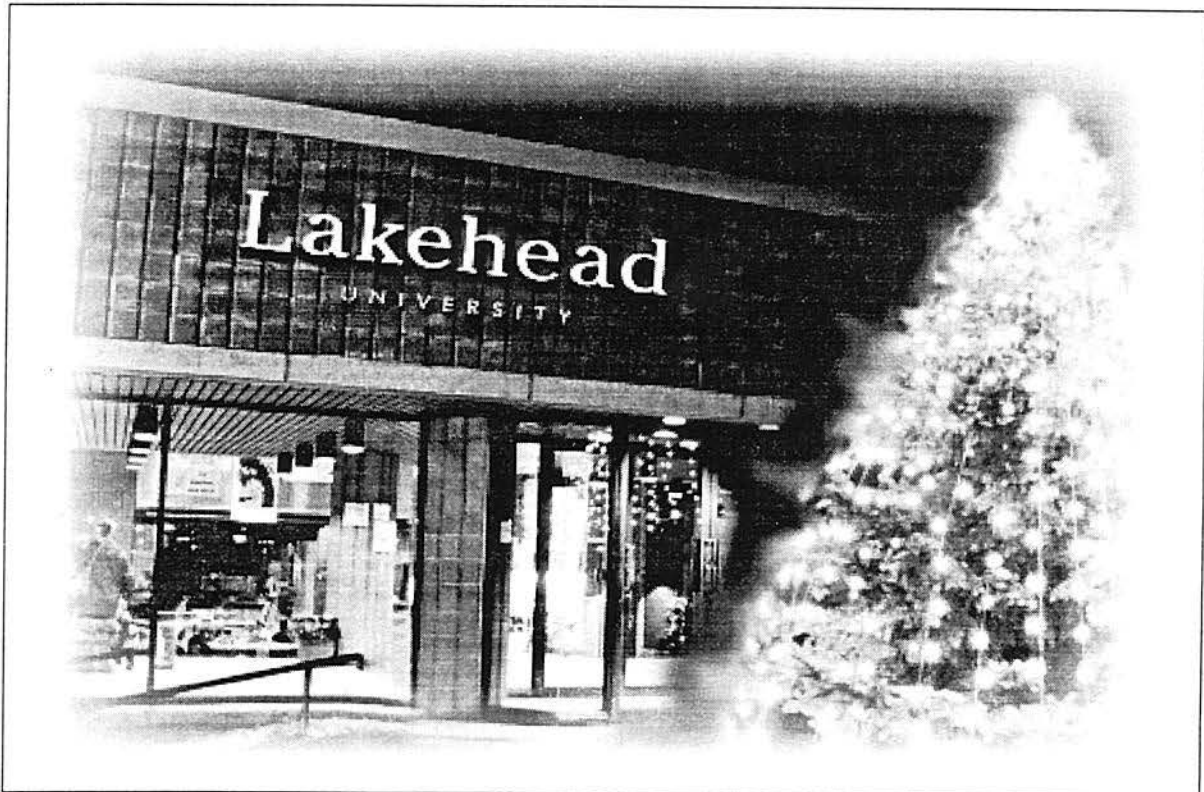


Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Agora

A NEWSLETTER FOR LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY STAFF & FACULTY

Happy Holidays!



from the staff of the AGORA

Lakehead's Board of Governors and CUPE Ratify Agreement

The Board of Governors of Lakehead University and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 3905, recently ratified a new four-year agreement. CUPE represents graduate assistants and undergraduate students employed as markers, tutors etc.

This agreement provides for wage increases in each of the four years, plus some benefit changes. Other changes include the removal of the wording requiring that all registered graduate

students receive an assistantship. There will, however, be a minimum guarantee for the number of graduate assistantships available to eligible full-time graduate students in each year. A new performance review process for graduate students on assistantship is also included. These reviews will cover expectations of duties and responsibilities to be performed, areas for improvement, training and development needs, and will promote communication between

employees and supervisors.

The contract is available at the Human Resources Home Page <http://www.lakeheadu.ca/~humanres/hrhome.html>



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Lakehead UNIVERSITY

Agora

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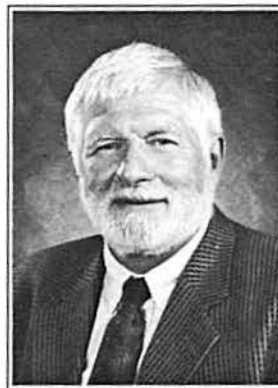
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From the President's Desk

by Dr. Frederick F. Gilbert



As our students complete their examinations and students, staff and faculty alike look forward to the holiday break, I want to wish everyone a safe, healthy and enjoyable time. There will be a university social gathering in the Agora on Wednesday, December 22, beginning at 3:00 p.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. I hope that everyone finds a few moments to join colleagues and share refreshments (generously donated by Aramark).

Much has been accomplished this year and, as we continue to implement the Strategic Plan, I want to commend all of you who have volunteered time and energy to the various committees, task forces and working groups that led to the development of the Plan and now its implementation.

A draft Emergency Plan will be completed this month after a year of effort. Marla Peuramaki and Donna Miller have devoted considerable time to leading its development, along with members of the Emergency Planning Committee. Please review this draft and provide comment for its final development. This is a much-needed policy document to ensure personal safety during

potential catastrophic events. After witnessing the general lack of response to a fire alarm in the University Centre last month, such clear directives are indeed necessary.

Let us hope that the year 2000 brings good news to Lakehead University on issues of capital and operating funds. Our case has been made, and I am confident that the critical importance of the Advanced Technology and Academic Centre to this university's future has been demonstrated.

The university is poised to make many positive strides forward in 2000, and the next millennium should provide even greater evidence of the importance of Lakehead University and northwestern Ontario to the provincial economy and the social well-being of Ontarians in general.

Again, have a wonderful break and let us all move forward next year in confidence and with renewed vigour.

Happy Holidays!

YEAR IN REVIEW - Some Highlights of 1999

- Lakehead receives \$2.96 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation & partners
- Business Administration students place 1st in Marketing at Queen's Competition
- New programs in Software Engineering launched
- Civil Engineering team wins first place in Steel Bridge Competition - MidWest Division
- Lakehead partners with SGI, IBM and Sun Microsystems - acquiring leading-edge high-tech equipment, including a Cray supercomputer
- Dr. Marc Dignam and Dr. Stephen Hecnar win Premier's Research Excellence Awards (PREA)
- Appointments: Dr. Mary Louise Hill to Vice President (Academic); Dr. Julia O'Sullivan to Dean of Education; Dr. Mark Howe to Dean of Graduate Studies and Research
- Paleo DNA Lab takes over 3rd floor of Northwestern Ontario Technology Centre
- Construction begins on new hospital on land adjacent to Lakehead
- Completion of new Strategic Plan
- Shad Valley comes to Lakehead
- Dr. Inderjit Nirdosh is awarded Faculty Advisors Award from Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering

EMERGENCY?**8911****24 HOURS**

9-343-8911 from CNFER & Health Sciences North
 343-8911 from private phones
 puts you into contact with Security Services,
 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Lakehead's Emergency Planning Team

What can we learn from universities that have experienced serious emergencies? How has Lakehead responded to past emergencies? What types of emergencies are of concern to the University community? Are there emergency response "best practices"?

These, and other related questions, have been the focus of the Emergency Planning Coordinating Committee, or EPCC, over the last ten months.

The EPCC is working to revise the University's current emergency policy and plan to bring them into line with planning guidelines established by Emergency Preparedness Canada.

The Committee is also developing detailed emergency response and recovery protocols which will help guide campus first responders, managers and the University community, as a whole.

The emergency program, consisting of the new plan and protocols, will be in place by December 31, 1999. An annual review will be part of the revised process for maintaining the program. It is the goal of the EPCC to make the program dynamic and reflective of University activities.

Information about the program will be distributed widely across the campus in the new year and a staff and faculty training program is being designed for implementation over the next two years.

-- Marla Peuramaki, Human Resources

What's New at the Chancellor Paterson Library

Web Access to Special Survey Data from Statistics Canada

The Chancellor Paterson Library has recently made arrangements with the Internet Data Library System (IDLS) at the University of Western Ontario to provide user-friendly web access to statistical data files and databases through the **Data Liberation Initiative (DLI)**. Through the IDLS web page, raw data files, codebooks, variable lists and SAS/SPSS command files can be easily extracted to a local computer.

The Library previously announced Lakehead University's participation in the **Data Liberation Initiative (DLI)**, a cooperative project between Statistics Canada and other federal government departments, the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada and Canadian Universities. The intent of this five-year pilot project (which began in 1996) is to provide access to special survey data files, the majority of which have no print equivalent. Data is to be used by faculty, students and staff of Lakehead University for teaching, research and academic publishing purposes.

Sample data files available through DLI include:

- Canada Census (1996, 1991, 1986, 1981, 1976, 1971)
- Household Internet Use Survey
- National Longitudinal Survey of Children
- National Population Health Survey
- Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics
- Survey on the Importance of Nature to Canadians

To access DLI data, go to the Library Home Page. Click on Electronic Resources and select Data Liberation Initiative under Statistical Sources.

For more information, contact Linda Mitchell, Government Documents Librarian at extension 8072 (lkmitche@sky.lakeheadu.ca) or Valerie Gibbons, Electronic Services Librarian at extension 8129 (vgibbons@sky.lakeheadu.ca).



Mark André Hamelin, an internationally acclaimed pianist, delivered a piano masterclass in the Jean McNulty Recital Hall on November 25, 1999. Mr. Hamelin also performed at St. Paul's United Church as part of the Lumina Music Concert Series, sponsored by the Department of Music.

Taina Chahal: Exploring Literature that Crosses Boundaries

By Dave MacDonald

When Taina Chahal enters a conversation, the level of passionate attention rises exponentially. If you ask her about her research, her eyes sparkle and she leans forward, speaking with both hands about her quest to cross boundaries and give voice to the women of literature. An English and Women's Studies graduate student and an Ontario Graduate Scholarship-Open Competition winner, Chahal describes her thesis as a project that originally set out to deal with female literary theorists, and then "it just snowballed." Her interesting degree track lets her focus on the literatures of women in depth: "I'm looking at knowledges themselves, and how theories are constructed," she notes.

Chahal's research deals with three Afro-Caribbean women writers, Jamaica Kincaid, Michelle Cliff, and Beryl Gilroy, and includes theorists like Carol Boyce Davies, Amina Mama, and Dionne Brand. She recognizes the challenge of being a white academic writing about women of colour: "how can I read their texts without recolonizing them with my western discourse?" Colonization, women's self-definitions and resistance are a few of the themes that intrigue Chahal. Our universities were founded on a European model, which Chahal points out, traditionally minimized the study of so-called minority literatures. According to her research, universities highlight Eurocentric epistemology and methodology, with the result that 'Third World' authors are often under-represented and their philosophies marginalized.

As she wrestles with the tensions of a postmodern age, Chahal is trying to



show what she has learned from her writers. This demands extensive study of poetry and prose, it's historical context, literary criticism and writer's commentary. "You can't even begin to comprehend the texts if you don't understand the complex social and political contexts that the authors live in," she says. With animated expression, she describes the fluid boundaries that she is discovering at the intersections of gender, race, sexuality, and other social

"My schoolwork is praxis or 'theory in action', so it's not outside of my everyday life."

relations. Here again she runs into difficulty, because very few resource materials deal with these topics in relation to Afro-Caribbean women.

When asked how she finds what she needs, she credits her thesis co-supervisors with creating a "three-way

dialogue that helps me formulate my ideas." Dr. Gillian Siddall's perspectives on curriculum issues and gender/race/sexuality intersections give Chahal new insights, and Dr. Judith Leggett's post-colonial expertise helps her place into context marginalized, excluded, and misrepresented voices. Chahal confides that "they accept me as a colleague, and they don't feel any need to contain my thoughts—and yet they're there when I need guidance—I consider them my incredibly intelligent friends." An even closer friend, her husband, has also been "pivotal in developing my ability to articulate my knowledges," she says. As a mother of three, Chahal juggles her research and life, but the inquisitive process is part of her personality: "my schoolwork is praxis or 'theory in action', so it's not outside of my everyday life."

As Chahal looks forward to her doctoral studies, her inquisitiveness drives her as a scholar: "whenever I enter an area of knowledge, I realize there's no way of understanding it unless I know that—and that—and that—as well," she says. "I read, then I think. I talk to people who have ideas to share, then I think some more..." For an aspiring scholar, there is no better goal than the on-going pursuit of discovery.

Dave MacDonald is one of several students participating in a student writing program sponsored by The Chronicle-Journal.

Notices & Upcoming Events



Chancellor's Reception

February 16, 2000

Lakehead University alumni and friends will be the guests of Chancellor Lois Wilson at a reception in the Senate Chambers on Parliament Hill. This event will showcase Lakehead University to key constituents in the Ottawa area in an effort to strengthen our reputation and image amongst alumni, donors, friends and potential students.

Contact Rob Zuback, manager of alumni services at extension 8916 or rob.zuback@lakeheadu.ca for more information.

Fellow of the University Award

The Board Governors invites individuals to submit nominations for the Fellow of Lakehead University award.

The award recognizes persons who have contributed to the growth, development, welfare and well being of Northwestern Ontario and/or of Lakehead University.

A candidate should have:

- 1) contributed substantially to education and/or to the growth and development of Lakehead University; and/or
- 2) given service to the community of Thunder Bay or Northwestern Ontario through active participation in service clubs, community organizations, business and professional groups or charitable organizations. It is intended that such service should be above and beyond the demand of a career, and should be of the nature where no pecuniary reward is expected.

Contact Beverley Stefureak, ext. 8614 or bev.stefureak@lakeheadu.ca for a nomination form.

NIIGAANTIGE "Looking to the Future 2000" Career Fair



A desire to help Aboriginal youth realize their potential through education and employment opportunities brought several exhibitors to Lakehead University, the venue for Niigaantige Career Fair, December 8 - 10, 1999. Students were exposed to a variety of career options and attended workshops delivered by local and national Aboriginal role models, including Canadian actress Tina Keeper and Ted Nolan, former NHL player & coach.



THUNDERWOLVES BOOSTER CLUB

Join the Booster Club...Be a Part of the Team

The Thunderwolves Booster Club is encouraging new members to join. The club's purpose is to promote and support ongoing and new varsity athletic initiatives. In the past, the club has supported team development and international competitions.

A membership with the Thunderwolves Booster Club provides a season pass to all varsity events. Get involved in varsity athletics at Lakehead and truly become a member of the team!

Membership Classification & Benefits

Booster Friend - \$20

Entitles you to:

- One Game
- Range Café privileges

Booster Club - \$50

Entitles you to:

- One season ticket to all Thunderwolves events
- Thunderwolves season newsletter
- Range Café privileges
- Draw for two, one night stay @ Victoria Inn
- Social after Thunderwolves home games
- Voting privileges

Thunderwolves Club - \$75

Entitles you to:

- Two season tickets to all Thunderwolves events
- Thunderwolves season newsletter
- Range Café privileges
- Draw for two, one night stay @ Victoria Inn
- Social after Thunderwolves home games
- Voting privileges

To receive a membership application, please contact the Athletics Office at ext. 8213.

School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism

Charts its Future

by Dave Quinn

Margaret Johnston is a busy woman. For the past nine years she has been teaching geography, tourism and recreation courses in the



Department of Geography. In August of this year she stepped into her current role as director of Lakehead's School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Tourism (ORPT).

Johnston's main priority is to work with faculty members Dr. Bob Payne, Dr. Tom Potter, Prof. Tom Stevens, Prof. John Colton, Dr. Lesley Curthoys and Dr. Brent Cuthbertson to review the curriculum and build on the strengths of this unique and highly popular program.

Outdoor Recreation, Parks & Tourism is an academic program that explores all aspects of natural resource recreation, and does so using theoretical and applied approaches.

"A large part of what we do relates to parks planning, outdoor leadership, tourism development, and natural interpretation," says Johnston. "Students get a broad base and a comprehensive background ... They can also specialize by combining the Outdoor Recreation program with Geography, Biology or History."

Curriculum Review

The Curriculum Review process currently under way comes within the context of a number of issues including enrolment, retention and graduation

rates. Last year 186 students were admitted to first year, a number which many in the School believe is too high, given the number of faculty and the program's requirements for learning "in the field."

Currently there are about 400 students in the program, nine faculty members and two sessionals.

Johnston is excited about the review process which will involve faculty, staff, students and graduates. "All of us are working together to build on the strong foundations of the past 25 years," says Johnston, "and we feel that now is the time to implement some key changes. We're trying to define the three different streams of the program -- tourism, leadership, and parks -- and make sure that they are deep and broad enough to meet students needs."

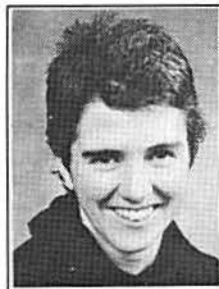
Johnston and her staff have been working hard to come up with a unified vision for the future of the department. They hope to run the proposed changes by the students and other faculty soon. This feedback will be used to further streamline the program, and the final changes will be sent to Lakehead's Senate for final approval.

New Faculty Members

Janet Dymont and Randy Haluza-Delay are two new faculty members. Randy brings a wide range of outdoor experiential education ideas to the faculty, while Janet's background in the



ecological processes of protected areas, adds an interesting new spin to the program.



Students can already feel the energy of change and new ideas in the faculty. "Things this year are way more positive!" says fourth-year

student Kelly Comishin. "For the past couple of years we (the students) could feel the need for some sort of change and growth in the department, and this year it feels like its happening!"

Even with the challenges of her new directorship, Margaret Johnston still finds time to continue some of her ongoing projects with the Geography Department, such as her field course to Antarctica, a two week program heading south this December.

The outdoor recreation and tourism industries are two of the fastest growing industries in the world, and with all the positive ideas and enthusiasm flowing through the Rec. Hall these days, ORPT students should be well prepared to instruct, guide, paddle, climb, ski, and teach into the new millennium.

David Quinn is a freelance writer/photographer currently working as a Instructor/Teaching Assistant in the School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism.

Lakehead is Prepared for Y2K

Y2K

It is expected that Lakehead University's transition to Year 2000 will prove to be decidedly

uneventful. However, precautions have been taken to minimize the potential for problems that may affect students or University facilities.

Residence

Approximately 82 students will be in residence on December 31st. This includes 16 Residence Assistants assigned to work that evening. In the Fall, Bartley Residence was added to the emergency power grids and will be heated and have emergency lighting. Conference Rooms A, B, and C have been designated as evacuation sites for students living in Avila, Prettie or the townhouses if these facilities are without power. The City of Thunder Bay has stated that the water supply will not be affected by any Y2K factor. Additional propane has been procured and Residence administration has purchased a supply of flashlights, batteries and extra

blankets. Residence Assistants and Security Officers will be continuously "on rounds." Other campus buildings will be locked.

Food Services

Dan's Diner - a satellite food service operation located in Bartley Residence - will serve as a food preparation and dispensing area, and Aramark will have sufficient food on hand for four days. Adequate supplies of disposables have been purchased, and the large barbeques will be located outside of Dan's Diner.

Campus Buildings

In the event of power failure, the University's emergency lighting system can operate for approximately four days. The fire alarm system and the telephone switch will also remain operative for the same time frame. Elevators will not work. While the majority of buildings are tied into emergency lighting, maintenance personnel will immediately commence de-commissioning those buildings to protect them in the event of freeze-up. We estimate that it would take thirty hours to secure these facilities. A number

of gas generators will be located in critical areas (e.g. Security) to maintain minimal lighting or provide for the operation of communications equipment. We have received assurance from utility providers and system suppliers that their respective operations are Y2K compliant.

Computers & Systems

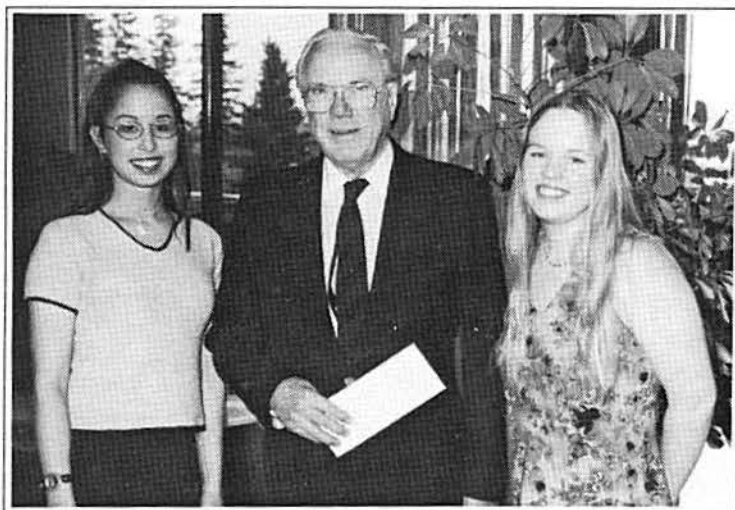
With respect to computing services, all major systems have been tested and corrective action taken as necessary. In the summer months CTRC invited all members of the University community to have their individual PC's tested for Y2K compliance, and nearly 500 faculty and staff members took advantage of this offer. Others have tested their equipment themselves for Y2K compliance using various software packages that have been available for some time.

Staffing

As a precaution, members of the Electrical, Maintenance, and Security Departments will be at work on December 31st. A Y2K Emergency Team has been established and includes those managers on campus who are well experienced with emergency situations. The team is comprised of Jim Podd, director of campus development, Bob Angell, director of CTRC, David Hare, manager of residence, Donna Miller, chief of security services, and Adam Rhode, director of food services.

Lakehead is operating under the premise that critical systems outside our control will not be adversely affected by the transition to Year 2000; however, we are confident that we can manage an emergency situation and minimize the possibility of danger to our students, and damage to our property.

Excerpted from a report to the Board of Governors, December 2, 1999 by Grant Walsh, executive director of services.



Thunder Bay Foundation generously supports students through various bursaries and scholarships. Pictured here with Dr. J. Colquhoun, past-president, Thunder Bay Foundation, are Lakehead students, Jennifer Aguirre and Sara Lyn Robillard, both Thunder Bay Foundation Scholarship recipients. The Foundation participated in the OSOTF campaign and through their gift have created the Ruth W. Black Memorial Bursary in Graduate Studies. The award will provide a bursary of \$1,200 each year to a graduate student in any program.

**Upcoming events
at the C.J. Sanders Fieldhouse**

Thunderwolves Schedule

January 7

Wrestling, Men's dual meet, 4:00 pm

Basketball, Women's vs Guelph, 6:30 pm

Men's vs. Guelph, 8:30 pm

January 8

Wrestling, Gord Garvie Tournament,

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Basketball, Women's vs. Guelph, 6:30 pm

Men's vs. Guelph, 8:30 pm

January 21

Basketball, Women's vs. Western, 6:30 pm

January 22

Basketball, Women's vs. Western, 6:30 pm

Men's vs. Western, 8:30 pm

**Don't miss the
HOLIDAY GATHERING**

in the Agora

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22nd
between 3:00 p.m - 4:30 p.m.**

Drop by for refreshments, generously
donated by Aramark while you listen to
the **Mine Centre Singers.**



**CLEAN UP DRESS DOWN DAY -
Tuesday, December 21**

Seize this opportunity to use this day to clean files
and generally "clean up your own backyard"!!

Garbage bags are available at the Switchboard in
the University Centre and the main offices in the
Bora Laskin and C.J. Sanders buildings.

At the end of the day, please place the filled
garbage bags in the hallway for pickup.

Confidential material for shredding should be
packed in boxes (boxes are at Printing). Be sure
to call Campus Development by Dec. 20th or 21st
at 8208, to arrange for pick up.



*A Seasonal Message
from Chancellor Lois Wilson*

Canada is fortunate to have a diverse
community of races, peoples, cultures,
religions and languages in its citizens.
Those differences have not yet erupted
into public animosity, and I hope they
never will. However some debate
emerges from time to time about how we
should collectively express our unity as
Canadians, and yet affirm and respect
the diversity that exists among us. I want
to make a few comments about religious
diversity, and its appropriate expression
in public life, even though the subject is
thought to be too sensitive or delicate for
public discussion. The subject becomes
particularly sensitive around Christmas,
which, for all its glitter, remains for many
of us one of the main annual Christian
celebrations.

Since the personal and communal faith
of a people will need to be expressed
publicly from time to time, in order to
preserve its own integrity, it seems to me
that no faith community should ever seek
to limit the freedom of other faiths. There
should be acceptance that Canadians
enjoy full freedom to express their own
spirituality and to associate with faith
communities of their choice. As well,
those who do not identify their spirituality
with any organized faith group must be
respected and also show respect for
others. Can we create a climate in our
culture where fundamental beliefs of
particular religions can be heard,
respected, and celebrated in public, but
not allowed to denigrate those who do

not share these beliefs? Can mutual
respect be nurtured between those who
claim no spiritual dimension to their lives
and those whose very existence derives
its meaning from the depths of spiritual
convictions?

Hopefully, as we approach the Year
2000, we approach it as we do a fiftieth
wedding anniversary. Each of us and
every community of the spirit should
bring the best gifts possible to the
celebration of the new Millennium, as its
contribution to the mending of a broken
world. Let the arrogant attitudes that
diminish one another, or another's belief
system, be made culturally unacceptable
in Canada. In that way we affirm each
other as human beings without feeling
the necessity of betraying our own
spiritual understandings, or pretending
that we have no differences. And let us
all make a space for the "other" in an
equitable and warm way on public
occasions or public religious
celebrations.

My main hope is that Canadians will
affirm the important spiritual and life
giving dimensions of our lives as we
move into the time frame of a new
century. My main hope is that we do this
together, looking upon the rich diversity
of communities of the spirit as gifts to
our culture, not problems. And that we
move well beyond tolerance – which is
the last refuge of the uncommitted – to
bringing gifts for all, that will enrich the
human journey.

CD Trojan
Devel. & Alumni Affairs