

Letter from the Chair

Dear Fellow Members,

As this is my first letter to you as Chair of the Foundation, I want to let you know that I consider it a great honour for me to have been considered for this position.

I would like to start by thanking each and every one of you for your support and for your generosity in supporting our cause. Our membership now includes people from all provinces in Canada as well as from the USA, the UK, Europe and Australia. And I am especially delighted to note that a very high percentage of membership renewals have been accompanied by donations far in excess of the basic membership fee. Indeed our membership at the patron level is at an all-time high.

I would like to thank our immediate Past Chair, Ed Stewart, for the tremendous effort he has put in during his terms of office. Ed is a very modest individual and has been a great encouragement to us all and I wish him all the best for the future.

I believe that all of us involved with the Foundation have a wonderful opportunity placed before us, a unique opportunity to create something that didn't exist before -- a Chair of Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph.

Others have had similar dreams. In Canada we can look at the Stratford Festival, the Trans-Canada Trail or the Calgary Stampede -- all started by a small group of visionaries who had the dedication, staying power and the gift of persuasion to see their dreams fulfilled.

Of course, there are lots of people in Canada involved in Scottish cultural activities in one way or another. But the beauty of our cause is that we are not competing with other Scots-Canadian organizations. On the contrary, by solidifying Guelph's position as the major centre for Scots and Scots-Canadian culture in Canada we are in the business of providing an academic infrastructure that can be in place for generations to come.

So what do we actually have to do? We all know we have one big overall goal: the Chair and the business of raising funds to establish it. Therefore, we have to provide donors with compelling reasons to donate. We have to look for innovative ways to raise funds by tapping into the skill-sets of our members and be on the lookout for opportunities. We have to work closely with the University of Guelph -- in particular, the University's Development Office to coordinate our fundraising activities. We

have to work to maximize the return on our present capital.

We also have to give members a reason to stay with us and encourage new members to join. When you think about it, our membership level is an indication of support from the community at large -- an important factor in enticing donor support.

The role of the Scottish Studies Society will be crucial here. It can raise the profile of our cause by way of events, publicity and by recognizing the contribution of Scots in Canada.

Our Newsletter and Website can be vehicles to showcase the talents of students and faculty at Guelph, our members and the Scots-Canadian community at large. And finally, we have to ensure that every contribution, big or small, is acknowledged.

Those of us who have volunteered to serve on the Board also have some administrative work to do. Since the Foundation was established back in 1986 we have been so focussed on membership drives and fundraising activities that there has been little time left to review our procedures to ensure that they reflect current reality. Indeed, we have recently come under some criticism to the effect that our enthusiasm has got in the way of our following the rules!

To address this situation, in the next few months we will be undertaking a thorough review of our structure, documentation and procedures and will be recommending steps to ensure that our organization is on a sound administrative footing.

On the topic of volunteer effort, when I have had a chance to speak to our members, the most popular question I am asked is "How can I help?" This is especially frustrating for members who live far away from the Toronto-Guelph area. So the answer really boils down to the amount of time and type of skills that members can donate.

Keep in mind that the newsletter is a great outlet for those of you with stories to tell, photographs to show, or trivia to share! Those of you good at organizing events are welcome to contact us or, if you have any other ideas, let us know. We are open to suggestions!

Now I know all of this is a very exciting challenge but as we all know -- if we don't do it nobody else will! So thank you very much for your endorsement. I'm looking forward to working with you all.

Sincerely,
David M. Hunter

Major Campaign for Scottish Studies launched

The following is an excerpt from the University of Guelph's literature targeted to attract sponsor support for the "Chair in Scottish Studies" project.

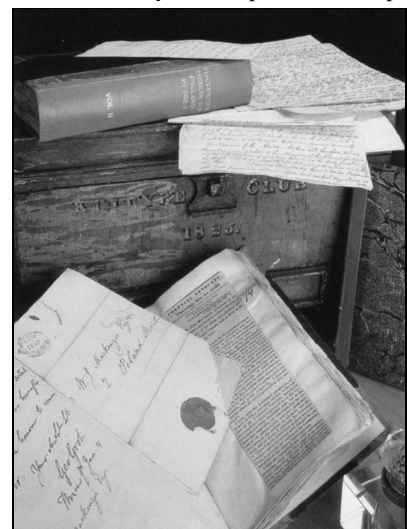
More than two million Canadians trace their ancestry to the rugged shores of Scotland, but their Scottish heritage belongs to all of us - so important are the contributions that Scots have made to the history and culture of Canada, from its earliest beginnings to today's ever-changing society.

Scots in Canada have made tremendous contributions as explorers, political leaders, scientists, teachers, doctors, inventors, writers and more. Indeed, virtually every facet of Canadian life has benefited - and continues to benefit - from the leadership of the hearty and colourful Scots.

There is a growing need to preserve and understand our Scottish heritage if we are to fully appreciate the history that has brought us to the 21st century.

The University of Guelph and the Scottish Studies Foundation invite you to join them in celebrating the contributions of Canadian Scots by preserving our Scottish traditions and supporting North America's most prestigious educational program in Scottish Studies.

The University of Guelph is the best place



The original 1832 scrapbooks of William Lyon Mackenzie offer rare insights into Canada's early political history. They were purchased by the Scottish Studies Foundation and are on permanent loan to the University of Guelph Library.



A selection of books from the Scottish Collection in the rare book section of the University of Guelph Library

in North America to pursue Scottish studies: Guelph's is a first-class interdisciplinary program, supported by the best Scottish collection outside the United Kingdom, excellent teaching and research, and unique community outreach.

The Scottish Studies Program at Guelph is unique in the world for its treatment of the Scots as a separate people in general studies of immigration, settlement and ethnicity, and in making the Scottish contribution to the culture and history of Canada relevant to contemporary Canadian students and community leaders. Guelph's Scottish Studies Program celebrates Scotland's most enduring contribution to western civilization: the tradition of excellence in and accessibility to education.

To ensure that Scottish Studies at Guelph remains the leader in its field, the University and the Scottish Studies Foundation, a charitable organization dedicated to supporting the Scottish Studies Program, are working together to endow a Chair in Scottish Studies -- the first in North America.

The creation of an endowed Chair is part of an initiative to expand the horizons of intellectual inquiry in the Scottish Studies Program. As well as providing dynamic academic leadership in the form of the Chair, the initiative will put resources in place to enhance the Scottish Collection and make it more accessible to international researchers and collaborative projects. It will support the

next generation of Scottish Studies scholars by providing graduate student scholarships and research support. It will also expand the Program's unique community outreach activities to promote the ongoing study of Scottish and Scottish-Canadian history and create even greater awareness of and appreciation for the impact of the Scots in Canada.

The endowment of the Chair is critical to building Guelph's excellence in teaching and research, in keeping with the traditions of Scottish Studies at Guelph and with the priorities of the University's Strategic Plan.

In particular, the Chair in Scottish Studies at Guelph will make Scottish and Scottish-Canadian studies relevant for a new generation of Canadian business and community leaders, while providing a cultural focus for Canada's Scottish community as it responds to the challenges of defining a place for itself in contemporary Canada.

Income from the endowment

will support the teaching, research and outreach of an outstanding scholar who will assume a faculty position in Guelph's College of Arts. The scholar in the new position will travel and lecture widely to encourage new educational and cultural activities in Scottish studies programs nationally and internationally, while enhancing Guelph's reputation and influence as an internationally acclaimed centre in the field.

Endowed Chairs, among them Guelph's proposed Chair in Scottish Studies, are successful at:

- focusing research efforts by strengthening the body of work, attracting and engaging interested participants, generating more knowledge and expanding research perspectives
- integrating research and teaching by expanding the curriculum, attracting students to the program, and imbuing the enhancements to the program with creative and reflective energies
- creating and developing links with the community, by initiating dialogue with a wider audience and attracting new resources to the program ■



The 2001 Scot of the Year Award being presented to Kathy Macmillan by Michael MacMillan

Award Features Clan Motto

A number of readers have asked to learn more about the actual *Scot of the Year Award* and where it came from.

As in the past, this year's award was a plaque in the form of a shield and this time featured the Macmillan tartan and clan crest along with the clan motto... "Miseris Succerrere Disco," which in English means "I learn to succour the distressed."

The motto is a quotation from *Aenid*, the epic by Virgil the Latin poet who lived from 70 to 19 B.C. The complete quote is actually... "Non ignara mali, miseris succerrere disco," meaning... "Not myself being unacquainted with difficulty, I learn to succour the distressed." This famous quotation has been an inspiration to many including French philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau who stated that ... "I know no line so beautiful, so profound, so touching, so true."

The actual award was donated by Hector Russell Scottish Imports in Toronto, one of the Foundation's Corporate Sponsors and one which has been an active supporter of the Society's Tartan Day Dinner, the Annual Tall Ship Cruise and other events.



The Clan MacMillan Crest