

# Lifestyles

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

27

**Youth Model-Builders Club to be offered**

A basic plastic-model-builders class for youths 5 to 14 will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays Jan. 20 through Feb. 24 at the Harlem Road Community Center, 4255 Harlem Road in Amherst. Registration and supply fee is \$12 for Amherst residents and \$17 for nonresidents. Checks may be made payable to the Amherst Youth Board by Wednesday, Jan. 17. Registration is limited. For more information, call 631-7215.

# “Neeps & tatties”

*Traditional Scottish dinner to remember great man and heritage*

by **JILL SCHMELZER**  
Reporter

**T**he Buffalo Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will host the 40th annual Robert Burns Supper at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Amherst Community Church, 77 Washington Highway in Snyder.

The night is held in honor of Burns, who is known as the national poet of Scotland, according to RSCDS treasurer Cathy Chamberlin of Grand Island.

The traditional dinner will include “neeps and tatties,” Scottish for turnips and potatoes, as well as steak and kidney pie. The main course includes haggis, which is a sausage prepared in sheep stomach, Chamberlin explained.

The evening will begin with a procession, followed by society member Adam James, who will deliver the “Address to the Haggis,” a tradition in honor of Burns’ birthday, which is Jan. 25.

According to the Robert Burns official Web site, Burns was born in Alloway, Ayrshire, in 1759. He spent his youth working on his father’s farm. At age 15, Burns was the principal worker on the farm, which prompted him to write as a balance to his circumstances.

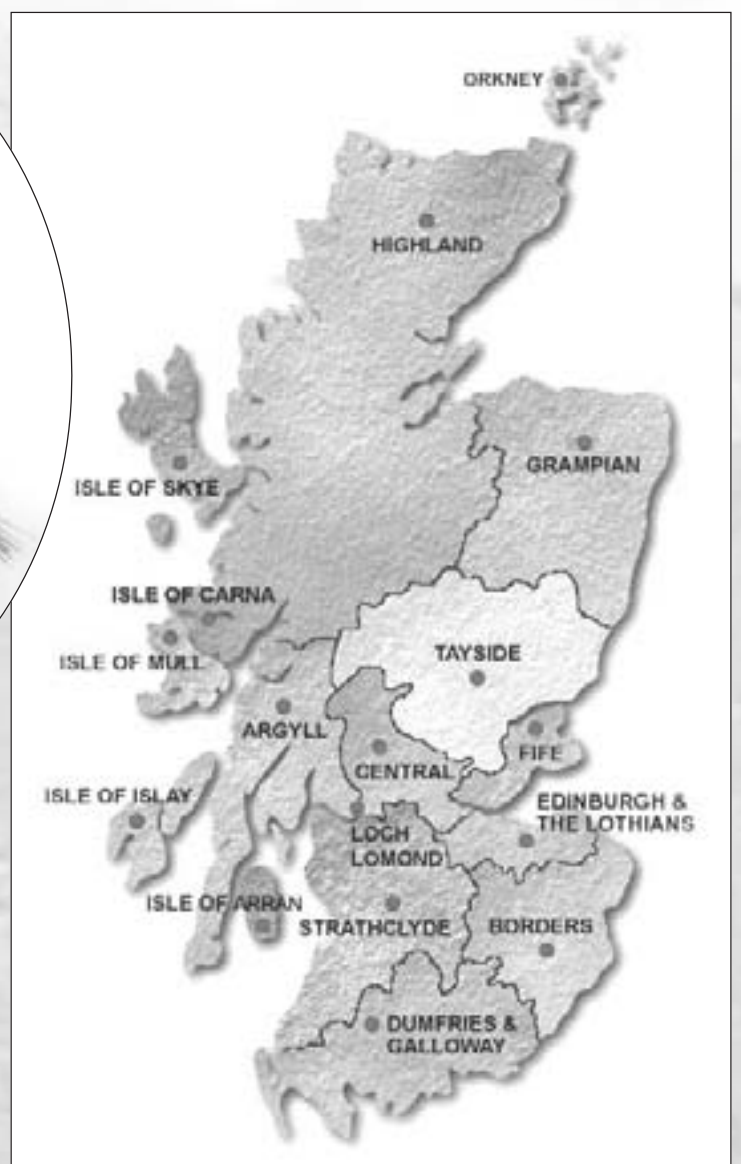
This is when he penned his first verse, “My Handsome Nell,” which was an ode to the other subjects that played a part in his life, namely, Scotch and women, the Web site stated.

His father died in 1784, after which he and his brother took over the family business. Burns continued to write poetry, eventually abandoning the farm.

He stayed in Scotland but moved from city to city, continuing to publish poems and books. He was transformed into a national celebrity as a result of his literary works.

Burns died at age 37, and more than 10,000 people came to his burial, the Web site stated. Today, he is still remembered as Scotland’s national poet. On the anniversary of his birth, Scots around the globe celebrate his life with a supper.

The haggis is celebrated because it is a feast savored by Scots. Members of the Royal



## Events

- Reception begins 6 p.m.
- Dinner begins 6:30 p.m.
- Procession of the Haggis
- Address to the Haggis
- Toasts to the Queen, president, gentlemen and ladies
- Hobson’s Choice will entertain during the dinner hour
- Music Makars will perform during the dance program, following dinner



Scottish Country Dance Society will continue this tradition in the Amherst area. Following the address, a toast will be made to the queen of Scotland, the president of RSCDS, and the men and women.

During dinner, Hobson’s Choice will provide music and some Highland dance, coinciding with Scottish country dance demonstrations to entertain the guests during their meals.

Scottish country dance is similar to square dancing. In fact, square dancing is a derivative of Scottish country dance, Chamberlin said. There are a series of patterns that couples follow.

Preceding dinner there will be a social dance program with music provided by the group, Music Makers.

“You don’t have to be Scottish to enjoy this event,” Chamberlin said. “It’s open to everyone.”

The cost of the evening is \$30. For reservations, call 778-8923 or 849-3103.

Chamberlin said people travel from Canada and Rochester to

participate in the dance society’s monthly socials and weekly classes, which are held Thursday evenings.

According to Chamberlin, she learned of the group after taking a music appreciation class at Eastman College in Rochester. She attended a class and became a regular attendee.

e-mail: [JSchmelzer@beenews.com](mailto:JSchmelzer@beenews.com)