



THE SALTIRE



1884

The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary

1912

Society's Tartan Day

The Society is planning to celebrate Tartan Day 2013 with a social get-together at Murdoch's Pub, 1935 — 37th Street SW on 6 April (Tartan Day falls on a Saturday and is after Easter). Plans include: membership prizes, highland dancing, piping, singing, Scottish Country Dancing the Mayor's Proclamation, and much more. Members should wear their tartan, tell their friends and watch for details in the March Saltire.



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Board Member Openings

The Society's Board of Directors is looking for one or two members who would like to get involved with the operations of the Society's management, events and activities. The Board is the place for those who would like to make a difference in the Society. Board positions are elected for two year terms and meetings are held at the beginning of the month, usually the first Tuesday evening. A director would be expected to take on a project during their term to determine: 1. the funding required, 2. source of the funds, 3. the member participation and finally, 4. to bring the project to commencement and/or to completion. Interested members are asked to contact Robert Henderson at roberthenderson@yahoo.com or 403-245-5514.

Contents:

- Tartan Day
- Board Openings
- Mobile Burns
- Burns Night
- Burns Dinner for the Homeless
- Curling Fuspziel
- Thistle Shop

Mobile Burns Unit 2013



The Society offers seniors' residences and extended care centres a Robbie Burns Show and this year, Friday, 25 January 2013 saw the Society present shows for fourteen facilities. The South Team consisted of Ross Smith—singer, Ann van der Wal—bard, Robert Henderson—piper and, Jessica Ridgway, Fiona Sherrington & Ella Grant—

highland dancers. They performed at Garrison Woods, Clifton Manor, Spruce and Aspen Lodges in Bridgeland, MacKenzie Town Care Centre, Masterpiece Manor in Evergreen, and Trinity Lodge. The Society would like to thank Spruce Lodge for the lunch they provided. The North Team consisted of Ken Rogers—piper, Doreen Herdman—bard, Hannah Ridgway, Mackenzie Tansowny & Eilidh Wist —dancers and, Margot Aftergood and Eric Coyle—singers. They performed at Calgary Bethany Centre, Rivera Scenic Acres, Edgemont Retirement Lodge, Huntington Hills Manor, Newport Harbour Extended Care, Confederation Villas, and the Fanning Centre. The shows were well received with many residents joining in on the songs. Robbie Burns Day is the one universal cele-

(Continued on page 4)

Society's Burns Night

The Society held its Burns Night on Saturday, 19 January 2013 at the Confederation 55+ Activity Centre and attracted 120 members and their friends. The Society started holding Burns Nights in 1886 and this was the first since 1997 as the Society's members requested this event and contributed enthusiastically and generously to its success. The evening began with a performance by the Wild Rose Highland Dance Group of three dances followed by the Society's Gaelic Choir singing several songs that set the mood of great Scottish entertainment for the evening. The company was welcomed by the Master of Ceremonies, Stuart Clark, followed by The Selkirk Grace by Debby Henderson. The Haggis was played on and ably addressed by the twosome of James Osborne and Thomas Farquharson. This approach may set a new standard for future Society events as it was well presented and much appreciated. The Guests of the Society then proceeded to the buffet table where home made Cock-a-Leekie soup was served by its makers, Debby Henderson and Elaine Forman. The main course consisted of Haggis, slow Roasted Beef, Broiled Cajun Salmon, Purvis Tatties, Moira's Turnips and Carrots, Gravy and Hollandaise, all prepared and cooked by members of the Society. The evening's formal portion finished off with the Immortal Memory presented by the Society Secretary, Doreen Herdman, a most eloquent presentation of the Bard's life; the Toast to the Lassies by the Society Vice-President, Malcolm Stewart; and the response to the Toast by Cindy Clark. All presentation were well polished and enjoyed by the

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assembled company. The Toast to the Queen was delivered by Ann van der Wal followed by a selection of Burns' poetry from Doreen Herdman. The company was then honoured by a performance from the 78th Fraser's Highlanders (Calgary) who are the Alberta Grade V Pipe Band Champions for 2012. Following their display, James Osborne was presented with his Honourary Life Membership in the Society by the President, Robert Henderson. Jim has been a tireless worker for Celtic, and certainly Scottish, culture in Calgary and area having been instrumental in the formation of several of the City's Scottish cultural organizations. The company then broke to prepare for the dance to follow which was musically accompanied by Dennis Orr, Morin Armstrong Orr and David Jerke from Medicine Hat and Edmonton. The company went through a mixing/round the room dance as dessert, Caledonian Mist, prepared by Jan & Sarah van der Wal, helped finish off the dinner portion. A full dance program, under the direction of Janyn Bertram, of easy to intermediate dances completed the evening with good participation by most of the company and help from experienced dancers. The dancing program, which included Cumberland Reel, the Lea Rig, Postie's Jig and Highland Fair, was interspersed with some Cape Breton Square sets led by Debby Henderson and Elaine Forman. The evening closed with the company singing, in a circle, the traditional 'Auld Lang Syne', hands extended, then crossed and joined in good fellowship. The Society wishes to extend its hearty thanks to the Social Director—Ann van der Wal—and her crew for a most enjoyable evening.



Burns Dinner for the Homeless 2013



The 11th Annual Burns Dinner for the Homeless was held on Sunday, 20 January 2013 at the Calgary Drop-In and Rehabilitation Centre in the East Village. It was a fabulous success!! Thank-you, Thank you for the 68 plus volunteers that showed up to help put on once again Canada's largest Burns dinner. We are the ONLY volunteer group that brings in the meal, serves the meal then cleans up afterward and entertains the clients. We are also the best dressed!! (in my opinion) The day started out with a piped procession of kitchen workers, entertainers and servers through the main hall. The kitchen volunteers took up their positions to prepare the assembly line for lunch. The Burns



Show started at 11:30 am with the pipers, dancers from the Wendy Wilson School of Highland Dance, singer and bard putting on a demonstration of Burn's work culminating in the Address to the Haggis. Then the performers

paraded to the kitchen and started serving the dinner. The serving windows opened and the kitchen volunteers loaded the plates with the day's lunch: roast beef, mashed potatoes, turnip, gravy and the best haggis east of the... Rockies... and



passed the plates to the servers. The kitchen volunteers all sported highland aprons which made for lots of fun. Once the servers had covered the main hall, the overflow was allowed in and the entertainers performed a second show which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, many of whom sang along with 'Loch Lomond'. The society also distributed approximately 700 of our "magic gloves" to everyone. A big thank you to Peter Drinkwater and Arthur Gifford who personally



sponsored the cost of the gloves. We all stayed afterward for the same lunch we had just served — it was a wonderful day. In all about 1000 persons were served. This dinner is one of the Drop In Centres "highlights" of the year and there were calls for more haggis. I wish to personally thank everyone who came and volunteered their precious time for this worthy cause. The show and dinner is always well received and I look forward to seeing everyone again next year! Sincere appreciation to all again for an awesome day. Tapadh leib Margot Aftergood

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bration of a person's life works that goes around the globe with dinners held in most countries on every continent. For the day, the Society had entertained here in Calgary about 630 persons spreading the words and ideals of Robert Burns and all look forward to next year's Mobile Burns Unit.



Curling Funspiel

The Society has held a curling "Funspiel" over the last few years but with smaller and smaller attendance. To make the funspiel worthwhile in terms of organisation and cost, we need to have at least 20 people interested. The event is not limited to Society members, but also to friends and family and if we are to have an event, it would be in March – likely the 3rd or 10th dependent on ice availability. The event would include food and a fun curling event including some basic instruction, and there would be a cost associated with it. (estimate \$40-\$45). All levels of curlers are welcome from the "never tried it" to the experienced curler, ideally we would like a mix of all levels.

If you are interested in the Funspiel, please let us know by e-mailing to djherdman@shaw.ca

Celebrating Scottish Culture in Calgary for over a century

THE THISTLE SHOP

The Thistle Shop is a "virtual" shop for new or gently used items donated to the St Andrew-Caledonian Society. This is a new venture for the Society and will be run as a pilot for 2013, i.e. we will run it for a year and see whether there is any interest in this kind of service. The Society will accept non-perishable items related to Scottish culture, or Scottish heritage. To donate, contact either of the board members listed below, then check out the Society website – there is a section with an inventory of the Thistle Shop. The funds raised will generate a donation will be made annually to a charity supported by the Society. If the sale value of any item is over \$50, a designated charity may be requested by the donator. Interested persons can contact: Doreen Herdman djherdman@shaw.ca or Margot Aftergood margotaftergood@shaw.ca

Member Benefits

Benefits of Society membership include:

- reduced rates for pipers at your function,
- 10% discount on purchases at the Highland Scottish Gift Shoppe,
- Free entry to the Foothills Highland Games,
- Free entry to the Calgary Highland Games,
- Free entry to the Canmore Highland Games.
- \$2.00 reduction in the regular adult admission to the Globe Theatre 617—8th Avenue SW.

Members should consider renewing for several years to avoid missing any activities or events.

The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary

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