scottish First Editions, coming home to Scotland.

The Scottish Collection, incorporating the greats of Scottish writing such as Robert Burns, David Hume and John Knox, will have a new permanent home at The Library of Innerpeffray in Perthshire.

The Collection includes an exceptional assembly of the works of Robert Burns including a handwritten manuscript of the song Wilt Thou be my Dearie? First Editions of many important Scottish Enlightenment writers such as David Hume, and Samuel

Johnson’s tour of Scotland and Journey to the Western Isles, as well as many superb examples of early Scottish books.

Mrs Janet Burns Saint Germain, of Georgia, visited the library some twenty years ago, and decided her collection belonged here: she said: “I want people to enjoy the books as much as I have, and for that to happen they need to be available, not locked away in a private or academic library. Innerpeffray is perfect.”

The Library of Innerpeffray was founded in 1680 ‘for the benefit of all’ and was the first free public lending library in Scotland. It contains over 5000 books and the oldest continuous Borrowers Register in Europe, revealing the name, address and occupation

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Burns Comes Home Continued

of people who took home books: shepherds, merchants, weavers. Now a museum, visitors come from all over the world to enjoy its treasures first-hand, trace their family in the register and marvel in the power of the written word. The lower floor of the Library has been developed to house the Scottish Collection, into a new exhibition space, with security, temperature



and humidity control, with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Robert L Wallace, Chairman of the Library of Innerpefferay commented; “We are utterly thrilled that Innerpefferay will be the new home for this astonishing collection and deeply honoured by the generosity. We invite everyone interested in Scotland, its history and literature to visit us and share in the gift.”

Martyn Wade National Librarian and CEO of National Library of Scotland said “This collection brings together the best of Scottish literature across four centuries. I am delighted it is coming to Scotland.”

Think
Burns

Highlights from the Scottish Collection

Poetry & Songs:

Wilt Thou Be My Dearie?

Robert Burns, Manuscript

Addressed to Miss Janet Miller, in the poet’s hand –

“to the sweet lovely Girl who is the theme of the fore-going song...”

Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Language

Robert Burns, various first editions: Edinburgh 1787, London 1787, Philadelphia 1788

The Gentle Shepherd, A pastoral Comedy

Allan Ramsey, Glasgow, Edinburgh & London, 1788

A Select Collection of Scottish Airs for the Voice

George Thomson, London, 1793-99

Fingal, an Ancient Epic Poem

James Macpherson, 17620

A Choice Collection of Comic and Serious Scots Poem

James Watson, Edinburgh, 1713, 1709, 1711

One of the most important books in Scottish poetical literature, the first anthology of Scots poetry to be published.

Landmark Works of Scottish Literature and History:

Quaestiones in quatuor libros Sententiarum John Duns Scotus, 1479

Johannes Duns Scotus (1265/6–1308), nicknamed ‘Doctor Subtilis’ for his complex theology, is thought to have been born in Scotland. He became one of the most eminent scholars in 13th-century Europe, founder of the theological school of Scotism, most famous for his defence of the Immaculate Conception.

Chronicles of Scotland – Hector Boece, Paris, 1527

Boece was born in Dundee and went on to teach John Knox and George Buchanan.

His Latin history of Scotland is his best known work, this is the first printed edition.

Workes

King James I & VI, London, 1616

The Historie of the Reformation of the Church of Scotland

John Knox, London, 1644

Psalms, The Scottish Book of Common Order

Edinburgh 1615

Also known as John Knox’s prayer book

Gallienus Redivivus, or Murther will out &c Being a true Account of the De-Witting of Glencoe, Gaffney &c. Charles Leslie, Edinburgh, 1695

Scotia Illustrata

Robert Sibbald, London 1683

A Journey to the Western Isles,

Samuel Johnson, London, 1775

The Life of Samuel Johnson

James Boswell, 1791

The Brus

Barbour, 1790

First printed edition of the manuscript of 1489

A Treatise on Human Nature

David Hume, London, 1739-40