



From the Provost

The Last Word

In her final column as Provost, Margaret MacMillan takes her leave with a fervent 'Thank you, all'

When I became Provost of this college five years ago, I discovered all sorts of unexpected duties, such as the long flower bed along Hoskin Avenue. When Bill Chisholm, then the building manager, told me on a cold January day that the Provost always chose the plants, I did the only sensible thing and called my mother. She has looked after it ever since, with the results that so many of you have admired every summer. I also learned that I had to write this letter three times a year for the magazine. I remember wondering how on earth I would find enough new things to say each time.

Well, that has never been a problem because there is always so much going on at Trinity. I have talked about our students and their amazing range of accomplishments, from scholarships, to sporting championships, to volunteer work; about the ways in which the College has helped to support them and provide a community at the heart of a big university and a big city; about our financial problems (sorry, but it had to be said); and about the benefits and the occasional tensions involved in being part of Canada's leading university.

Now, for the last time, the editor of this magazine is waiting patiently for my text, and I am reflecting on my five years as Provost. I have enjoyed them immensely, partly because there is something exhilarating in being involved with bright, interesting and energetic young people as they start to mature into adults. Partly, too, because of the people who work here, many of whom have been here for decades and who really care about the place. And not least because of all of you, the alumni, who have such affection for Trinity and who have supported us in so many ways over the years. Thank you, all.

When I was installed as Provost, I said in my address that I felt a bit like a piece of pipe being put in place by a plumber with the job of making sure that Trinity, built over many years by all my distinguished predecessors, flowed on smoothly into the future. That did

not mean slavishly keeping every tradition, but picking out what was important in what we inherited and discarding what was not. Established ways of doing things should never become a straitjacket. In my view, Trinity's key traditions are its openness to difference, whether in ideas or people, its generous admiration for achievement in all fields, its tolerance, and its respect for the rule of law.

I have made some changes while I have been here. Perhaps the ones I feel proudest of are creating a single post of Dean of Students in place of two, one for men and one for women, and integrating the residences so that the men and women of College have equal access to all the facilities of Trinity. My very favourite innovation, though, is Pizza with the Provost, where I invited students to come to my Lodge to hear interesting people talk about their careers and

how they chose (or even stumbled into) them. It has been a wonderful chance for me to meet lots of Trinity students, as well as speakers such as Ted Rogers, Marc Garneau, Ruth Grier, and John Polanyi.

As I get ready to leave, I cannot help feeling a bit nostalgic, yes, even for the fire alarms in the middle of the night and the students singing under my windows. Yet I know that the College will be in marvellous hands under Professor Andy Orchard and the new Chancellor, Bill Graham. Both people of distinction and learning, they know and appreciate Trinity and will give it the care and attention

it deserves. And to work with them, they have an outstanding team of people: Derek Allen, the Dean of Arts; Bruce Bowden, the Registrar; Kelley Castle, the Dean of Students; Linda Corman, the Chief Librarian; Dana Fisher, the Humphrys Chaplain; David Neelands, the Dean of Divinity; Geoff Seaborn, the Bursar; Susan Perren, the Director of Development and Alumni Affairs; and all those who work for them. The 13th Provost is about to become a picture on a wall, but Trinity will sail on as ever.

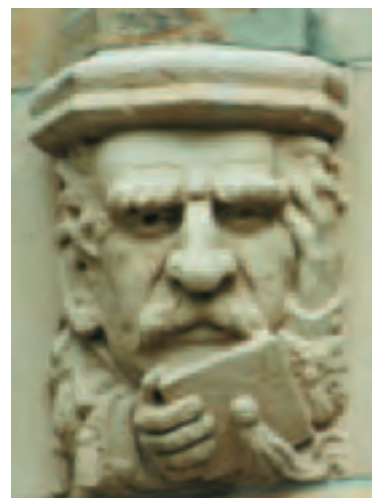
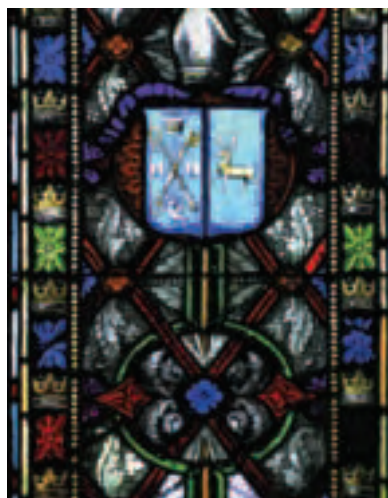
MARGARET MACMILLAN
Provost and Vice-Chancellor

WHAT IS *Trinity?*



TRINITY COLLEGE IS ITS PAST AND ITS FUTURE. IT IS OUR FOUNDER, BISHOP Strachan, and nearly 160 years of academic achievement. It is the Canada of Confederation and two World Wars. It is an Anglican tradition that still lives on in the services in the Chapel, in the Faculty of Divinity, and in the air of gentle tolerance that fills the College halls. • Trinity is also defined by its architectural heritage. The cupolas, finials and quadrangle of the main building. The austere and soaring Chapel. The panelled dining hall. The Georgian serenity of St. Hilda's. The glass and concrete of the 1960s Larkin Building.

*As her term as Provost
draws to a close,
Margaret MacMillan
reflects on what the
College means to
her: its architecture,
its community
of faculty, staff and
alumni – but
above all, its students*
by Margaret
MacMillan





Top, at left, the John W. Graham Library. Below, stained glass in the Chapel (also shown here) and a stone carving at the main entrance of former chancellor John Worrell

WHAT IS *Trinity?*

And, most recently, the splendid Munk Centre for International Studies and John W. Graham Library with their beautiful formal gardens.

Integral to Trinity's identity, too, is its rich tradition of learning and academic excellence, both inside the classroom and out. Trinity is about intellectual curiosity and valuing achievement for its own sake. It is where learning and social interaction – enlivened by debating, drama and music – flow into each other; where students work hard at study and at life. Learning happens in the halls and dining halls, in the classrooms and in the multitude of student clubs and teams.

Trinity is its people: The more than 20,000 alumni who have passed through its doors. The Chancellors, the Provosts, the Bursars, the Librarians, Deans, Chaplains, Fellows and Faculty. The porters, the kitchen staff, the engineers who have been here for years. A community to which we all belong.

Above all, though, Trinity is its students. The brightest and the best. Still growing, they come from across Canada and around the world, eager to learn and live in our lovely oasis in the middle of the city. They leave as adults with their own tastes and values, and friendships that will endure a lifetime.

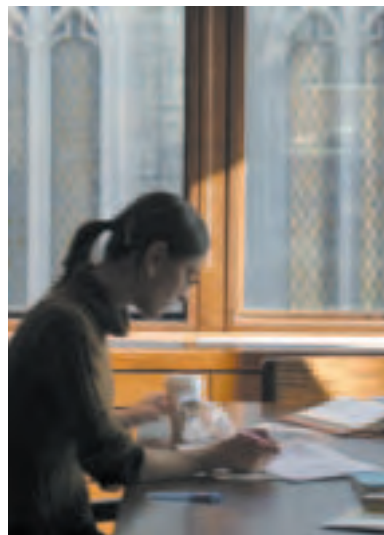
Many leave with high academic distinction – an inordinate number, for such a small college, as Rhodes scholars. Others as highly successful graduates who head for medical school, law school and other advanced studies at some of the world's best universities – Oxford, Cambridge, Yale, Harvard and Stanford. Trinity also produces dedicated volunteers who work in clinics in Tibet or Afghanistan. As well as writers, bishops, bank presidents, film directors, actors, diplomats, ambassadors and foreign ministers – leaders in government, business, the arts and the Anglican Church.

Each generation represents its own Canada, from the Anglo-Saxon society of the 19th century to the multicultural one of today. Trinity has always gathered them in, nurtured and encouraged each one, prodded them to be the best they can be, gently teased them when they have been too serious and taught them how to live and work with each other.

Much of our success lies in the fact that Trinity is small and intimate. We are the same size as many independent colleges in Canada and the United States. Yet, we are also part of a much bigger institution: the University of Toronto, the best research university in Canada and one of the greatest public universities in North America. Trinity gives students a home base from which they can venture to explore and grow – intellectually, spiritually and emotionally.

Trinity makes a difference. Its students, alumni and graduates rightly take pride in it. We have much to celebrate. ■

— Margaret MacMillan, Provost and Vice-Chancellor



For students, Trinity is a "home base from which they can venture to explore and grow," where "they work hard at study and at life"

