

Letter from the Chair

Dear Fellow Members,

On behalf of the Board of the Scottish Studies Foundation, I would like to thank you, our members, for the wonderful encouragement and support we have received from you during the past year.

I'm sure you will be delighted to know that the combined funds raised by the Foundation, and those received directly by the University of Guelph's Campaign for Scottish Studies, is now in excess of \$1.7 million.

This, of course, means that we are still about \$300,000 away from the \$2 million needed to permanently fund the Chair in Scottish Studies at Guelph. Nonetheless it represents magnificent progress. It certainly means that, with concerted effort, our goal is within our grasp.

As I have mentioned in the past, we have a wonderful team working very hard behind the scenes for our cause. Our fundraising committee, spearheaded by Alistair Gillespie, Iain Ronald, Ed Stewart, Murray McEwan and Bruce Hill of the University of Guelph's Development Office, has done a magnificent job of raising the profile of the Scottish Studies program at Guelph.

They have been supported by key individuals such as John Cleghorn, Ian Craig, Dick Currie, Fraser Elliott, William Fatt, Nona MacDonald Heaslip, Donald MacDonald, Roy MacLaren, Michael MacMillan, Kathie Macmillan, Doug Reekie, Sir Neil Shaw, Red Wilson and others who, as well as providing significant personal support, have succeeded in persuading many influential people of the importance of keeping the Scottish tradition alive and well in Canada.

As I have mentioned before, one of the



Jack Jackson (Centre) Chairman of the Halton-Peel Burns Club and his committee at the Scottish Studies tent at the Georgetown Highland Games. The Club participated in the University of Guelph's Fall Colloquium, providing selections from Burns' poetry during lunch.

questions that members often ask is, "How can I help?" I think the best response to this to keep in mind the fact that we are so close to achieving our goal that the danger lies in losing

momentum. While not all of our members will have the wherewithal to donate substantial funds directly, they may be aware of businesses or other organizations that might be sympathetic to our cause. If so, please let us know. You may be pleasantly surprised at the support that can be forthcoming, often from the most obscure sources.

In closing, however, it is with great sadness that I have to let you know of the passing of Iain MacMillan, a key member of the Board of Directors of both the Scottish Studies Foundation and the Scottish Studies Society. Iain was born in Toronto of Scottish parents and was a Life Member of the St. Andrews Society of Toronto and a member of the Gaelic Society of Toronto.

Throughout his life, Iain maintained a lifelong interest in all things Scottish especially matters pertaining to Canadian Scots. We enjoyed his insightful comments, and his willingness to lend a hand to our cause. He will be greatly missed. Our condolences to his wife Mary and the rest of the MacMillan family.

David Hunter

Scottish Studies on the Road

Guelph Scottish Studies students maintained a high profile at various Ontario Highland Games held throughout the summer. The Scottish Studies tent was well attended adding an academic dimension to the sporting and other events usually associated with the Games.

Interest in the Distance Learning programs offered by Guelph was especially gratifying and many attendees took out membership in the Foundation.

The exhibit also publicized the Fall Colloquium which took place on September 28. Entitled *Re-Inventing the Scottish Tradition* it explored symbols of Scottish nationhood, from William Wallace to the kilt, as well as the role of the Scottish Diaspora in developing Scottish ideas of nationhood, and related topics.

The Colloquium was well attended, with about 110 delegates.

Dr. Graeme Morton of the Department of Economic and Social



Janay Nugent on duty in the Scottish Studies tent at this year's Fergus Highland Games

History at the University of Edinburgh gave the keynote address. His recent book *William Wallace: Man and Myth* (Sutton Publishing, 2001), explores the making of the mythology of William Wallace.

Other speakers included Dr. Ian Maitland Hume who spoke about the role that the tartan and the kilt has, and is still, playing in the Scottish identity.

Dr. David Wilson explored the degree to which Scots can be considered "Celtic" in his paper *The Celtic Myth In Scott's Waverley*.

Rob Falconer, at present a Guelph Scottish Studies PhD student, gave his thoughts on the royal perception of nationhood at the time of Robert the Bruce and Dr. Sarah Tolmie discussed the concept of Bruce as a "political animal."

With a view to providing a modern interpretation, Dr. Scott-Morgan reviewed *The Kingis Quair*, a poem written by James I in celebration of his love for Lady Jane Beaufort, daughter of the earl of Somerset, and niece of Henry VIII. ■



James I

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