

LAURENTIAN

SUMMER 2009

VICKIE'S VANTAGE

**Recession
impressions from
the class of CEOs**
**There's something
about Barrie**



DRIVING CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND PROSPERITY

To say that I am appreciative of the contributions and generosity

of Laurentian University's donors is an understatement. The financial assistance I have received throughout my time as a student at Laurentian has been invaluable. It has given me not only financial stability, but has allowed me to focus on my academic studies, which are my greatest passion in life.

Acting as the student spokesperson at the Next 50 Campaign internal launch event in January wasn't just a chance to get a little air time or to hear myself speak aloud (which, if you ask my teachers, is what I like best). Instead, it was a chance for me to thank the many caring people who are directly responsible for the success of numerous students through their generous contributions to scholarships and bursaries.

Speaking at the Next 50 Campaign event in January also allowed me to urge the Laurentian community to become involved by continuing to support the internal campaign. It didn't take long to see results. Success stories and the involvement of faculty and staff were evident everywhere on campus. The faculty in my very own department began contributing to the campaign by creating a travel grant for future students.

When the final tally for the 2008/2009 internal component of the Next 50 Campaign was announced at the beginning of April, I was truly impressed, as were many others. Not only did the faculty and staff surpass the goal of \$1,250,000, they did it with passion and commitment. In fact, more than \$1,375,000 was raised for Laurentian's current and future students, and faculty and staff continue to make pledges and contributions to bursaries and scholarships at Laurentian.

For my part, and to honour those who have made my future brighter, I will continue to study and pursue excellence throughout my career. My goal is to someday reach a position that allows me to be as generous as the donors who have had such a tremendous impact on my life.

Keith Brewster, B.Sc. 2008
Second-year master's student in psychology



Laurentian student Keith Brewster sits behind the wheel of a Ford Mustang, which was offered for a month's use as a raffle prize to Laurentian's faculty and staff participating in the Next 50 Campaign. Also pictured here are Robert Bourgeois, vice-president administration, and Michelle Caza-Joly, alumna and Cambrian Ford comptroller.



LAURENTIAN

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Publisher

Tamás Zsolnay, University Advancement, Laurentian University

Editor

Jennifer Nault

Associate Editors

Suzanne Charron-Violette, Laura E. Young*

Design/Layout

Lynn Laird, JoAnn Wohlberg

Additional Contributors

Kimberly Nadon*, Jacques Tremblay*, Nathalie Depatie*,
Monica Dorion, Andrew Zaverucha

Translation

Jean-Yves Asselin*, Linda Levesque*

Photography

Monica Dorion, Nancy Genesee, Jo-Anne McArthur,
Mary-Catherine Taylor, Brent Wohlberg, Laura E. Young*

Printer

Web Offset Publications Ltd.

Special thanks

Suzanne Chartrand, Ray Coutu, Sylvie Chrétiën-Makela,
Gisèle Mehes, Kimberly Nadon*

Editorial Board

Phil Andrews*, Lisa Demers*, Shirley Moore, Mary Trebb, Jacques
Tremblay*, Mike Whitehouse*

*graduates of Laurentian University

PRIVACY STATEMENT

When you graduate, your name, address, phone number and degree information are retained by the university. The names of graduates of the university, degrees received by them, dates conferred, and honours and distinctions are maintained as a matter of public record and may be disclosed to third parties. Laurentian University may use archived photos for profiling our graduates and promoting events. This is to ensure the proper administration of the functions of the alumni relations office.

The information contained herein is related directly to and needed for university advancement, including donor and public relations, staying in contact with alumni and friends, and any consistent purpose, and may be disclosed internally where required. If you have any questions about the collection, use, content, and disclosure of this information, please contact the Office of University Advancement by phone at: 705-675-1151, ext. 3442 or fax at: 705-671-3825.

Laurentian University Magazine is published three times per year by the Office of University Advancement.

Circulation: 31,000 ISSN 1489-5781
Publications Mail Agreement Number 40063502

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
University Advancement, Laurentian University
935 Ramsey Lake Road
Sudbury ON P3E 2C6

Advertising inquiries and address updates can be directed to magazine@laurentian.ca or 705-675-1151, ext. 4120.

For alumni inquiries, please contact Alumni Relations at 705-675-4818.



Laurentian University
Université Laurentienne



on the cover:

Vickie Kaminski

Photo by
Mary-Catherine Taylor



inside

8

VICKIE'S VANTAGE
Alumna Vickie Kaminski reflects on her time as CEO of the Sudbury Regional Hospital



12

IN THE ARMS OF BARRIE
A new growth spurt for Laurentian@Georgian, and other satellite campuses



15

RECESSION IMPRESSIONS
Two CEOs/Laurentian grads share their philosophies



In every issue

Readers' correspondence and editor's message **2 LETTERS**

Campus news including a message from Laurentian president Dominic Giroux **3 LATEST**

News from academic departments **18 DEPARTMENT NEWS**

News from your alumni association including chapter happenings, events, and the LUAA president's message **22 CONNECTIONS**

Alumni updates and grads in the news **26 ALUMNI**

Profiles and campus happenings **30 NOTEBOOK**
• Sophie Bertrand hits the right notes
• Roger Ouellette spends over \$100 million on Olympic dreams

Laurentian's last big anniversary bash **32 MEMORIES**

Good business

FROM THE EDITOR, JENNIFER NAULT



IN THIS ISSUE, we profile some highly regarded business leaders, people whose MBA degrees drift toward the lower lines of their CVs, crowded out by an abundance of other honours and distinctions. Their business is business.

Still, among a consumer-savvy public, business, or sales, is often viewed with scorn and distrust. How, then, is a university – an esteemed place of higher learning – to

reconcile the seemingly contrary activities of sales (recruitment) and the pursuit of knowledge? Have we not learned (often in university) to question everything, and that education is to remain free of the marketplace?

Laurentian University, like many other academic institutions, is facing a challenge worthy of a 200-page thesis. How to manage and reverse declines in enrolment, a trend in higher education that is beating down the venerated institutions as much as the upstarts. For Laurentian, a university rooted in the North, a successful outcome is critically linked to the success of the region, and northern Ontario's participation in the country's future.

We hail you – Laurentian's alumni – in these pages, as we have been doing for years. Alumni are making an indelible impact in Canada and across the globe.

Yet now more than ever, on the cusp of its 50th anniversary, Laurentian University itself deserves accolades. Whether you are a new grad or have been receiving this publication for more years than you would care to admit, you know that Laurentian has made a mark in this country in numerous and concrete ways.

The university provides quality education in health, environmental studies, and resource development, among its many other signature programs, including its diverse niche programs – Native studies, SPAD, midwifery, forensics, to name only a few. The "alumni in the news" section is inundated with success stories – people (like you) who bring healthcare to remote areas in Canada and abroad, people who steer world-class companies to higher achievements, people who have healed the landscape, people who develop new cancer prevention strategies. These are *your* people.

And this is where you – as Laurentian alumni and friends – come in. Don't let the stories end when you've reached the last page of this publication; keep the stories alive by sharing your positive experiences with others – and with us. The next time you have the opportunity to coach a young person making tough decisions about the future, tell them about Laurentian. It's not a "sales pitch," it's genuine.

magazine@laurentian.ca

LETTERS

Good morning/Bonjour,

I particularly liked the recent feature on CBC and Denis St-Jules.

Good for you for following up on the end of his remarkable career. There are two more LU graduates who worked at CBC –

me and the late Pat Aitken. Pat worked for *Morning North* for several years, beginning in 1990. I was a producer for *Morning North* from 1989 to 1993. I met my (now) husband, Louis Lefebvre, while working at the Corp – he for Radio Canada, and me for CBC. Only in Sudbury! We married a month after convocation on June 29, 1996.

Thanks/À bientôt...

Lorraine Lapp (BA 1996)

There was a stack of mail on my desk when I got in this morning – the winter 2009 magazine was at the top of the pile. I looked through it, as I do whenever it makes the trip over to the CFEU [Cooperative Freshwater Ecology Unit].

The magazine is great. It looks good and it has great variety of content. It has been steadily improving for awhile now and I wanted you to know that people are noticing.

Good job to everyone involved,

Karen Oman, research and administration, CFEU

campus quiz

In the last issue we asked where US President Barack Obama was listed in the Laurentian Magazine. His name appears in articles on pages 7 and 19: The winner was Paul Harvie of Ottawa.

This issue's question:

When does Laurentian officially turn 50?

Send your answer to magazine@laurentian.ca with the subject line "Summer 2009 Trivia" before September 15, 2009, and we'll enter your name in the draw for a Laurentian gift pack. Good luck!



LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES THE BIG 5-0!

IT'S AN ANNIVERSARY to remember – the day Laurentian University officially turns 50 is Sunday, March 28, 2010. This is the day the Act to incorporate the university received Royal assent, creating a bilingual institution of higher learning in Sudbury.

In order to include as many people as possible, an official kick-off party, with cake and an open-house component, will be held at Laurentian on Friday, March 26, 2010.

And since it's not every day that Laurentian turns 50, plans are underway to celebrate the biggest birthday bash ever through a string of events and parties. It seems the party hats will stay on throughout the year.

At Laurentian's 25th anniversary, people certainly expected Laurentian to make it to the 50th milestone, says Laurie Bissonnette, chair of the 50th anniversary steering committee. What is striking for Bissonnette, however, is how the university looks today. The campus affords superior vistas and lake views; and she sees how Laurentian has evolved, embracing a tri-cultural mandate, holding fast to its commitment to excellence. Laurentian is an adult now, she says.

Laurentian has “developed from a purely undergrad university into a full-fledged university and research facility, a lot of the things that really make it a mature university. We have all grown up with our university and so has the city.”

Bissonnette leads a committee of 12 people and four sub-committees in preparation for the 50th celebrations. She graduated from Laurentian with her B.Sc. in mathematics in 1979, and is a partner at KPMG in Sudbury, where she has worked for 25 years.

With less than a year to go, some plans are concrete while others are still being firmed up.

A gala will be held on campus on October 23, 2010, likely in the gym at the B. F. Avery Physical Education Centre. The gala will be held on campus because part of the focus of the celebration is to bring people back to Laurentian to showcase all the physical changes at the university over the past 50 years, Bissonnette says, adding, “new buildings are up, including a new residence, a world-class recreational centre, and a new School of Education. We are far from the temporary accommodations in downtown Sudbury that welcomed the first 700 university students in September 1960!”



Laurentian president Dominic Giroux and Laurie Bissonnette, chair of the 50th anniversary steering committee, unveil the logo for Laurentian's 50th.

Nominations are now open for the 50 Years of Alumni Achievement Awards. The Laurentian University Alumni Association will honour 50 graduates voted the epitome

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 4]

New beginnings

LAURENTIAN PRESIDENT DOMINIC GIROUX



THIS IS A time for new beginnings – for me as the ninth president of Laurentian University – and for Laurentian, which is on the cusp of marking a half century anniversary.

Since 1960, Laurentian has allowed graduates to shape lives, share knowledge, and contribute to the betterment of society. Moreover, alumni know that by choosing Laurentian, you joined a com-

munity. And with alumni now numbering more than 40,000, our community is growing.

Laurentian University has been Ontario's fourth-fastest growing university since 2000. Laurentian nears its 50th anniversary in 2010. The university has grown into a comprehensive, bilingual university, now offering six PhDs and more than 20 master's programs. In addition to its bilingual mandate, Laurentian wholeheartedly embraces its tri-cultural mission.

Spring convocation 2009 was yet another milestone occasion, when our School of Medicine – a joint initiative with Lakehead University – graduated its first class. We also welcomed the first graduating classes from our partnership programming with Georgian College. In the same month, we welcomed the first nursing grads through St. Lawrence College.

And this summer, we started construction of a \$20-million Vale Inco Living with Lakes Centre on the shores of Ramsey Lake.

Much has been accomplished in the past decades. But the challenges that lie ahead demand even more effort. I hope you will remain actively involved in your local alumni chapter. My commitment to you is that Laurentian will continue to improve, making each of you very proud to be a Laurentian alumna or alumnus.

I have written the first chapter of a book that I will publish one day on my journey here at Laurentian. I have also drafted the last chapter of the book, based on input from meetings with departments and associations, in which I asked where we should aim to be 10 years from now. So far, four themes are emerging:

- We want Laurentian University to have strong national recognition;
- We want to be a university of choice, while strengthening our unique regional, bilingual, and tri-cultural mandate;
- We want to be a university fostering strong student engagement;
- We want to be a university with close ties to the communities we serve.

And together, I would like to fill in the chapters in-between.

LAURENTIAN TURNS 50

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4]



All major events at the university in 2010 will incorporate the newly-released 50th anniversary logo, including convocation, athletic awards, alumni events, Italian night, and Wolves night.

of Laurentian's core values – excellence, collaboration, community, diversity, equity, accessibility, and quality of life.

If someone you know is an outstanding ambassador of Laurentian, please take part in the nomination process. A committee is accepting nominations until December 31, 2009. For criteria, nomination forms, or further information, visit: www.celebrate50.laurentian.ca

In the meantime, there are a number of other anniversary projects underway:

- Music professor Robert Hall has written a song entitled: *Fifty Bells/Cinquante Cloches*. The piece involves audience members, two keyboards, bells, and visual media.
- The Laurentian University history department is producing a book documenting the university's first 50 years and highlighting some of the key people and the roles they played in Laurentian's history. The history is being written collectively by Linda Ambrose, Matt Bray, Sara Burke, Donald Dennie, and Guy Gaudreau. Bray, emeritus professor of history, is the editor. The book is scheduled to be published by McGill-Queen's University Press in fall 2010, in two editions – English and French. "Laurentian is in many ways a unique university, but it is also part of a much larger social history of higher education during a period of change and expansion. Since 1960, shifting ideas about who should go to university and what they should learn have transformed the experience of university education," says Sara Burke.
- The four alumni who share their birthday with the university will be invited to attend and celebrate their respective 50ths at Laurentian.

Laurie Bissonnette adds: "Laurentian has graduated more than 40,000 students in the past 49 years. These alumni are our community's most precious resource. They have played an integral part in the development and prosperity of Sudbury, northern Ontario, and beyond, and will continue to do so for many years to come. I hope many will come to celebrate Laurentian University – an essential part of our lives and our community."

For more information and regular updates on all anniversary events, please visit:
www.celebrate50.laurentian.ca

Building a dream home by the lake



Architectural rendering of Vale Inco Living with Lakes Centre. Construction began this summer.

THE VALE INCO Living with Lakes Centre has received \$5,152,676 from Industry Canada's Knowledge Infrastructure Program. All funding has now been secured for the \$20-million project and construction began this July. "This investment will create in Sudbury a cutting-edge environment restoration centre that will be the catalyst for northeastern Ontario's burgeoning eco-industry," said Laurentian president

Dominic Giroux.

A tally of the remaining \$15 million raised for this project: \$5 million from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities; \$4.5 million from Vale Inco; \$2,475,000 from FEDNOR; \$2 million from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation; \$800,000 from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Ontario Innovation Trust; \$150,000 from

the F. Jean Macleod Trust; \$100,000 from the City of Greater Sudbury; \$25,000 from the Holcim Foundation; and \$50,000 in private pledges.

After construction is completed, more than 30 skilled positions will be created, including research chairs, professorships, technical experts, post-doctoral fellows, graduate student, and undergraduate student positions.

Preventing falls By Suzanne Charron-Violette

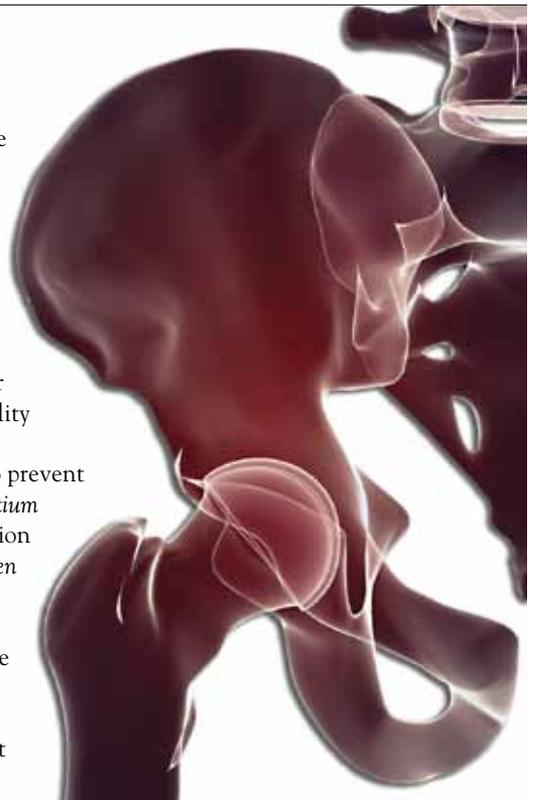
THE MEDIA OFTEN sites the lack of beds in hospitals; yet there are ways to help reduce the number of palliative care beds required by people – mainly seniors – recovering from falls. According to Jacques Michaud (BA 1969), assistant professor of gerontology at Huntington University, "there are great savings to be had by preventing falls."

But it's about more than savings for Michaud – it's about care. About 20 years ago, following his father's death, Michaud developed a deep interest in gerontology. He led the development of the French gerontology program at Cambrian College.

People aged 65 or older are much more likely to be hospitalized for an injury from a fall than those in younger age groups. As a result, what may at first seem like a minor fall may significantly alter a senior's ability to stay independent at home, affecting quality of life.

This is why Canada's Public Health Agency is leading efforts at the federal level to prevent falls among the elderly. At Laurentian University, Michaud works through the *Consortium national de formation en santé* to train people who work with the elderly on fall prevention methods. He also circulates the Canadian guide on fall prevention (*Curriculum canadien sur la prévention des chutes*), and encourages practitioners in the field of gerontology to implement fall-prevention strategies. And now, future family doctors graduating from the Northern Ontario School of Medicine will receive more in-depth training on these strategies.

Michaud's long-standing interest in gerontology is easily explained: "I watched my parents age and I was worried about their well-being, so gerontology became important to me."



Arts-based program for children creates resiliency

THE BASIC BUILDING blocks of healthy human development include self-awareness, self-esteem, and resilience. But how do you help children after someone has kicked over that tower of blocks?

That's where Diana Coholic, a professor in the school of social work, and her team, step in. For the past three years, Coholic has conducted weekly art classes for children in Laurentian's multidisciplinary qualitative research lab. The intervention through art has enabled disadvantaged children to improve their self concept and resilience. Coholic's research has resulted in the development of a holistic arts-based group program (HAP) for high-need children.

As one young child involved in the program says: "The group helped me get to know myself a little bit better, and it's helped me make some decisions ... based on my behaviour and stuff. My foster parents have said they've seen enormous positive changes."

Thanks to a recent grant of \$221,340 from the Sick Kids Foundation, Coholic will further investigate the effectiveness of holistic arts-based group methods. Studying how holistic interventions occur, and how they can improve children's health, will contribute to program development, she expects. Holistic, arts-based group programs can be delivered by a variety of helping/health practitioners and can act as a bridge for further treatments.

Coholic has been hiring additional staff to help with the research. Over the next three years, she and her team expect to work with 108 children. In the meantime, Hoi Cheu, director of Laurentian's Centre for Humanities Research and Creativity, has made a HAP training DVD. There is an accompanying manual for the DVD. Both are available through the humanities research centre.

— By Laura E. Young



*"The group helped me **get to know myself a little bit better**, and it's helped me make a couple of decisions...based on my behaviour and stuff...I'm sure if you look at the first group and then the last one, **I've probably changed quite a bit**. My foster parents have said they've seen **enormous positive changes**."*

— Program participant





Stephen Lewis GEARed up

FOR YEARS, Stephen Lewis has been putting a human face to HIV/AIDS in Africa, among other health and social issues. So it's with unrestrained joy that he counts a recent victory in his long career. The UN is creating a new international agency for women, on the level of UNICEF. So far, it has been called the GEAR (Gender Equality Architecture Reform) project. Lewis, who has long advocated for just such an agency, believes it will likely be launched late this year. "I think we're winning that battle. My God. You win few battles in life; it's nice to see a happy prospect." A woman will lead the agency: Her position will be equal to the senior posts in the UN.

Lewis, a former UN ambassador, NDP politician, and humanitarian, spoke about the power of the community to pull together during a public lecture held at Laurentian on March 19. Lewis, who received an honorary doctorate from Laurentian in 2006, is currently the social science scholar-in-residence at McMaster University in Hamilton

GEAR "will have operational capacity on the ground to change the lives of women and to give support to women's activist groups. It will be the most dramatic development in the women's social and economic rights and needs in 50 years," said Lewis.

REDUCING MINING RISKS

FOR THE PAST two years, José Saavedra-Rosas has been working to create a computer algorithm that allows mining engineers to better account for risk in the mining process.

In June Saavedra-Rosas successfully defended his thesis in natural resources engineering and obtained his PhD through Laurentian's School of Engineering. "There is always a degree of financial risk when it comes to mining," said Saavedra-Rosas. "I'm very pleased with the outcome of my thesis. I've developed a new framework whereby a genetic algorithm – a form of artificial intelligence – is used to decrease risk and better cope with the unforeseen."

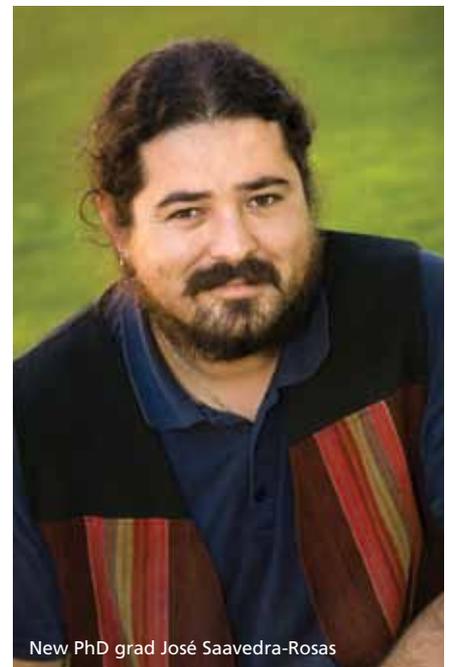
Saavedra-Rosas hails from Chile where he completed his undergraduate and master's degrees in mathematical engineering and operational management, respectively. After beginning his PhD studies at McGill University in Montreal, he decided to complete his degree at Laurentian. He chose

Laurentian for its mining culture and location in one of Canada's premier mining capitals.

Much of the thesis work was done with MIRARCO (Mining Innovation, Rehabilitation and Applied Research Corporation) amongst research teams that are also applying genetic algorithms to mining research and development projects. MIRARCO employs many graduate students and provides them with resources to complete their theses.

"Working with MIRARCO was a great benefit for me, like being part of a big family. My colleagues were excellent and the work environment encouraged creativity in my research." Saavedra-Rosas has accepted a full-time position as a junior lecturer with Curtin University of Technology's Western Australia School of Mines in Perth, Australia.

– By Andrew Zaverucha



New PhD grad José Saavedra-Rosas

Vickie's Vantage

Moving into a new CEO position out East, alumna Vickie Kaminski reflects on some happy – and harrowing – times as CEO of the HRSRH

BY SUZANNE CHARRON-VIOLETTE

When Victoria Kaminski (BScN 1975) took the helm of Hôpital Régional Sudbury Regional Hospital (HRSRH) in 2002, several women were also in charge of major Sudbury institutions: Judith Woodworth, president of Laurentian University; Sylvia Barnard, president of Cambrian College; Gisèle Chrétien (BScN 1987), president of Collège Boréal; and Penny Sutcliffe, medical officer of health and CEO at the Sudbury & District Health Unit.

“It was great, because we used to talk about the glass ceiling. And I have two girls and they had no idea what that meant,” says Sudbury-native Vickie Kaminski. Yet she, too, had no idea, nor did she anticipate, all of the challenges that lay ahead when she accepted the position. She admits that some of it came as a shock. But some of the challenges in her role would help her develop a “this-too-shall-pass” attitude.

In 2002, the HRSRH experienced a difficult transition period. A capital project for a one-site hospital was underway, with phase one of the construction close to completion. But there was no money left to begin phase two. The capital project was heading for a catastrophic cost overrun, having begun before all drawings had been finalized, and all the while, other major architectural and building problems kept cropping up. To make financial matters worse, the price of steel, as well as oil and gas, skyrocketed.

Adding to these overages, the hospital's operation budget was running a projected annual deficit nearing \$30 million. Employees and medical staff were







worried, more so because HRSRH's corporate culture was still young, and had not yet truly merged. Indeed, Sudbury's three hospitals – the General, Laurentian, and Memorial – had amalgamated in 1997, but the working culture had not yet aligned to the new model, with many hesitating to embrace HRSRH as a single entity. As a result of the destabilized, and sometimes divisive, work environment, the public was losing faith in the hospital's management.

Kaminski quickly realized she had inherited something that would take a great deal of time and effort to resolve. First, construction was halted. Experts were brought in to help get the project back on track. Reflecting on this tumultuous period, Kaminski says, "We couldn't have the capital project if we hadn't balanced the books, and we wouldn't have balanced the books if we hadn't developed some public trust and confidence."

It took five years to resume the construction project. Now, with Kaminski having left HRSRH this past June, and despite lingering friction during her time as CEO, she leaves satisfied, knowing that phase two is scheduled to be on time and on budget (at the time of this publication). Construction is expected to be complete by December 2009.

Early in her new role, administra-

tion had ordered an operational review of the hospital, which was supervised by government-appointed Graham Scott. One of his main recommendations transformed Kaminski's life for a whole 18 months: The CEO should have an MBA – which Kaminski did not have. As the organization was grappling with the dilemma of requiring an MBA of the next president, or the current one, Kaminski, then 50, recalls: "I was quite prepared to let it be the next president. I was not anxious to go back to school." But she did. For a year and a half, she travelled to Toronto every other weekend, earning her executive MBA from York University in 2004. It came with a five-year commitment to HRSRH, which had funded her education.

Today, Kaminski says, "I'm thankful to Graham. Obtaining my MBA allowed me to develop my business acumen," which, she says, helped her lead a team, stabilize the organization, and resolve the operations deficit without introducing major layoffs.

Following this line of thinking, one might expect Kaminski to be showered with accolades. On the contrary, she has been often criticized in the media, especially concerning her salary. In 2004, her salary was brought in line with the salaries of other teaching hospital CEOs (according to Kaminski). Added to this

increase was a payout for vacation days not taken since 2002. This topped up an already hefty salary by about \$50,000. According to Kaminski, the rationale for the salary adjustment was never properly explained to the media. Nevertheless, the public was furious.

Kaminski never felt undeserving of her salary: "I know how hard I work. I know the salaries across the province ... the criticism was expected." She relied on a strong support network of family, friends, and people with enough experience in hospital governance to say: "This too shall pass."

The vocal criticism, though, was much harder to take when it involved her family. In early 2007, then-Minister of Health George Smitherman made some off-the-cuff remarks about Kaminski's salary when he was interviewed by CBC radio (*Northern Life*, February 12, 2007). Kaminski recalls that, for about three months, the situation took a life on its own, and became quite volatile for her personally. Police even notified her of credible death threats. She and her family had to be careful and vary their daily routines. For the first time in her career, she questioned whether it was all worth it. "That was a very dark time," she reflects.

Kaminski's daughters, Krista and Courtney, and the children of her



- 1 Architectural rendering of the HRSRH
- 2 Mid-construction (2007)
- 3 Construction continues (2009)
- 4 Vickie Kaminski visits 4 South, the newly renovated acute medicine floor

partner, Brian Gatién, make it a blended family of seven young adults, ranging from 20- to 30-years old. “They are, without a doubt, the best part of my life,” she says, her dark eyes lighting up.

Parenting a bunch of modern-day Bradys certainly warrants some kind of award; it would be added to the Rotary Club’s Paul Harris International Scholarship Award, which Vickie won in October 2008, and another award received from her *alma mater* in 2006 – the first Laurentian Alumni Award of Distinction – for her continued leadership on various national, provincial, and local health panels.

Initially, Vickie Kaminski was drawn to the field of health care, not as an administrator, but as a care provider. “I was interested in giving care, that is what caught my attention and what I wanted to do,” says Kaminski. However, she appreciated Laurentian’s nursing program’s focus on leadership. This came in handy when the university made significant changes to the program. She was in her second year. She didn’t want to transfer to another university. So, she followed her father’s advice and stood up for herself.

Kaminski – then president of the Ontario division of the Canadian University Nurses Students Association – led a challenge to Laurentian University president E. J. Monahan: “You’ve

got to do something different than this.” Laurentian listened. In the academic year 1973-1974, the university limited first-year enrolment and the second year of the program was cancelled. As most had transferred, the remaining students received individualized attention under acting director Alma E. Reid (Hon. PhD 1977) in 1973-74 and, as of May 1974, director Dorothy Pringle (Hon. PhD 2002). “That was a very interesting time. I believe that’s what set me up to be involved in health-care change.”

Change is the key word here. She started in 1975 as a bedside nurse in Memorial’s medical unit, then moved to the cardiovascular unit, and by 1978, she was head nurse at the ICU. About a year later, she became director of nursing. Building personal credibility was her greatest challenge, as she was very young – and, at some stages, pregnant. (She remembers meeting a physician who didn’t believe she was director of nursing since he’d never known one young enough to be pregnant.) Then, in 1997, she transferred to HRSRH as vice-president of clinical programs and chief nursing officer, positions she held until 2001.

The years spent in health-care administration has shaped Kaminski’s character and resiliency. Despite many tough times, she has fond memories of HRSRH. Her best memories centre

“mostly on the people I’ve worked with, who have helped me grow, and the lives we touched.”

Summing up her accomplishments as president and CEO at the HRSRH, Kaminski offers, “I think it’s just one – stabilizing the organization.”

She left Sudbury in June to take over as CEO of the Eastern Health Authority in Newfoundland and Labrador. Budget issues, capital redevelopment for long-term and acute care, the Cameron inquiry on cancer testing, and the rebuilding of public and employee trust are ongoing challenges. “I think it’s very similar to what I’ve done [at HRSRH], and a good five-year project,” she says. ■

UPDATE: On June 10, 2009, interim hospital CEO Bertha Paulse announced HRSRH plans to reduce operating expenses by \$16 million in two years, in order to eliminate its deficit by 2010-2011. A total of 163 full-time equivalent positions will be affected by job cuts over two years. In some cases, people in these positions will be moved into jobs that are currently vacant, and some may opt to retire.

EDITOR’S NOTE: To present this article in a fair and balanced manner, several of Vickie Kaminski’s associates were contacted, but feedback on her departure was sparse.

there's something about barrie

EXPLORING THE GROWING
LAURENTIAN@GEORGIAN COLLABORATION
AS IT ENTERS ITS NINTH YEAR, ALONG WITH
OTHER LAURENTIAN COLLABORATIONS

By *Laura E. Young*

The teams were geared to win – that it could all come down to a tie-breaker was a real possibility. Among those participating in this year's Laurentian@Georgian Winter Olympics, extra points would be awarded to the team that could identify the Laurentian mascot. In preparation for the event, one of the Olympic organizers in Barrie had phoned a Laurentian friend in Sudbury to prepare the question (Q: What is the Laurentian mascot? A: The Voyageur – of course!).

March 13, 2009, marked the second-annual Winter Olympics for Laurentian@Georgian. For all the fun and games, that phone call to a friend in Sudbury reflects the deepening connection between Laurentian University and Georgian College after eight years.

Laurentian grads are being produced – fast and furiously – out of the Laurentian@Georgian partnership, and this past year saw more than 1,100 students enrolled at the Georgian campuses. The good news stories are being produced just as quickly, and for many students in Simcoe County, Laurentian@Georgian has provided niche educational opportunities. Seeing the Laurentian logo – and the zeal at the Bar-

rie campus – recalls a time when, nearly 50 years ago, Laurentian University first opened its doors in Sudbury.

“The students are incredible. To them it's all new. They are very engaged,” says Susan Silverton, former vice-president of academic Anglophone affairs, who oversaw the proliferating partnership for five years. Laurentian@Georgian students host a reading series, write their own newsletter, and fundraise. “They've just developed their own sense of being Laurentian University students,” Silverton points out.

Over the last decade, collaboration has been the trend in the Ontario post-secondary system, with universities and colleges weaving an intricate tapestry of agreements and programs, most focused on student mobility and accord between institutions. (However, some institutions have shied away from this trend, fearing the optics of aligning themselves too closely with colleges.)

Laurentian has remained open to exploring collaborations, emerging as a leader, with a dossier of articulation agreements and partnerships; in fact, Laurentian@Georgian boasts the largest collaboration of this kind between these two institutions. In 2001, there were 51 students and three programs; in 2008-2009, there are 1,150 students in 9 programs. In only its third year, in 2009, the bachelor of business administration program at Georgian alone counted more than 200 students. Early projections suggest overall enrolment could rise to 1,400 for the 2009-2010 academic year.



The 2009 Laurentian@Georgian Winter Olympics showcased the energy and camaraderie on the Barrie campus.

“I can get what I want here. To me, we’ve sort of developed our own entity, which is really helpful. But we still have Laurentian. We have the best of both worlds.”

A GOOD PAIRING: It began as an altruistic, yet pragmatic partnership, an arranged marriage that made sense to both partners. Enrolment was declining in Sudbury. Simcoe County was booming, but the rate of post-secondary participation was one of the lowest in Ontario. Laurentian promotes access to university education in under-served areas. In 2001, Laurentian started offering degrees in psychology, sociology, and political science in Barrie. Georgian provided classrooms and hired faculty through the University Partnership Centre. Laurentian provided the curriculum and vetted the faculty. Both benefit financially.

Initially, Laurentian offered the first two years toward a degree through Laurentian@Georgian, expecting students to transfer to Sudbury to complete their education. “It quickly became obvious on the Laurentian side that students were not going to Sudbury,” says Tom Gerry, Laurentian@Georgian’s dean of programs, formerly head of Laurentian’s English department. “People have been unable to leave the area because they have families and jobs. They have to stay in Barrie.”

In 2003, a new agreement provided more third-year courses at the Georgian campus. In 2008, the English and psychology programs added the honours year. A lot of pressure comes from the community and the students themselves, Susan Silverton says. “We have to keep up with them.”

CLOSER TO HOME: Jim Hill, who lives in Orillia, is a professional actor and writer who graduated this year with an honours degree in English. “I was glad Georgian was doing a university partnership because it really is impossible for me to go any farther than Barrie. I have a family, children to worry about.”

After leaving York University to live in Orillia, Hill began working and set aside his post-secondary studies. Yet he always wanted a university education. He even sat out one year, waiting for Laurentian to move its English honours year to Barrie. As far as he is concerned, “The more that Sudbury puts down here, the better.”

It’s a similar story with Karen Shamas. She had started her studies at the University of Toronto, but let it go. About 12 years later, she enrolled in English at Laurentian@Georgian. She raves about the fact that she can finish her degree at home in Barrie, where her husband has an established business. “I can get what I want here.”

Expansion has occurred at the professorial level in one unforeseen way. At least five Laurentian@Georgian faculty members were motivated to undertake doctoral studies. “This was serendipitous,” says Tom Gerry.

Steve McDonald, a professor of sociology and social work, was inspired to pursue his doctoral studies in social work after he started teaching in the Laurentian@Geor-

gian program in 2002. In 2007, he earned his PhD from Bernelli University in Virginia. Professors are fully capable teaching university courses with a master’s degree, he says. But there’s nothing like standing in front of the class and teaching from one’s own research, he adds.

Laurentian and Georgian share a grassroots style, McDonald says. “Yes, one is a university and one is a college, but the philosophy, the size, and the culture of the two places is actually a good match. It may not have gone as smoothly if we had tried to partner with [a larger institution].”

Like any marriage, however, there’s the honeymoon phase, and then there’s the living together over the long-term. Students want improved communication between themselves, Laurentian, and Georgian. Another sticking point is the look of the diploma students receive through Laurentian@Georgian. It’s not the same as students receive in Sudbury. Why the discrepancy?

Laurentian students in the Laurentian@Georgian program want to feel part of what’s going on at their northern “big sister” campus. They want to be included when events are planned. Sometimes they are. For instance, the political science department invited students in Barrie for model parliament and model United Nations events. A Stratford theatre trip picked up Barrie students along their destination. Jim Hill says it’s a matter of extending the



Sarah Rohland (BA 2008),
2009 president of Laurentian@Georgian
Student Association



Bailey Burke, third-year psychology



Jim Hill, BA 2009



Andy Lovas, second-year business
administration

WE'RE VERY COLLABORATIVE

Laurentian's largest partner remains Georgian College in Barrie, Orillia, and Owen Sound.

In addition, Laurentian has championed the provincial trend toward collaboration in the post-secondary sector, forming bilateral and multilateral exchange agreements with other institutions across Ontario.

Laurentian trains radiation therapists through an agreement with the Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences and the Northeastern Ontario Regional Cancer Centre; the agreement was renewed in 2008.

Laurentian has collaborative nursing agreements with College Boréal and Cambrian College in Sudbury; Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie; Northern College in Timmins; and St. Lawrence College in Kingston, Brockville, and Cornwall. That means 1,413 students across Ontario enrolled in

fall 2008 were registered in the Laurentian nursing program.

As well, St. Lawrence offers Laurentian's bachelor of business administration degree. Laurentian has a bilateral agreement with Cambrian for the communications studies program and offers a social work degree online with Université de Ste-Anne in Nova Scotia.

On a scale that demonstrates the complexities and variety of partnerships between institutions, Laurentian and College Boréal recently expanded their articulation agreements. Now students who have a College Boréal diploma in dental hygiene, massage therapy, paramedics, practical nursing, or sport and recreation



management can apply with advanced standing for Laurentian's bachelor of arts in health studies. Over 400 current College Boréal students could take advantage of these agreements.

Internationally, Laurentian has exchange agreements with more than 200 partner institutions worldwide, from Mexico to Europe to Japan.

For further details on the Ontario government's college-university transfer guide, see: www.ocutg.on.ca

invitation, thinking through the transportation requirements, and students will come to Sudbury. Hill especially wanted to meet Margaret Atwood at her birthday dinner last fall, but lack of transportation prevented him from participating in the event.

THE FUTURE: In fall 2009, the Laurentian@Georgian partnership will expand. "Laurentian University is proud to offer for the first time its MBA program outside of Sudbury," says Dominic Giroux, Laurentian University president. "We certainly hope that other Laurentian graduate programs will be offered here in the future to further enhance educational opportunities for the region's citizens and professionals." Brian Tambllyn, Georgian College president and CEO, concurs: "Laurentian's MBA program will meet a great local need for higher education in our communities."

Laurentian is also adding a four-year degree in history, a rhetoric and media studies stream of the four-year English BA, and a three-year degree in anthropology. English and psychology courses will be offered at the Owen Sound campus of Georgian.

"Full expansion will require several years, but we hope to have a broad array of complete programs at Georgian," says John

Isbister, Laurentian's acting vice-president academic and provost. He expects enrolment to reach about 2,000 within a few years. "Expansion beyond that will require a commitment from the province to provide new buildings. After 10 or 15 years, I could see us with 5,000 students," he adds.

Georgian College wants to build a health and wellness centre and find a partner to deliver science programs, says Cheryllyn Cameron, associate vice-president of Georgian's University Partnership Centre. Cameron sees potential in other areas, too, including women's studies and francophone programming. She has explored bringing Laurentian's French courses to the Barrie campus. Again, a need exists in the area: Nearby, CFB Borden with the French requirement for the Canadian Forces, as well as pockets of French-Canadians living in Penetanguishene and Midland.

Often, in Laurentian@Georgian course evaluations, students ask for more four-year programs, she says. In Orillia, students are able to start the social work program at Laurentian – but are not able to complete the entire degree. "They love us," but then they realize they have to move to Sudbury to finish the degree. Instead, they go to Lakehead University's campus in Orillia. "I'd say we lose half of them," says Cameron.

Like a well-arranged marriage, Geor-

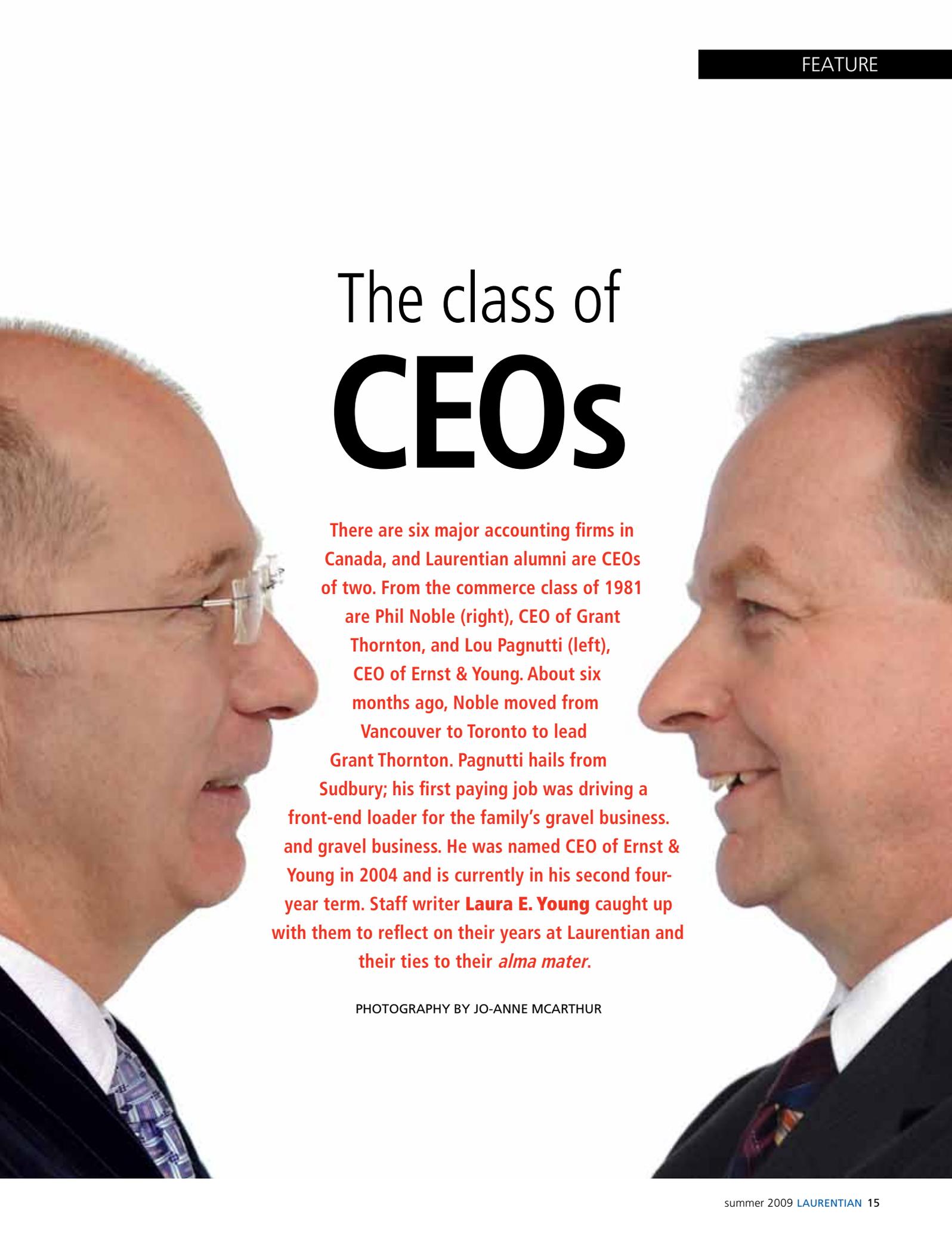
gian and Laurentian both "win in this partnership," Cameron continues. Initially, people feared it would draw potential students away from Sudbury. Instead, Laurentian has become a household name in Barrie, she says. "Everyone knows where Laurentian is now."

The Georgian partnership behaves much like another Laurentian campus, says Gerry. Students still get the Laurentian experience, including small class sizes and professors who know their names. Often, the first day of class is not a getting-to-know-you day; it's a teaching day. "We're down to business right away."

Business indeed. Andy Lovas, 33, is a heading into his second year as a business administration student. A certified toolmaker for 15 years, he was laid off from Magna International three years ago. He and his wife, Milna, are expecting their second child in September.

Lovas, played a special role during the Laurentian@Georgian Winter Olympics – he was the Voyageur mascot. After suiting up, he romped around the Georgian campus, enthusiastically waving the Laurentian colours. For Lovas, being a Laurentian student in Barrie is about the atmosphere. "We've got the university program combined with the college program and it's one big, happy family. It's home." ■

The class of CEOs

A photograph showing the profile portraits of two men, Phil Noble and Lou Pagnutti, facing each other. Phil Noble is on the right, wearing a dark suit and a patterned tie. Lou Pagnutti is on the left, wearing a dark suit, a patterned tie, and glasses. They are both smiling slightly.

There are six major accounting firms in Canada, and Laurentian alumni are CEOs of two. From the commerce class of 1981 are Phil Noble (right), CEO of Grant Thornton, and Lou Pagnutti (left), CEO of Ernst & Young. About six months ago, Noble moved from Vancouver to Toronto to lead Grant Thornton. Pagnutti hails from Sudbury; his first paying job was driving a front-end loader for the family's gravel business. and gravel business. He was named CEO of Ernst & Young in 2004 and is currently in his second four-year term. Staff writer **Laura E. Young** caught up with them to reflect on their years at Laurentian and their ties to their *alma mater*.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JO-ANNE MCARTHUR

LOU PAGNUTTI CEO, Ernst & Young

What was it about the class of 1981 that produced two CEOs of major accounting firms?

The business program was very strong, but more importantly, the program provided, especially in the third year, a considerable amount of group work and the opportunity to be part of a team. That's one of the very important skills I learned at Laurentian that I brought to my first job at Ernst & Young after graduating. So, I think it was partly the size of the university that allowed us to have small groups working together, but it was also the structure of the program and the way the program was designed to encourage teamwork and collaboration.

What would you say about your classmate and fellow CEO Phil Noble?

I always remember Phil and certainly view him as someone who is engaging, someone who is competent, competitive, and professional. At the end of the day, I think Phil is someone who is focused on doing the right thing for his firm, his clients, and the profession, and that's important. We need to have such a voice in the profession and I think Phil is a role model in that regard.

Tell me about that moment when you learned you would be the CEO.

I was sitting in this very office with my predecessor and it was actually in January 2004, just five years ago. Needless to say, it was quite an exciting moment. He was helping write my communication to people. He joked, 'I could write 'Lou used to enjoy skiing and golfing.' He went on to make sure that I understood that it was important to balance my career at the firm with my family and personal life. I had valuable insights that day.

Could you comment more on finding that balance?

Everyone has a right to flexibility at Ernst & Young. It's one of the reasons I stayed. I was told throughout my career to find the proper balance and the flexibility I needed to look after myself and my family while having an enjoyable, successful, and challenging career at the same time. There's no question we work very hard in this profession, and there are times where you do have to make sacrifices. That's why flexibility becomes all the more important. You need to recharge or have the opportunity to disengage so you can be fully engaged when you're on the job.

What makes a good workplace?

We're focused on creating an organization that's not only inclusive, but one that is flexible. Our inclusiveness vision says we're committed to providing a work environment that is and feels inclusive for all our people. At EY, you as an individual are respected for the skills and talents that you contribute and the impact you make.

That's really important in terms of shaping our culture and organization.

What little things do you do to win the support of your employees?

We make sure we consider the impact on our people of every decision we make. Anytime you have to make a decision in terms of the organization, it's important to be thinking 'What is the impact on our people of this decision?' So, we do that, making sure we're focused on the right professional training, the right training for interpersonal skills and soft skills.

What remains your favourite person, place, or thing about Laurentian?

Without question, you mainly think of the people, whether it was fellow classmates or professors who had an impact in terms of my development – and there were a number of them. And, secondly, I think of the environment. You've got a modern campus in the midst of a very wonderful setting between two lakes. It's unique in that regard. It's a wonderful setting.

What advice would you give to other businesses about leading their corporations through a recession?

There are ways to manage through this recession, and the economy will recover. What the recovery looks like, or even when it will begin, is still up for debate, but things will get better. This is important for us as leaders to remember — and remind our people about as well.

Business leaders also need to remember that there is opportunity in the adversity of the worst markets. Companies that identify opportunities to sustain their development during the downturn and take strategic decisions can distinguish themselves from their competitors. A period of crisis can provide an opportunity to drive change more rapidly and effectively than a period of prosperity. So, don't let the uncertainty around you be an excuse for inaction — there is now a great need for decisive management and action.



PHIL NOBLE CEO, Grant Thornton

What was it about the class of 1981 that produced two CEOs of major accounting firms?

I've always said this: I received just excellent education at Laurentian. In the commerce program, it was clear to me, after we had graduated and rubbed shoulders with want-to-be chartered accountants from other universities, that we had received a great education. The class sizes were small. The profs were engaged. They were very good at what they did. We had a close-knit group. I don't know if that's what produced it.

Was there something specific in the way the program was set up that helped?

This was many years ago, but one of our profs was Clarence Bird. He was an exceptional accounting professor. As opposed to having an exceptional prof for just the one year, I think we had him for three of our four years. He was well-known across Canada for what he did in terms of training CA students for exams, etc. You benefited from it because there was continuity over time, coupled with a smaller class size.

What would you say about your former classmate and fellow CEO Lou Pagnutti?

We are close professional colleagues in the true professional sense. I've got tremendous respect for Lou and always have. He's obviously done exceptionally well in his career and he was a great student at Laurentian. He's also a very thoughtful guy. Here's an example: I'd been in Vancouver for 25 years. One of the first people I heard from when I got back into Toronto to get together, connect, and welcome me to Toronto was Lou. Again, that goes back to the Laurentian connection.

What makes a good workplace?

Obviously, we're very proud of our work environment. It defines a great place to work as one where you trust the people you work for. You have pride in what you do. You enjoy the people you work with. In Institute Canada's Great Place to Work, Best Work-

places 2009 survey, it's really our people who rate the firm. So what makes a good workplace? I think it's about the quality of workplace relationships based on trust, pride, and enjoyment.

What remains your favourite person, place, or thing about Laurentian?

That would be my wife (laughs). How am I doing? Her name is Laura Donaldson. Laura had been recruited by the Lady Vees. Norm Vickery was from British Columbia, and back in the late 1970s he did all of his recruiting there. They had incredible teams. (The five consecutive national titles the Lady Vees won from 1974 to 1979 remain unmatched). Laura was on two of the teams. We met in the very first week of first year (at Huntington). We were married in 1983. On a broader level, our best friends, Laura and mine together, our best friends come from Laurentian. All these years later, they are still our best friends.

What advice would you give to other businesses about leading their corporations through a recession?

First and foremost, it's about understanding the specific impact of the recession on a particular business; as well as the levers for change and for opportunity. Wherever possible, it's about taking a longer term view strategically, while simultaneously making the immediate tactical decisions to navigate the current environment. Values-based decision-making is critical. Even tough decisions are easier to make, and are more acceptable to others, if they are grounded in the organization's values.

I've heard it said that the CEO's job can be very lonely. My advice is that it doesn't have to be. I'm surrounded by bright, exceptional people and I know that engaging them will, without doubt, improve the probability of a successful outcome. ■





Josée Bertrand and Gerardo Ulibarri inspect artificial breeding pools. ABPs contain an attractant that female mosquitoes cannot resist. They lay their eggs in the container, where they are caught by a filter, and can be washed away with hot water. The system works all summer long.

LAURENTIAN'S MOSQUITO MAN THINKS LOCALLY AND ACTS GLOBALLY

GERARDO ULIBARRI RECEIVES \$210,000 FROM NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND FOR NEW RESEARCH INTO MOSQUITO POPULATION CONTROL

Horrified, Gerardo Ulibarri was moved to action after watching news reports covering the clouds of insecticide sprayed on Winnipeg mosquitoes in 2005. The Laurentian chemistry professor wondered whether using a chemical related to nerve gas was warranted. There must be a better way, he thought.

“At the time, I was pretty upset. How can a chemist allow those types of chemicals just so people make money?” he wonders.

Four years later, what Ulibarri started as a research “hobby” project is poised to go global. Ulibarri hopes to be in full production and selling the artificial breeding pool (ABP) by 2011. He is in the process of applying for an international patent and actively seeking federal funding. Ultimately, he wants to keep as much of the production work as possible in Sudbury. “I want this to be a northern Ontario product that goes out to the world.”

In March 2009, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) granted funding to manufacture his prototype for an artificial breeding pool. Ulibarri’s experimental system has already proven it-

self a trap for *Culex pipien* mosquitoes, which carry the West Nile virus.

In 2006, Ulibarri began working with the Sudbury & District Health Unit and Ed Gardner, the SDHU’s manager of environmental health. The SDHU is helping implement ABPs to control the West Nile virus.

In 2007, 12 different sites were selected around Sudbury, including urban and rural areas, and up to 20 traps were used per site. Every week, master’s student Josée Bertrand (B.Sc. 2007) would collect eggs and monitor the decomposition of the attractant.

That summer, from June 1 to August 30, Bertrand and Sergio Campos, a Mexican exchange student, counted: 11,196 mosquito egg rafts for a total of 3,022,920 eggs in the 91-day study, or, 33,219 eggs per day using 150 ABPs. The egg rafts, arrayed like an ice cube tray, averaged 270 eggs per raft.

Ulibarri does not want to completely annihilate mosquitoes; instead, the ABPs help reduce the number of disease carriers, without affecting natural predators, he says. “If you use pesticides, you kill bats, dragonflies, frogs, plus the tadpoles, and all the creatures that are helping us to control the

mosquito population naturally.”

Since 2007, the progress of his research has been thrilling, yet challenging, says Ulibarri. Local media dubbed him “the mosquito whisperer.” Globally, his research caught the attention of the Pan American Health Organization. He is now studying how effective the ABPs are in attracting mosquitoes carrying malaria and dengue fever. The United Nations’ environmental program has asked him to use the ABPs to monitor the migration of mosquitoes due to climate change.

And in a brush with celebrity, last December 2008, he met a representative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and was asked to submit a proposal to the foundation. The foundation aims to reduce malaria deaths by 2015.

However, Ulibarri’s ABP project was stalled throughout 2008 until funding came in March 2009. Now with \$210,000 from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, Ulibarri has purchased a machine to build ABP prototypes. Ulibarri is officially on the way to “a better way.”

— By Laura E. Young

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

DEPARTMENTAL AND PROFESSOR UPDATES

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Robert Segsworth (BA 1967), a professor in the department of political science, was awarded the Teaching Excellence Award. He is a specialist in public administration and local government, and has been teaching at Laurentian since 1970. After graduating from Laurentian, he earned a master's degree from Carleton University (political science, 1969), and PhD from the University of Stirling (social policy, 1982).

THE SANDS SING

Tom A. J. Patitsas, professor emeritus of physics and astronomy, presented his work: "Singing Sands, Musical Grains, and Booming Sand Dunes" at the 156th meeting of the Acoustical Society of America held in Miami, Florida, November 10-14, 2008. The *Journal of Physical and Natural Sciences* also published his work this year. The article is available online at: www.scientificjournals.org/journals2008/articles/1404.pdf

TRAVELS WITH DIETER BUSE

Retired Laurentian history professor Dieter Buse was the lead speaker at the prestigious Walter Prescott Web Lecture Series on March 12 in Arlington, Texas. It was his first invitation to the series. Lectures explored the writings of Germans and Americans crossing the Atlantic Ocean in the 19th and early 20th centuries. He spoke on "Social Crossings: German Leftists View Amerika and Reflect Themselves." In October, Buse will speak at a conference on civic behaviour in Fribourg, Switzerland. His talk will cover the role of the offices for German civic education, specifically how the institutions worked to rebuild the understanding of democracy in a post-dictatorial society, from 1955 to 2005.

NATIVE STUDIES BURSARY REMEMBERS DOUGLAS FRITH

The University of Sudbury has established a bursary in memory of Douglas Frith to honour his dedication to Canada's First Nations. Frith served on Sudbury city council, regional council, and in federal politics in the 1970s and 1980s. Contributions to this bursary fund will be matched by the provincial government under its Ontario



ACROSS CULTURES FOR AWARD-WINNING RESEARCH

Robert Schinke's sport psychology research has led to the prestigious Canadian Sport Science Research Award for Community Research. The award recognizes outstanding sport research in Canada and the benefit of sport research to the Canadian sporting community. "The Adaptation Challenges and Strategies of Adolescent Aboriginal Athletes Competing Off Reserve" was a collaboration with the Unceded First Nation Reserve of Wikwemikong, on Manitoulin Island. The four-year project focused on motivating youth participation in sport with and within a specific marginal culture. Other contributors include: Mark Eys, a former professor in the school of human kinetics, Hope Yungblut, PhD student in human studies, Amy Blodgett, master's student in human kinetics, Randy Battochio, master's student in human development and PhD applicant, Stephen Ritchie, professor in the school of human kinetics and PhD student, and Patricia Pickard, professor in the school of human kinetics.

Trust for Student Support program (OTSS). Income on the endowment will be awarded by the University of Sudbury Bursary and Scholarship Committee in the form of bursaries to students in good standing who demonstrate financial need and are enrolled in the Native studies program.



JOY BELLINGER AWARD

Amanda McConnell (BA 2009) became the first Lady Vee since Tierney Hoo (BPHE 2005) in 2005 to win the

OUA's Joy Bellinger Award of Merit. Named after the late Bellinger, a former Laurentian all-star, the award goes to an Ontario female university basketball player for outstanding service to school, sport, and community. McConnell, a history grad, helped raise about \$3,000 toward breast cancer research.

LAURENTIAN APPOINTS NEW UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

Returning to her *alma mater*, Leila Wallenius is the new university librarian, replacing Lionel Bonin, who served in the role for the past seven years. Wallenius (B.Sc. 1982; M.Sc. 1986), was recently head of acquisition and bibliographic processing at the University of Windsor. From 1990 to 2000, she worked for instruction and information services at Laurentian's J. N. Desmarais Library.

ANOTHER TOOL IN THE FORENSICS KIT

Police, firefighters, and coroners have a new training tool, thanks to the department of forensic science faculty and Lighthouse Learning Media. The department and LLM have created an instructional DVD entitled: "Forensic Field Techniques for Human Remains." Scott Fairgrieve, department chair, and forensic anthropologist, Tracy Oost, department curator, and forensic entomologist, and Gerard Courtin, professor emeritus and forensic botanist, worked with Lighthouse Learning Media to produce the film on the recovery of human remains in a variety of forensic contexts.

LAURENTIAN FACULTY RECOGNIZED WITH AN INVITE THE WORLD AWARD

Laurentian University and Penguin ASI, were jointly recognized by the city of Sudbury for their efforts hosting the International Conference on Mechatronics Technology, held in Sudbury in October 2008. The conference, co-chaired by Greg Baiden and Yassiah Bissiri (both professors in the school of engineering) attracted more than 100 researchers, engineers, students, and industry personnel from all over the world to discuss the latest in the field of mechatronics. Mechatronics unites mechanical and electrical engineering to produce automated mechanisms and tools. The Invite the World Awards are presented by the Growth and Development Department of Greater Sudbury, and SudburyTourism.ca to recognize local events, in various fields, that bring many visitors to Sudbury.

ROBERT DERRENBACKER IS THORNELOE UNIVERSITY'S NEW PRESIDENT

Robert Derrenbacher replaces Stephen Andrews as Thorneloe's president. Andrews is now the Anglican bishop of the Algoma Diocese. Derrenbacher has taught at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia, as well as St. Michael's College and Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto.

LAURENTIAN PUBLISHES

Mesopotamia is the latest volume of poetry by Bruce Meyer, an English professor in the Laurentian@Georgian collaboration. His work is published by Your Scrivener Press, run by Laurence

Steven, a Laurentian English professor in Sudbury. Meyer has been on the Canadian literary scene since the 1970s. He lives in Barrie and is the artistic director of the Leacock Summer Literary Festival.

PEN/O. HENRY PRIZE FOR SHORT STORIES

Roger Nash, a Laurentian professor of philosophy and director of the interdisciplinary humanities MA in interpretation and values, has been published in the PEN/O. Henry Prize Short Stories 2009 anthology. "The Camera and the Cobra," first published in *Grain Magazine*, was selected from thousands of short stories published in Canadian and American literary magazines. The PEN/O. Henry Prize Short Stories 2009 features the best 20 stories published in the past year. Nash has been teaching at Laurentian since 1969. He was president of the League of Canadian Poets from 1998-2000. During his tenure, he helped create the position of Canadian Poet Laureate. Nash was also named emeritus professor during Laurentian's spring convocation ceremonies

INTERIM DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

Huguette Blanco has been appointed interim dean of the faculty of professional schools, effective July 1, 2009. Blanco is a full professor in the school of commerce and administration, where she has taught since 1984. She has a PhD in accounting and finance from Lancaster University in the United Kingdom. She was acting dean and dean of Laurentian's faculty of management from July 2005 to June 2008.

MORE RESEARCH FUNDING

LU RECEIVES \$350,000 FOR ABORIGINAL INITIATIVES

The Aboriginal Access to Opportunities Strategy, an initiative of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU), gave \$350,000 to Laurentian University in March. The funding was allocated: \$100,000 to the Northern Ontario Medical School for its efforts in improving Aboriginal education and the remaining \$250,000 toward 12 projects through the Native academic department. Some of those projects include providing academic writing support, and the development of an e-learning coordinator. The funding means Laurentian can continue to support Aboriginal education, as well as improve the retention and success of its current and future Aboriginal students.

MAJOR RESEARCH AWARD PROMOTES DIVERSE COMMUNITIES ACROSS ONTARIO

Laurentian is part of a Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) program sharing in \$1-million of funding to help small-town Ontario attract and retain immigrants. Laurentian will use its share to hire graduate students to do research, conduct workshops, and develop a website.

The Welcoming Communities funding comes from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The other partners include Ontario's 16 universities, with local leaders and community organizations, municipal governments, school boards, and provincial and federal leaders.

The initiative is timely, linked to the release of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities of a report on *Immigration and Diversity in Canadian Cities and Communities*, says Aurélie Lacassage, a political science professor who is driving Laurentian's work in the CURA.

"The report highlights the fact smaller communities are undergoing profound changes and urgently need to develop strategies to meet the social and economic challenges arising from growing diversity."



It's never too late to START, CONTINUE, or COMPLETE your degree

Laurentian University is here for you.

- Invest in yourself
- Embrace a new career
- Investigate your options
- Expand your horizons


Laurentian University
 Université Laurentienne
Learning. It's in our Nature.


Envision

Learn more by contacting the
Centre for Continuing Education at:
 705-673-6569 cce_L@laurentian.ca
 www.cce.laurentian.ca

MINK *will* MINGLE

Research update: Laurentian mink project expands across Ontario and into Nova Scotia

Oh, it's easy enough to make human comparisons and crack jokes: Wild female minks prefer their partners to be domesticated.

But all kidding aside, the mingling of farm-raised mink with the wild mink population has serious ramifications, as researchers at Laurentian and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources have discovered. Now their study is expanding, thanks to a NSERC strategic grant of \$170,000.

Farm-raised mink are bred around the world and used for a host of products – from fur to cosmetics. Canada represents 4.5 per cent of the world's mink farm production. Farmed mink differ from their wild relatives: In size, they are nearly one-third longer; personality-wise, they are more subdued. As well, the domestic mink have been genetically manipulated to produce different shades of fur.

The two types of mink (wild and domesticated) remain distinct until farmed mink escape their cages and flee into the bush. And once in the wild, problems arise.

Anne Kidd (M.Sc. 2008) wrote her master's thesis on the consequences of mink escapees: the hybridization of wild mink. She worked under the supervision of Albrecht Schulte-Hostedde, a Laurentian biology professor and research scientist, and Jeff Bowman (M.Sc. 1996) of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Peterborough. Laurentian professor David Lesbarrères was a co-author.

Their research identified security and inadequate regulations for mink farms as significant concerns. Farmed mink escape during regular day-to-day handling, from holes in their cages, or, sometimes, when animal rights activists do a mass release at a farm.

When domesticated mink mate with wild mink they weaken the overall wild population. The release of domesticated mink into natural populations may adversely affect wild populations through predation, resource competition, hybridization, and the introduction of disease. This leads to a decline in the wild mink population. Mingling the two gene pools goes beyond natural selection in a species, says Schulte-Hostedde.

“Yes, there is selection and adaptation happening, but it's being overwhelmed – this is the hypothesis – by the genes that are coming in from integration by the farms. Certainly the data we have indicates there is a tremendous number of hybrids and domestic mink in the natural context.”

Worse still, farmed mink are prone to Aleutian disease, which can spread to wild mink, as well as other wildlife.

Now, the research team can broaden their work. Their strategic grant of \$170,000 means research on three different fronts. They will expand the genetic study to more sites in Ontario and add Nova Scotia, where there is a large concentration of mink farms.

Anne Kidd's role is to genotype the mink sampled from the various arms of the project and identify the mink as farm, wild, or hybrid. Secondly, Helene Fillion, a first-year master's biology student at Laurentian, is examining how hybridization occurs.

“The idea is that big, domestic males are at an advantage when it comes to mating,” says Schulte-Hostedde.

Do females prefer the larger male mink from the farm? Researchers will examine whether the farmed male mink, with the larger organs and glands, are more successful at mating and sperm competition, says Schulte-Hostedde.

Larissa Nituch, a researcher at Trent University, which has partnered with Laurentian on the mink project, will analyze Aleutian disease carried by the mink. The disease is already showing up in skunks.

Schulte-Hostedde and Bowman have met with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) to share their findings and express their concerns. “I don't know how quickly this will happen, but certainly the ball has started rolling for sure in terms of policy changes,” says Schulte-Hostedde.

To read the complete paper, recently published in the journal *Molecular Ecology* (2009), go to: www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/fulltext/122210955/PDFSTART ■

– By Laura E. Young



50

JACQUES TREMBLAY, B.COMM. 1982, LUAA PRESIDENT

"50" is definitely an unusual title for a president's message. However, 50 is associated with many upcoming events at Laurentian. In 2010, we will be celebrating Laurentian's 50th anniversary! For a list of upcoming events, visit www.celebrate50.laurentian.ca. Laurentian University

is also in the midst of the Next 50 Campaign – coming soon to a mailbox near you. On a personal note, I am approaching that same milestone as well – although I know I look much younger! Some of you may have heard that classic Paul Simon hit "50 Ways to Leave your Lover." I would like to change the title to "50 Ways to Help a Student." The LUAA has, on your behalf, made a \$250,000 contribution to the Next 50 Campaign. This amount was made possible through the funds raised with our affinity partners. TD Insurance Meloche Monnex, Canada Life, the Mortgage Centre, Canadian Signature Wines, MBNA and more recently, Futura Rewards. One way to help students is to sign up and/or continue using the services of these LUAA partners.

As part of our commitment to students, we have also partnered with Lacroix Forest LLP to offer Laurentian University's first fully endowed athletic scholarship. If you are interested in a

partnership paired with your organization, family, or personal contribution to the LUAA, please let us know by contacting the alumni relations office to learn more about this great opportunity.

Recently, a number of alumni volunteered to assist Laurentian in its recruitment efforts. The impact of having a graduate contacting a student who is considering attending Laurentian, as well as hosting a special recruitment event, is tremendous. As a Laurentian graduate, you can also contribute by sharing your experience and your pride with your co-workers, neighbours, and friends. They may have children who are considering post-secondary education, or they themselves may be considering returning to school.

The involvement and engagement of our alumni go a long way toward ensuring Laurentian's growth. Laurentian president Dominic Giroux attended our LUAA board meeting and asked each one of us our thoughts on our *alma mater*. Yunni Jeong, our Laurentian Student Alumni (LSA) board member described Laurentian as "a community, not an institution." This is an excellent way of describing the Laurentian experience and I encourage you to be an active member of your community.

We hope you will return to campus for the 50th anniversary celebrations and contribute toward making the next 50 years even more exciting for the next generation of students and alumni!



A generous contribution from Lacroix Forest LLP

Laurentian receives cheque for \$70,000 from Lacroix Forest LLP and the LUAA for athletic scholarships. Left to right: Jacques Tremblay, Dominic Giroux, André Lacroix, Claude Lacroix, Andrée Lacroix, and Maureen Lacroix.

It was with great pride that the LUAA donated \$250,000 to fund student scholarships and bursaries. As part of their campaign, these funds will be combined to match or exceed donations from alumni in order to form full scholarships. Sudbury's own Lacroix Forest LLP was first to step up, when they joined the LUAA for a joint donation of \$70,000 to help create the first fully funded athletic scholarship at Laurentian: The Laurentian University Alumni Association/Lacroix, Forest LLP/s.r.l. Athletic Scholarship - Bourse AAUL / Lacroix Forest LLP/s.r.l. pour étudiants-athlètes.

"The majority of our firm are graduates of Laurentian who feel strongly about continuing to support their *alma mater*. This partnership with the LUAA allows our gift to have that much more of an impact on the lives of Laurentian students," says Claude Lacroix, Laurentian alumnus and Lacroix Forest LLP partner. The LUAA intends to form many more meaningful partnerships in support of Laurentian students.



Darryl Boynton

Founded in 2007 by the current chapter president, Darryl Boynton, the Laurentian SPAD Alumni Chapter has hosted a series of activities since its launch to help bring together Laurentian alumni who have obtained their degree in sports administration. Now, as the founding president prepares to pass on the torch to the next president, we take the opportunity to ask him to reflect on his experiences.

Going back a couple of years, what made you decide to take such an important part in founding this chapter?

DB: I think it is important that our alumni stay in touch. SPAD had not created an alumni network and it was something that was necessary in order to host the 35th anniversary gala. The sport and business industries are always focused on building relationships, and by creating a SPAD alumni chapter, it's one way to continue to grow your network of contacts while also allowing for you to catch up with old classmates. Having the support of SPAD director Norm O'Reilly, as well as Lisa Demers, alumni relations director, and everyone in the alumni office made this an easy decision.

During your two years at the helm of this chapter, did you have the chance to see the vision for the chapter unfold? Which event would you say was the most memorable?

DB: Without a doubt the SPAD 35th anniversary gala in Toronto was the highlight of my time as president. This event was the largest alumni fundraising event in Laurentian's history. The organizing committee worked very hard to ensure that all graduates had a great time. We were thrilled to learn that the event won a silver

medal in the prestigious Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education's Prix d' Excellence Awards.

Has this event had an impact on your day-to-day life?

DB: It certainly did in the three months leading up to it! This event was a great way to meet and get to know graduates from many different years right across Canada. I was able to be a part of a great group organizing the event and I grew my own network of friends throughout SPAD.

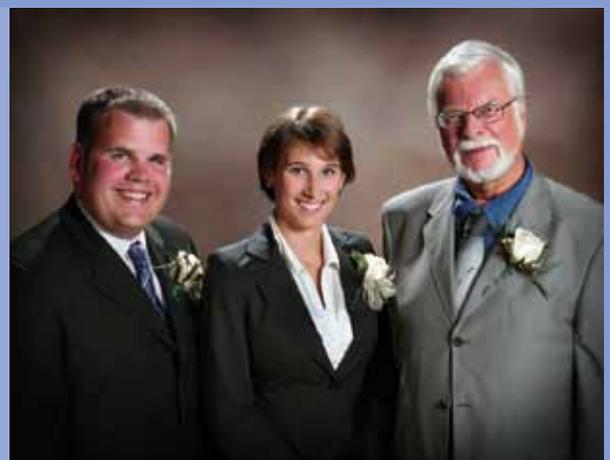
Now that the position is open for any candidate who is interested, are there any words of wisdom you would like to share with the next president of this chapter, as he or she follows in your footsteps?

DB: I think it's a great opportunity for anyone who would like to work to grow the chapter and become more involved. We have just started to scratch the surface with what can be done. I would like to see a more consistent schedule of events and spread the reach of the chapter from southern Ontario to other cities, such as Ottawa, Calgary, and Vancouver – where we know many SPAD alumni reside. The role of president is a great chance to work on something that most of the graduates are very passionate about: moving SPAD forward into the future.

If you are interested in taking the lead as the new president of the SPAD chapter, please contact us at spadchapter@laurentian.ca. We look forward to hearing from you!

ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS HONOURS THREE EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS

Three exceptional Laurentian University alumni were recognized during the third annual Laurentian Alumni Recognition Awards on Wednesday, June 10, 2009: Darryl Boynton, left, Allison King, and Laurent Lavoie. The celebration was held at Bryston's on the Park. In recognition of the three recipients' outstanding achievements and the pride they bring to Laurentian University, the Alumni Association made a donation in their names to a Laurentian program that is particularly important to each of them.

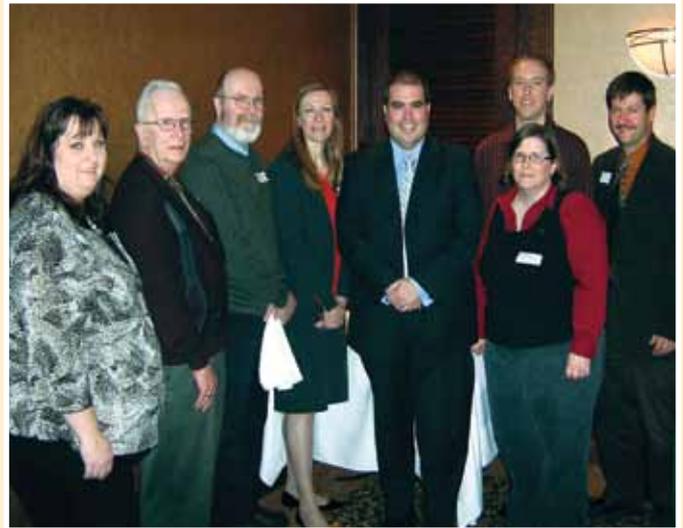




Laurentian president and alumni get personal with student applicants

Alumni in several communities across the province hosted information sessions for students wishing to attend Laurentian in the fall. Laurentian president Dominic Giroux was in attendance as the tour passed through Timmins, New Liskeard, North Bay, Barrie, and Toronto this past May. If you are interested in assisting with the university's recruitment efforts, please let us know by contacting alumni relations at (705) 675-4818 or at alumni@laurentian.ca.

LU alumnus Ben Farella, left, along with Laurentian president Dominic Giroux, presents future student and prize-winner Devyn Beaudry with a cheque for \$2,000 toward her tuition fees.



Laurentian president visits the East Coast

This spring, Laurentian president Dominic Giroux and LUAA president Jacques Tremblay visited Atlantic Canada and met with alumni in Charlottetown and Halifax.

From left to right: (Charlottetown reception) Diane Snell, Ron Tallon, Bryant Smith, Mary Best, Dominic Giroux, Sean Robertson, Reina Lamothe, and Jacques Tremblay.



Preparing students for life after graduation

The Laurentian Student Alumni Association (LSA), an on-campus student club dedicated to working with the LUAA to build a bridge between students and alumni, hosted a series of activities and workshops to help students transition from the classroom to the boardroom. During the week of March 9, the class of 2009 had the chance to attend "(dis)orientation," which opened with an alumni speaker's panel featuring five Laurentian alumni who talked about "What to do with a science/arts degree." The speakers included Sean Bradley (BA 1993), Todd Frawley (BSc 1992), Ruth Joly (BA 1992), Julie Lacroix (BA 1993), and Shawn Rossi (BSc 2001). The annual LSA etiquette dinner was also held during "(dis)orientation," giving students and alumni the chance to learn the dos and don'ts of attending a business dinner. To conclude the week, the LSA hosted Grad Fest, a gathering showcasing alumni partners allowing students to learn of the benefits that come with their status as Laurentian alumni.



LAURENTIAN'S FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT LEAPS AHEAD

On May 21, a wine and cheese event offered Peter Luk, dean of the faculty of management, the opportunity to announce his vision for the direction of the new faculty, which encompasses the School of commerce and administration and the School of sports administration (SPAD), as well as the e-business program and the master's in business administration program (MBA). The mission of Laurentian's faculty of management is to become a school of choice for students around the province and the world. As part of the vision, the faculty of management has embarked on a process toward building accreditation with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). To this end, "alumni support is a critical component of the entire accreditation process," says Luk. The new faculty has already started the process of expanding. For example, the MBA program will be available part-time to students in Barrie starting in September, and will soon be available online.

Although the accreditation process is lengthy and could take up to seven years, the recent changes in the new faculty show that achieving AACSB is clearly possible. Key growth areas in the faculty of management are in the online programs, with CGA Canada for the bachelor of commerce, and in the MBA programs, the sports administration (SPAD) program, and the partnerships with Georgian College and St. Lawrence College. In June 2009, the faculty was proud to watch its first class of MBA in Sports Administration grads take the stage to obtain their degrees. We look forward to watching the enhancements to the faculty of management as Laurentian University enters its next 50 years.

NOT RECEIVING OUR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER?

Keep up-to-date on all the news and activities happening in your area. Just send your e-mail address to alumni@laurentian.ca

LET US KNOW HOW YOU'RE DOING AND YOU COULD WIN!

Send us an update on yourself and you could win some cool Laurentian prizes.

Just write us at magazine@laurentian.ca
We'll enter your name into a draw.



LUAA president Jacques Tremblay welcoming guests to the newly named Alumni Hall

MAKING OUR MARK ON CAMPUS

Alumni represent more than 80 per cent of the Laurentian University community, and naturally, they should have a strong presence on campus. In recognition for the recent gift made by the LUAA to help fund Laurentian student scholarships, the Science II Cafeteria was named Alumni Hall on April 1, 2009. An event was held in honour of the hall naming, in which guests enjoyed alumni wine and witnessed the unveiling of the new signs above the entrance doors. A plaque can now be seen hanging inside the hall, marking this significant milestone.

IN THE NEWS

**ALEX BAUMANN**

It's like he never left the pool: Alex Baumann (BA 1990, honorary doctorate 1996) returned to competitive swimming the way he left it 22 years ago – in world-record fashion. Now swimming for Technosport Masters in Ottawa, Baumann, 45, set a world record and five Canadian records at the Ontario Masters Swimming Championship in Nepean, Ontario, March 20-22. After winning two gold medals in world-record time at the 1984 Olympics, Baumann retired from competitive swimming in 1987. Now, Baumann is the executive director of the Road to Excellence, Sport Canada's program to improve Canada's chances of winning gold medals at the Summer Olympics.

NICK BENKOVICH

Bring on the water works: At its annual conference in Toronto, the Ontario Water Works Association (OWWA) announced that its immediate past president, Nick Benkovich (MA 1983), director of Water and Wastewater Services for the City of Greater Sudbury, is this year's recipient of the Norman J. Howard Award. The OWWA's Norman J. Howard Award recognizes proficiency in design, construction, operation, maintenance, management, regulation, and research associated with municipal water supply. The OWWA is made up of 1,700 individuals, businesses, consulting firms, and water providers. Benkovich is a Level IV certified operator and has over 28 years of experience. He holds a bachelor of environmental studies (Hons.) from the University of Waterloo, a master's in public administration from Laurentian, and a master's certificate in municipal management from the Schulich School of Business at York University.

MARILYN BUTCHER AND ROBERTA HEALE

A distinct group of health-care providers: The Sudbury District Nurse Practitioner's Clinics Team collectively claimed a Women of Distinction prize at the third-annual Women of Distinction Awards Gala in Sudbury, in April. Under the guidance of alumnae Marilyn Butcher (BScN 1996) and Roberta Heale (BScN 1999), they made

Canadian history in 2007 by opening the first clinic run exclusively by nurse practitioners. Their model has led the development of other such clinics across Ontario. They were also cited for their significant contribution to the medical system and the Sudbury community.

MICHAEL GALIC

On the brain: In February 2009, the *Calgary Herald* reported that Michael Galic (Hon. B.Sc. 2003, M.Sc. 2005), a medical researcher who has just earned his PhD, received a prestigious award worth \$21,500. The Lionel E. McLeod Health Research Scholarship is awarded to standout students conducting medical research. Galic's research focuses on how inflammation or infection early in life can result in long-term effects on the brain, ultimately leading to a greater susceptibility to seizures in adulthood. He has been doing his research out of the Hotchkiss Brain Institute at the University of Calgary's faculty of medicine. His goal is to conduct clinical trials in search of new treatments for seizures and epilepsy.

KATHY AND GREG LAWRENCE

In search of the big O: Two Laurentian grads, Kathy Lawrence (BScN 1990) and Greg Lawrence (BA 1990) bring humour to a common problem in the reality show, *How to Make Love to My Wife*. The program was conceived after Kathy, a 40-year-

old Ottawa mother of three, told her husband, Greg, she had been faking her orgasms. Rather than wallowing, Greg, a writer and filmmaker, sat down and thought about how he could improve his skills as a lover. After looking over his notes, he realized he had the makings of a humorous reality-based television show. "I've pitched enough shows to know that I had something special. I spoke to Kathy first and then came up with a plan to pitch it as a lifestyle show," said Greg, the creator of *Kevin Spencer*, one of the most successful shows on the Comedy Network. Slice TV, a specialty channel, asked Greg to produce and direct an eight-part web series, which can be viewed at www.slice.ca

AL LEKUN

Sudbury's all the safer: Al Lekun (BA 1984, MBA 2002) has been named the new deputy chief of the Greater Sudbury Police Service. He has been a member of the service's tactical team, an executive officer to the chief, and recently, he spent eight months in Sturgeon Falls as the acting chief of the West Nipissing Police Service. "One of my first priorities will be to further the development of our community service model," said Lekun. He has 20 years of service with Greater Sudbury Police. He takes over from Frank Elsner, who was announced as the new chief last Friday. He is also a founding member of the Joe MacDonald Youth Football League, a member of the Sudbury Rotary Club, and has been an assistant football coach with the Sudbury Spartans and at St. Charles College.

LAURIE MCGAULEY

Book grant: Laurie McGauley (MA Humanities 2005, BA 1982) stepped down from her leadership at Myths & Mirrors to focus on teaching at Thorneloe University and to write a book on community-based art projects. McGauley received a \$16,000 grant from the Chalmer's Fellowship for the Arts, through the Ontario Arts Council. McGauley is also a sessional professor in women's studies. She is planning

to teach a new course, "Artists and Community Collaboration," beginning this fall.

MICHEL MORIN

A new manager of French services for northern Ontario: Benoit Quenneville, director of Radio-Canada, Ontario, French services, announced the appointment of Michel Morin (BA 1969) as manager, French services, Northern Ontario. In 1979, Morin became host, and then producer, of various shows at Radio-Canada. In 1992, he was awarded the Prix Marcel-Blouin for the production of a radio series on the history of the Jesuits in Ontario.

DAVID MCNEIL

Accolades registered: Ontario nurses have elected David McNeil (BScN 1988) as the next president of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO). On Friday, April 24, at RNAO's Annual General Meeting in Markham, Ontario, McNeil, a

registered nurse from Sudbury, won the election for the post. In addition to being an RN, McNeil is vice-president of Clinical Programs and chief nursing officer at the Hôpital régional de Sudbury Regional Hospital. McNeil also has extensive management and frontline experience. Along with his Laurentian degree, he has earned a graduate degree in health administration from the University of Ottawa. Previously, he served as the association's board representative for Region 11, which includes Sudbury and district, Algoma, Nipissing, Porcupine, and Kirkland Lake. When he officially assumes his term in office April 2010, McNeil will become RNAO's 51st official president. The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) is the



David McNeil

professional association representing registered nurses wherever they practise in Ontario. Since 1925, RNAO has lobbied for healthy public policy, promoted excellence in nursing practice, increased nurses' contribution to shaping the health-care system, and influenced decisions that affect nurses and the public they serve.

MIKE WHITEHOUSE

Write on! Mike Whitehouse (BA 1990) won two prizes at the 2009 Ontario Newspaper Awards this spring. Whitehouse is the news editor at the *Sudbury Star*. He claimed the Wayne MacDonald Award for narrative writing for his story of the final days of Brian Laughlin, an Inco employee who died after exposure to nickel carbonyl. Whitehouse also claimed the editorial writing award in the circulation category (under 25,000).

NEVER FORGOTTEN

BY SUZANNE CHARRON-VIOLETTE

Wednesday, August 7, 2002, is a date Ron Henderson (B.Comm. 1984) and Lori Brochu will never forget. On this day, they lost their beloved sister, Kelly Ann (BA 1996, BSW NHS1998), and their twin nephews, Corbin and Jordin, in a car accident on Highway 69. To begin dealing with their grief, they decided to find a way to turn this tragedy into a positive legacy.

In 2003, Henderson and Brochu established the Kelly Ann Henderson Memorial Award in honour of their sister. Kelly Ann was determined to acquire two university degrees while raising her twin boys on her own and volunteering in the community. She faced life's challenges head on and lived life to the fullest. Her brother and sister wanted to find a way to honour their sister's resilience.

"This is why I am here today: To keep Kelly's memory alive through another individual who has the same courage, values, strength, and needs as she once did – and so many counted on," said Ron Henderson to a crowd of teary-eyed award donors and recipients. He related their family story on behalf of the Kelly Ann Henderson Memorial Award at Laurentian's Annual Awards Celebration on April 1, 2009.

Each year, the Kelly Ann Henderson Memorial Award is awarded to a female student who is enrolled in social work or Native human services, requires financial assistance, and is committed

to academic achievement. This year's recipient is Tia Peltier, a single mother with two young children, who is in her second year in the Native human services program. Peltier, who had a chance to meet Kelly Ann, was inspired by her. "Her accomplishments and love for her family and others has motivated me to not give up and to always be positive," said Peltier. She plans to work in the Native community.

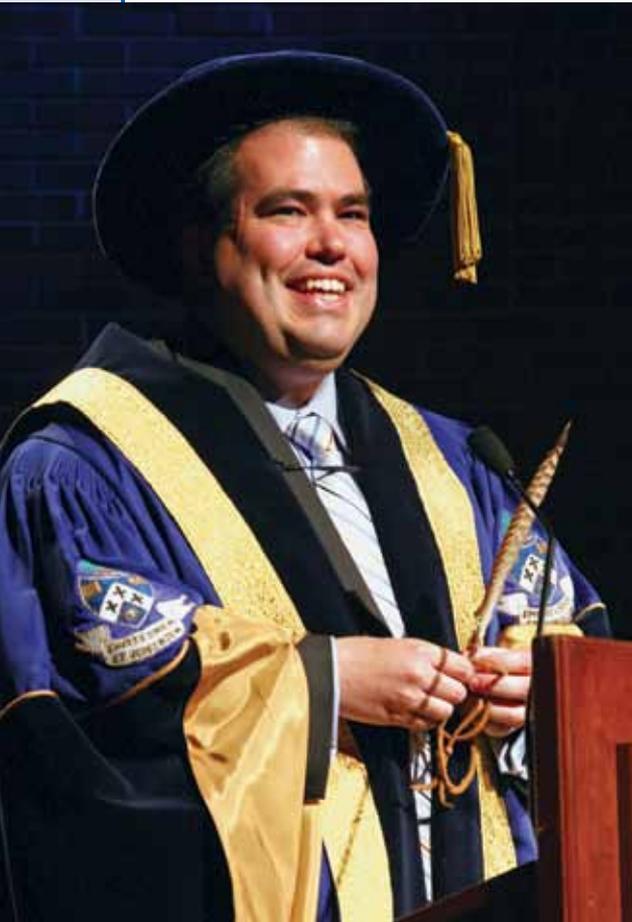
Peltier is also one of three recipients of the Scotiabank Bursary, as was her mother, Barbara Peltier (BSW NHS 2005), in 2005. In fact, Barbara was the first recipient of the Kelly Ann Henderson Memorial Award in 2003.

In 2009, more than \$1 million from donor-funded awards went to more than 1,000 Laurentian University students.



Award recipient Tia Peltier (B.Comm. 1984) and donor Ron Henderson.

IN THE NEWS



SPRING 2009 CONVOCATION

Laurentian alumni number more than 40,000

As most graduates know, convocation is a special time. With nine ceremonies, spring 2009 convocation at Laurentian was no exception, and included some first-ever moments for Laurentian University.

Installation of president Dominic Giroux

Laurentian's ninth president, Dominic Giroux, was installed in a special ceremony on June 2. Touched and moved by the formal ceremonies, Giroux has been getting down to business since he became president on April 1. He praised Laurentian's bilingual, tri-cultural mandate: "It's what drew me to Laurentian."

So far, four themes are emerging, he says: 1) Laurentian will work toward having strong national recognition; 2) Laurentian will be a university of choice while strengthening its unique regional, bilingual, and tri-cultural mandate; 3) the university will foster strong student engagement; and 4) Laurentian will form close ties to the communities it serves.

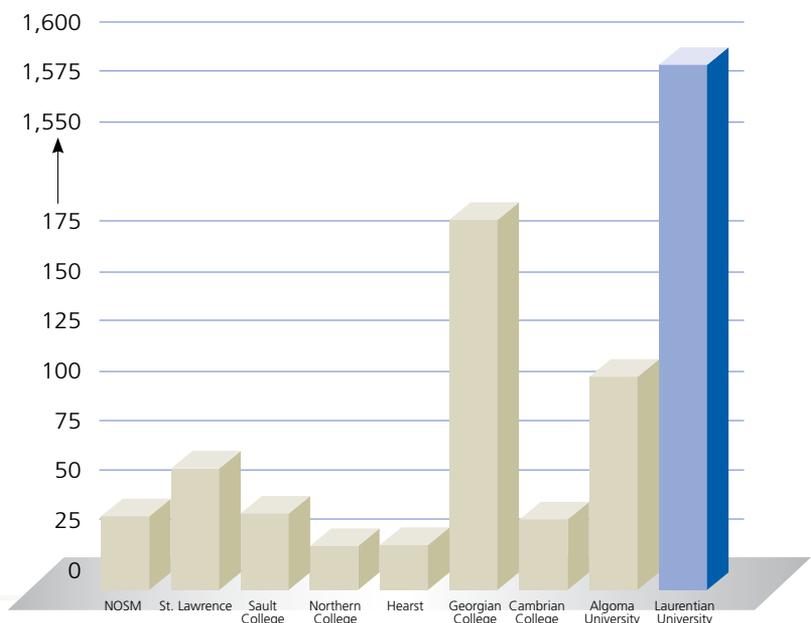
Good medicine

The charter class of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, a joint partnership between Laurentian and Lakehead Universities, graduated 55 newly trained medical doctors, 29 on the Laurentian campus. Sandi Adamson was the first NOSM graduate across the stage, as the list was read in alphabetical order. "It's been four years of hard work and sacrifice, not only for me, but I have my husband, my three children here. They've given up a lot to allow me to do this."

Breaking down the numbers

The Laurentian alumni list surpasses 40,000. The total graduates this spring was **2,013**.

Algoma University	94
Cambrian College	26
Georgian College	172
Hearst	16
Northern College	15
Sault College	32
St. Lawrence	54
NOSM	29
Laurentian University	1,575



To reach this milestone and to be able to say we did it together is absolutely wonderful," she said. Adamson, who resides in Bracebridge, Ontario, will complete her residency in family medicine nearby in North Bay.

Doctorates galore

The first woman at Laurentian to earn her PhD graduated. Michelle DeWolfe (M.Sc., geology, 2004) received her doctorate in mineral deposits and Precambrian geology. Abdelghani Housni received his PhD in biomolecular sciences and David Kreutzweiser (M.Sc., biology, 1996) earned the first PhD in Boreal ecology. José Fernando Saavedra Rosas earned his PhD in natural resources engineering.

Nurses from St. Lawrence

The first class of nurses from Laurentian's new collaboration with St. Lawrence College in Kingston, Cornwall, and Brockville graduated with 54 new nurses in the class.

LU@Georgian

The Laurentian@Georgian collaboration marked another first when Laurentian graduated students in the four-year honours English program, the first program to be fully completed in Barrie.

Laurentian awarded five honorary doctorates

Lorraine Petzold: A Sudbury local, Petzold became the first woman in Canada commissioned as a land surveyor; she introduced a series of groundbreaking reforms to the field.

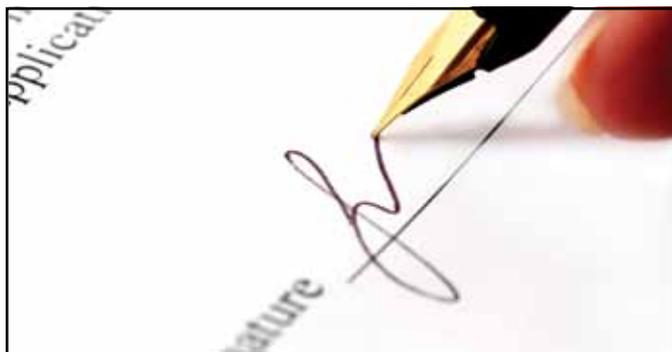
Bruce Ferguson: An advocate for children and youth and the founder and director of the Community Health Systems Resource Group (CHSRG) at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

Felix Lopes Sr.: An immigrant from Portugal who moved to the Sudbury region, and launched his mechanical-electrical contracting business in 1976. Lopes Mechanical Limited has expanded

over the years; the company revitalized the land around the old mining site acquired in Coniston.

James Orbinski: The Canadian physician, researcher, writer, and humanitarian activist is focused on access to medicine and health care, medical humanitarianism in war and social crisis, through his work with Doctors Without Borders. His book, *An Imperfect Offering: Humanitarian Action for the 21st Century*, is an award-winning account of Orbinski's time as a physician in Rwanda during the genocide.

Raymond Kinoshameg: The Sudbury resident and Elder is a founder of several Native service organizations in Sudbury, including the Nickel Belt Indian Club – which led to the establishment of the Indian-Eskimo Friendship Centre in the late 1960s, now the N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre.



WHERE THERE'S A WILL...

Laurentian University can be designated as a beneficiary. Here is an example of suggested wording:

I give and bequeath to Laurentian University of Sudbury, Ontario, the sum of \$ _____ or _____% of my estate.

If you would like to learn more about putting Laurentian in your will, or about other ways to make a gift to Laurentian University, please contact:
Tracy MacLeod, Director of Development, at 705-675-4872 or tmacleod@laurentian.ca



KNOWLEDGE WITHIN REACH

Why not take that course that eluded you during your studies, or why not start down a new career path?

The Centre for Continuing Education may have just what you are looking for. Check out our course and program listings online or contact us for more details.

REGISTER TODAY!

cce.laurentian.ca 705-673-6569 CCE_L@laurentian.ca



Laurentian University
Université Laurentienne

Learning. It's in our Nature.



SOPHIE BERTRAND

RAISES HER VOICE

BY LAURA E. YOUNG

to operatic heights

A voice major, obviously, has to sing. And, as Sophie Bertrand (BA 2008) knows all too well, she should also be prepared to belt it out with short notice. With about six weeks to curtain time, Bertrand stepped into the role of Micaela in Bizet's *Carmen*, when the lead singer became ill. The University of Ottawa's Opera Studio was scheduled to present *Carmen* from January 23 to February 1. The roles are usually cast the summer before the concert.

Sophie Bertrand was up for the challenge. She simply incorporated Micaela's role into her daily, three-hour practices. "I knew there was a time limit, so I just prepared for that. And I was fine."

Bertrand, a coloratura soprano, is soon beginning her second year as a voice major in the master's program at the University of Ottawa. She recently received a scholarship of \$31,000 for two years. "You have to train a lot to do an opera role. The biggest challenge was the timeframe [to rehearse]. It was one of the main roles," Bertrand says.

Following *Carmen*, Bertrand was cast in the 2010 opera production of *In the Medium*. She was chosen to play the lead role, Monica. Their professors expect them to rehearse and work on the music over the summer, Bertrand says.

After listening to her singing around the family's Sudbury home, Sophie's parents, Paul and Carmen, enrolled their young daughter in private lessons. At age 13, Sophie became enchanted by classical music. She attended Collège Notre-Dame, where she sang in the choir. She also performed with Theatre Cambrian and



Photo by: Nancy Genessee

Sophie Bertrand's voice shimmers and floats says her voice teacher.

the Windmill Theatre in Lively.

Her father, Paul, sings in choirs and plays guitar. Still, Bertrand jokes that she's the "black sheep" of her family by choosing music for her career; no one else works in music.

An honours student, Bertrand studied music and Italian at Laurentian, and then applied to Ottawa's voice program. At the master's level, it's all singing, all the time. Much like an athlete, she must listen to her body so she doesn't strain herself.

"Because there's so much practice involved, you can really overwork your body. You cannot be a procrastinator. You have to constantly stay ahead of the game. It's very easily compared to an athlete who's training for a marathon. You can't run a marathon when you train the week before."

For those who know Bertrand, her success is hardly a surprise. She does have a beautiful voice, says Marion Harvey, her voice teacher of six years. Bertrand's voice "shimmers, it floats. It is powerful, yet

tender," Harvey says. "You're struck by the colour of her tone. She imbues herself in her sound."

For Harvey, Bertrand is the complete package: She practises what her teachers suggest; she's a singer with time-management skills, who is focused on her career path. "She is that rare combination of someone who has talent, work ethic, dedication, and consistency," Harvey says.

Harvey recalls how Bertrand always looked forward to their weekly singing lessons. "That's not the case for many students. I can really see that she's enjoying her voice program. From an early age, you knew that she wanted to be a singer." ■

Training Canada's OLYMPIANS

Roger Ouellette directs Canada's largest sports funding program at Sport Canada

BY SUZANNE CHARRON-VIOLETTE

Canada has the podium in its sights for the 2010 Vancouver Games: It intends to win the most medals at the Olympics and the third-most gold medals at the Paralympics. The athletes will need to perform.

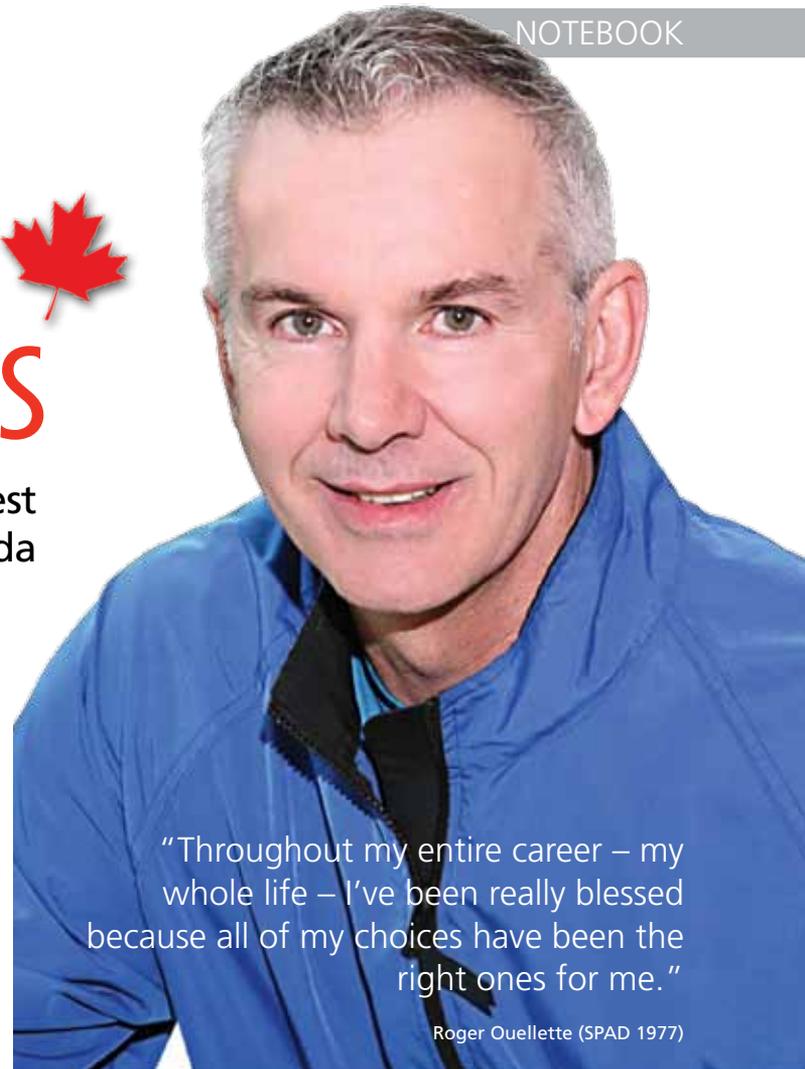
They also require guidance and training, which cost big money. Roger Ouellette (SPAD 1977) is already tackling this. As the director of Sport Canada's sport program at Heritage Canada, he is a firm believer in his mission. With more than \$100 million at his disposal, Ouellette and his 24-person team are seeking out organizations best suited to train athletes for the Games. He explains that the assessment process itself involves a lot of daily administrative work.

Even so, after 27 years with Sport Canada, he continues to be inspired by his work. Hardly surprising, since he interacts with sports celebs such as Susan Auch, Alex Baumann (BA Hons. 1990, Hon. Doc. in Physical Education, 1996), Gaétan Boucher, Pierre Harvey, Abby Hoffman, Pierre Lafontaine, Doug Leigh, Bob Nicholson, and Ken Read. "Every day, we work with people who are committed, passionate, and dedicated," he adds.

Since 1995, Roger Ouellette has been the director of the largest sports funding program at Sport Canada. When it comes to wish lists for financial, human, and material resources, they are high and the challenge is to satisfy them while staying within budget.

He is grateful for the support of his wife, Diane Larochelle, who is now retired after a 27-year teaching career, and his children, Martin, 29, and Manon, 26. When they were young, they would often miss their dad when he had to leave for the weekend. "Throughout my entire career – my whole life – I've been really blessed because all of my choices have been the right ones for me," he says. Such as his choice to enrol in the SPAD (sports administration) program at Laurentian after spending a year at the Royal Military College of Canada. He returns to his *alma mater* periodically to speak with SPAD students and he continues to sit on the program's honorary advisory committee.

Upon receiving his diploma in 1977, Ouellette received a job offer from the Canadian Cycling Association to become its executive director in Ottawa. "This was a job that we'd all hope to have



"Throughout my entire career – my whole life – I've been really blessed because all of my choices have been the right ones for me."

Roger Ouellette (SPAD 1977)

one day, but not right from the start," he explains. His experience as coordinator of the Sudbury Hockey League obviously served him well.

In 1982, Sport Canada invited him to join their ranks as a program officer. In 1984, he was part of a federal mission to the Olympic Games in Los Angeles. After that, along with two other people, he developed "Winter – Better than Ever," a program to improve the Canadian teams' results at the Calgary Olympics. Ouellette says "this was the first of many programs that began to regularly build on the infrastructure to support the Canadian sports system."

Throughout his career, Ouellette has attended many Olympic and Paralympic Games. Although he has some great memories, some moments "are in a category all of their own. When I think of gold medalist Myriam Bédard entering the biathlon stadium in Lillehammer, it was truly incredible." He also remembers less glorious moments, such as when, in Albertville, he and his colleagues had to stop to put tire chains on their vehicle. "There was a snowstorm in the Alps when we arrived, after being on the road for 20 hours – that was challenging," he recalls.

Ouellette undoubtedly prefers his fishing trips, a hobby that is both passion and therapy, much like golf and jogging, which he has enjoyed since his youth. ■

CELEBRATING OUR
Silver Anniversary
— 25 YEARS AGO —



Oh what a night it was when Laurentian celebrated its 25th anniversary!
And on March 28, 2010, the university will launch celebrations of the 50th.

- 1 Front row: Noreen Barbe and Colette Brunette. Back row: Louise Borkovich, Louise Pigeau, Branko Rayakovich, Claudette Lefebvre, and Debbie MacLennan
- 2 Clown (unidentified)
- 3 John Cannard and Carole Leroux
- 4 Richard Morin
- 5 Mary-Catherine (née Roche) Taylor

If you can identify the person in the second photo, or you'd like to share your memories of Laurentian leading up to the 50th celebrations, contact magazine@laurentian.ca

Alumni Updates

Take a few minutes to update us on what is going on in your life. We'll print it in the Alumni News section of the next *Laurentian University Magazine*. You can send us a photo as well.

Fax to: 705-675-4840; mail to Laurentian University, Public Affairs, 935 Ramsey Lake Road, Sudbury ON, P3E 2C6; or email magazine@laurentian.ca.

Your update (up to 100 words):

Full name: _____ Maiden name: _____

Degree: _____ Program: _____ Year: _____

Email: _____ Print? Yes No

Help us keep your address information up-to-date as well (only for alumni records; not for printing in the magazine):

Home address: _____ City: _____

Province/Country: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____



LaurentianAlumni
Anciens**Laurentienne**

Hold your next function in the heart of

Laurentian's campus is located in a peaceful setting in the heart of Sudbury. Your group will be able to enjoy activities such as a private beach, beautiful hiking trails, an Olympic-sized pool and the Doran Planetarium, all a five-minute walk from our residences where you'll experience our generous hospitality.

*northern
Ontario*



Laurentian can offer you:

- conference and meeting facilities (groups from 6 to 650)
- air-conditioned accommodations with free high-speed Internet
- full food services
- state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment

You'll be minutes away from:

- Science North
- IMAX theatre
- Dynamic Earth
- restaurants, shopping, and entertainment

For more information, please contact:

Conference and Housing Services
(705) 675-1151, ext. 3002
conferenceservices@laurentian.ca



LaurentianUniversity
Université**Laurentienne**



GROUP HOME AND AUTO INSURANCE

for members of the Laurentian University Alumni Association



PROTECTION MADE EASY... GROUP RATES MADE EASIER!

As a member of the **Laurentian University Alumni Association**, you can save on your home and auto insurance through **preferred group rates**, while enjoying **high-quality insurance products** and **outstanding service**.

As the leading provider of group home and auto insurance, we offer a wide range of innovative products, so you are sure to get the coverage that is right for your particular needs...and the peace of mind that goes with it!

Insurance program recommended by



Request a quote and you could



MelocheMonnex.com/laurentian

1 866 352 6187

(Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.)



Insurance

Meloche Monnex

The TD Insurance Meloche Monnex home and auto insurance program is underwritten by SECURITY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY and distributed by Meloche Monnex Insurance and Financial Services Inc. in Québec and by Meloche Monnex Financial Services Inc. in the rest of Canada.

Due to provincial legislation, our auto insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

*No purchase required. Contest ends on January 16, 2010. Skill-testing question required. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. Complete contest rules available at MelocheMonnex.com.

Meloche Monnex® is a trade-mark of Meloche Monnex Inc.

TD Insurance is a trade-mark of The Toronto-Dominion Bank, used under license.