## 2025 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

# MEDICINE HAT BURNS CLUB

## REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

## SECOND ANNUAL CLUB GARDEN PARTY

The President and Executive would like to thank all those members who came out to our second annual Garden Party, especially those who brought friends and family. We also appreciate the extra effort of Brian Cumming and Jan Boydol who came down from Calgary, incoming president John Cameron who trekked in from Bow Island, and to Graham Snyder and Shareen Brito who made an effort to return from another event in Brooks to also be with us. Further, we must also give special mention to Ken Taylor's wife Roxanne, who with about three weeks left before expecting their third child, also made the effort to attend.

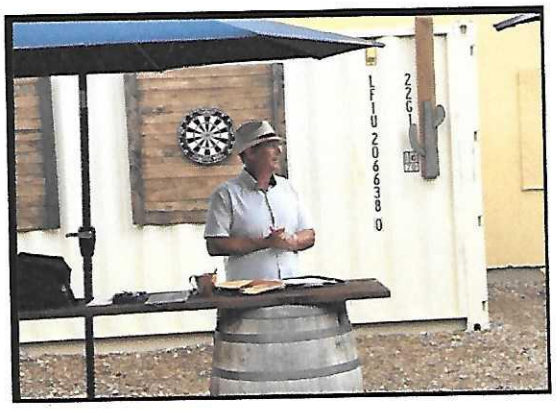
This years event was held at the Grit City Tasting Room. Where the trivia quiz was again the primary event, this year we were also able to offer horseshoes, darts and a sandbag toss (cornhole) game.

Special thanks to our incoming Gaird & Chaplain, Event Chair, MC & Quizmaster, Kevin Conrad, his assistant and better half, Mavis Conrad who tallied the scores, and to Randy Gant, last years quizmaster, who wasn't able to attend but provided all the questions and answer cards for us.

Also, another special thanks to Grit City for the venue, to Sleemans Brewery who provided a multitude of items that ensured everyone present got a prize, and to Brenda Montgomery who put together a special prize basket for the winning trivia team.

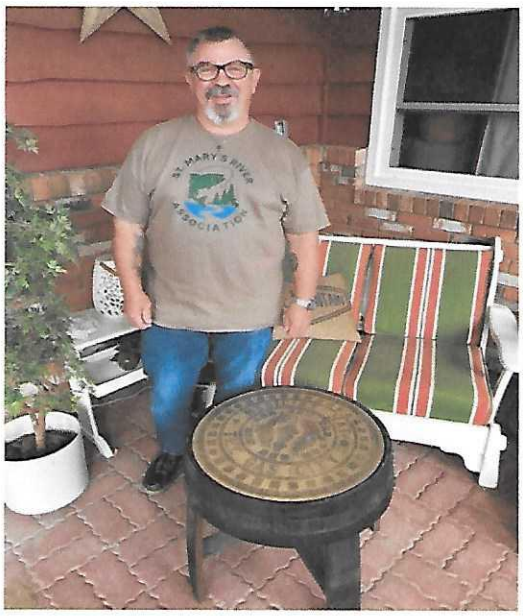
For the triva quiz, Kevin and Mavis Conrad did an exceptional job, and the trivia questions were superb. Here we learned that the Amazon river isn't the longest river in the world, it's the widest (who wuddah thunk)....

We were also fortunate the weather cooperated (we dodged the rain) and the food, drinks and service were superb.



**The Grit City Tasting Room was a great venue. Event Chair Kevin Conrad did a fantastic job & the horseshoes, darts, sandbag toss and triva quiz were all a hit.**

**This event proved a great chance for all to socialize and relax. Trivia team `The Full Monty' above right included John Cameron, Brian Cumming, Jan Boydol and Ken and Brenda Montgomery were happy to win, and everyone got a prize**



## THE NIGHT'S BIG WINNER

The lucky winner of the evening was John Cameron, who won the raffle for a custom-made whisky barrel table.

This table was custom made for the Club by Mark Watts, formerly of the BATUS workshop, and who now owns Papa's Workshop. We note that Mark will custom make these tables with a custom laser engraved top with the logo or design of your choice for anyone interested.

And if you didn't win, don't be sad....more, and different themed tables will be coming and will be featured in future Club raffles.

If you are otherwise interested in obtaining your own table, or want more information, call Mark at (403) 952-0440.

This event was another Club success, and we will be planning to host a third annual next year. Where it's always tough to find a date when most are around, we have and will continue to do our best to accommodate.

## THANKS AGAIN TO ALL WHO ATTENDED

## TIME TO RECONNECT WITH MACALONEY'S

Located on Vancouver Island, Macaloney's Island Distillery, formerly known as Macaloney's Caledonion Distillery (before the Whisky War with the Scottish Whisky Association was resolved), continues to crank out spectacular and international award winning whiskies.

Where a few years back the Club custom ordered some private whisky cask single malt and peated whiskies, most who ordered have run out or are now close to dry. As a result we have had more than one request to put in another order.

Owned by fellow Cronie Dr. Graeme Macaloney,who was our special guest at the 2021 Jolly Beggars, we have been in contact with Graeme and his representative Tom Bush, and it appears we will be proceeding again. In order to ensure the Club chose its best pick Graeme shipped us some single malt and peat samples of their newest and best cask whiskies. From there we formed two teams of tasters so we could make our selections.

For the single malt we chose Kevin Conrad, Graham Snyder,Craig Elder and Brenda Montgomery. For the peat we selected Rob Cowan, John Cameron, Brian Cumming and Seb Magnar.

Before continuing, we were aware the Club had many other Scotch whisky lovers out there, but with the samples provided we only had enough for four tasters for each batch.

Our teams each did a lot of sniffing, tasting, some mouth swirling then made notes on each sample. After much banter and discussion, selections were made. We have communicated our choices back to Graeme and we are now looking at pricing and other ordering issues before proceeding.

**We expect to do a fanout in the very near future to take orders**.

We will also be offering this special order to our friends with the Calgary and Edmonton Burns Clubs, as well as the Lethbrdges Jolly Beggars. As it is

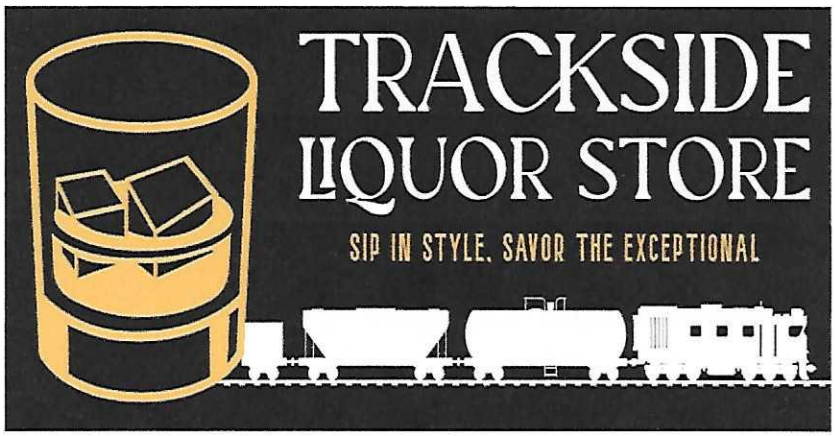
this year we are proud to have Club Patron Jane Brown attend the 2025 Jolly Beggars on her official visit (the first since 2013), we will be calling these special bottles `**PATRON'S CHOICE'**.

Also, once we have sufficient orders for the single malt, we may be able to also bring in some peat. So start saving up and get ready to order. This will be a good deal you wont want to pass up.

**At left, a near empty bottle from the last custom order of Macaloney whisky the Club brought in.**

**As there have been many requests for the Club to bring in another special order, the Club is preparing to heed your word and do so.**

**Above left, the Single Malt tasters, Kevin Conrad, Graham Snyder and Craig Elder with Ken Montgomery watching (Brenda Montgomery not shown), and above right, the Peat tasting team, Rob Cowan, John Cameron, Brian Cumming and Seb Magnar. Both teams were ready to sacrifice their palates for the best interests of the Club (LOL), and a special whisky was chosen.**




## CLUB DISCOUNT & MEMBER INFO UPDATE

Speaking of whisky, it appears we have to clarify the Club discount policy we have with Trackside Liquor. Members in good standing are entitled to a 5% discount on whisky, and whisky only. We have had problems where certain members have assumed this discount applied to any purchase. That is not true.

So for Trackside staff, and to avoid confusion as to who is a qualified member or not, the Club will be going back to issuing membership cards each year when dues are paid. These will be mailed out. Where we have not been keeping track of all members addresses, we are now asking each member to email the secretary and provide a current mailing address and postal code. At the same time you can also give us a brief bio, your partners name and a contact phone number so we may update our records. Cards will need to be shown when any purchase is made in order to obtain a discount. **Thanks in advance for your cooperation.**

Also, keep I mind that Club Whisky Steward Blake Shaw is always ready to give you advice and tips on whisky, wine,beer and other products, anytime you ask. We also believe Trackside also has the best local selection of whiskies yopu may acquire, and ask that all members support this local business and longtime sponsor.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO JAN BOYDOL OM

On 11 March 2025 Club member Jan Boydol was voted in unanimously as the **first female** Ordinary Member (voting) of the Calgary Burns Club, who in 2026 will be celebrating their 50th anniversary. Jan is a published poet, past President of the Calgary Folk Club, and a current director without portfolio in the Calgary Burns Club.

Also, a member of RBANA and the RBWF, Jan, an accomplished singer, has performed at RBANA and MHBC dinners before. She was also awarded the Order of the Monkey (OM) at this year's AGM for being an involved member of the Club. Besides enjoying the works of Robert Burns, Jan has an affinity to Scotland, having visited there most recently in 2015 and 2022. She also has a special attraction to the Isle of Skye.

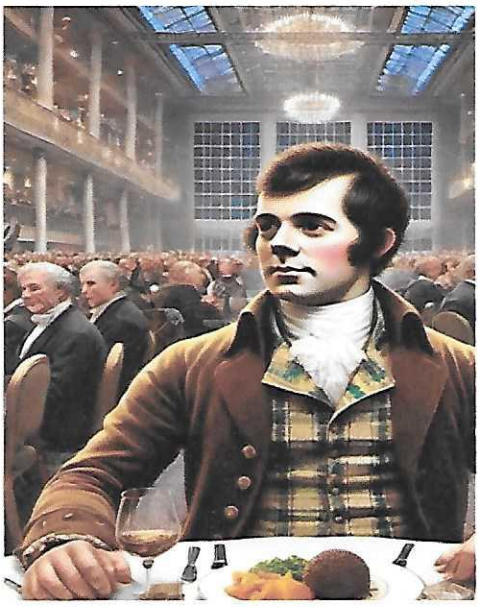
## *JOLLY BEGGAR UPDATE*

**Now that the Garden Party has concluded, the 2025 Jolly Beggar Committee and Executive have reviewed member activity for the past year and finalized this year's Jolly Beggar guest list.**

**Invitations will be delivered to those persons deemed to be first eligible before 15 August, with RSVPs being required by 31 August. If there are any openings at that time another round of invitations will be sent to those next eligible, and so on until all seats are filled.**

**For information on how members and Jolly Beggar guests are selected please review Article IX, B and E of our Bylaws.**

# 2026 SPECIAL EVENTS



## 2026 19th ANNUAL MHBC ROBERT BURNS DINNER
## SATURDAY, 7 FEB. 2026

The Club's **primary event** is scheduled for Saturday, 7 February 2026, and will again be at the Medicine Hat Golf & Country Club.

Please mark your calendar and plan to support the Club and attend.

Even better, plan to bring friends and family, and book a table. Club members get first pick.

## 2026 50th ANNIVERSARY CALGARY BURNS CLUB ANNUAL DINNER
## FRIDAY, 23 JANUARY 2026

Come be part of the Calgary Burns Club (CBC) 50th anniversary celebrations.

This CBC 2026 event promises to be more special than usual, and remember, this event is now **MIXED.**

**For more information contact Brian Cumming (CBC Liaison) at brcumming@chartenventures.com**

## 2026 RBANA AGM & CEILDH HOSTED BY THE EDMONTON BURNS CLUB
## 25-28 JUNE 2026

Plan to trek north to Alberta's capital to attend this wonderful event, and if all goes as anticipated, to support Club member Brian Cumming as he is installed as the incoming RBANA president. This function will also feature and involve some of the most well known Burnsians who will entertain and otherwise be involved. Further, this event will also give out of towners a great opportunity to see some of the local sights and do some shopping in the big city. Significant others also very welcome.

**For more information contact Henry Cairney (RBANA Liaison & RBANA Secretary) at henrycarney7@gmail.com**

The Club was able to provide a donation to the South Alberta Pipes & Drums in memory of piper Tarra White who recently passed. Please note the attached letter. Other than that, take care and enjoy the rest of summer.

**Club Secretary**

South Alberta Pipes and Drums
c/o 17 Noble Court SW, Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 4A2

30 July 2025

Medicine Hat Burns Club
10 Goldenrod Court SE
Medicine Hat, AB
T1B 2S4

Attention: Mr. Ken Montgomery, Secretary

Dear Sir:

Re: Donation in memory of Tarra White

On behalf of the South Alberta Pipes and Drums, I would like to thank the Medicine Hat Burns Club for your recent donation in memory of Tarra White.

Tarra's family decided to honour the band by directing any donations our way and it is an indication of the importance of our band to Tarra and the camaraderie that we shared.

On our part, Tarra was a long-standing member and cherished for her personality. We certainly will miss her and our Pipe Sergeant John McIntyre composed a slow air in her memory.

Tarra would hav participated in most of the Burns dinners that the Club has organized over the years. She often brought along some of her friends and enjoyed the evenings greatly.

Once again, thank you to the Club for your thoughtful donation to our band fund.

Yours truly,

Malcolm Sissons
Secretary