

## Letter from the Chair

Dear Fellow Members,

Much has happened since my last letter and the world is a changed place since the terrible events of September 11. It's hard to believe that only a few days before, Foundation members and guests were enjoying themselves out on Lake Ontario on the *Empire Sandy* as you can see in the accompanying photographs (page 6).

Then it was easy to believe that the planes that flew overhead during the CNE Air Show might only be for our amusement -- spectacular displays of extreme sports, not instruments of war.

The stirring sounds of the pipes were for our enjoyment on the *Empire Sandy*. But a few days later their haunting strains took on a more sombre aspect as they accompanied the victims of the devastation in New York to their final resting places.

It's sad that we never seem to learn from the past. It's a long time indeed since Robert Burns expressed hope for the time ... "That man to man, the world o'er, shall brothers be for a' that."

But life goes on, and I am pleased to let you know that the campaign for Scottish Studies that is being coordinated by Bruce Hill and Rudy Putns of the University of Guelph's Development Office continues to bring in substantial sums of money that will go towards funding the Chair. Since the last newsletter, we have received gifts and/or pledges of over \$150,000.

In particular, we have received \$50,000 from the H.W. Kinnear Foundation, \$50,000 from the Wilson Foundation, \$25,000 from CAE Ltd., \$25,000 from Doug Reekie and \$3,000 from William and Nona Heaslip. We also received an anonymous donation of \$1,500.

This, of course, is absolutely wonderful and I am sure you will join me in thanking these donors for their support and generosity. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hon.

Alastair Gillespie and Iain Ronald for their efforts in presenting our cause and soliciting support from potential donors.

Thanks is also due to Peter Agar and Stan Calder from the office of the British Consulate-General for their support in putting in us touch with the Right Honourable Helen Liddell, the Secretary of State for Scotland. Ms. Liddell was paying a brief visit to Canada and despite some last-minute changes to her schedule, we were able to organize a lunch at the National Club in Toronto to which potential donors were invited.

Ms. Liddell gave a very lively and informative talk bringing everyone up to date on the "new" Scotland in light of devolution and the Scottish Parliament which has been in place in Edinburgh for the last two years.

She explained how the role of the Scottish Secretary of State had changed since devolution.



Photo: Mary DiBiase Blaich, New York Times

### *The Pipes are Calling*

*The New York Fire Department Pipe Band in a funeral procession near Ground Zero, sadly a scene all too familiar to TV viewers throughout the world. The bravery of New York's firefighters won them international sympathy and respect.*

*"We have to march. We're there for the families, for the families of members." Joe Murphy, Piper, NYFD*

*"When I saw the devastation in New York I realized that, at times like these, whether we are Scottish, Canadian or American -- nationality does not matter. This is a crime against humanity." Rt. Hon. Helen Liddell, Secretary of State for Scotland.*

As I mentioned to those attending the lunch, all of us are now living in what the experts are calling the "Information Society" and it seems to me that the business of Scottish Studies and establishing a Chair at Guelph ties in very nicely with this concept.

Culture is now an extremely complex activity. It's an industry involving many different disciplines -- academics, historians, artists, writers, musicians, archaeologists, geologists and so on. It now depends on the skills of those involved in an information infrastructure that can instantaneously make all types of information available to anyone anywhere in the world. It also generates a tremendous amount of business for the printing, travel and hospitality industries. Just one more reason for endorsing our cause.

In closing, I should mention that our Treasurer, Alan McKenzie, has just closed the Foundation's books for fiscal 2000-2001. In view of this, we would like to plan the next Annual General Meeting as soon as possible. We will be looking for volunteers to serve on the executive of both the Foundation and Society at that time, so if you would like to recommend anyone, please let us know. In the meantime, on behalf of the Foundation, I thank you all for your encouragement and support.

*Sincerely,  
David Hunter*



*The Right Honourable Helen Liddell, Secretary of State for Scotland with Dr. Ed Stewart, Past Chairman of the Scottish Studies Foundation and Dr. Kevin James from the Scottish Studies Program at the University of Guelph. A British attaché is in the background*