

On the occasion of the conferring of
the degree of
Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*
upon

Murray McLauchlan

With the vibrant palette of a Doris McCarthy painting, an artist tries to capture the myriad images of our diverse country.

Canada is defined by its physical geography. As Wade Hemsworth said, we live “In the land of the muskeg and the shining birch tree.”

We are also defined by our human geography. There are some individuals who are quintessentially Canadian.

In the 1960’s, the Canadian music industry was growing up. Murray McLauchlan’s career as a singer-songwriter reflects the development of the larger cultural scene. He was “growing up in public.” From the coffee houses of Yorkville, to folk festivals across the country, through albums, concerts, and radio shows, McLauchlan has written about the core elements of the Canadian experience. From the streets of pain, to the whispering rain, he has distilled the essence of our story and has sung it back to us.

He is truly a part of the Canadian landscape that he has helped to describe and define.

“I’m chasing my shadow out across this roadmap,
To my wheat fields waving, to my cornfield dancing,
As I go walking this wind keeps talking”

You helped to paint the songs of this land.

Eminent Chancellor, I present to you Murray McLauchlan, celebrated troubador and advocate of artists’ rights.

Let us sing the praises of this musician who is mirror to our nation.

On behalf of the Senate and the University, I invite you to invest Murray Edward McLauchlan with the Degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

14 June 2007