



Highland Councillor Jim McGillivray is seated on the front row on the left of rector John Garvie. Speaking is Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland, Dr Monica Main.

Audience is told school 'will stand for another 100 years'

HIGHLAND councillor Jim McGillivray was one of those who spoke at the double centenary ceremony at Dornoch Academy, emphasising that it was the responsibility of the whole community to maintain high educational standards.

The ceremony was the official highlight of a series of events to mark the unique double anniversary and was attended by a large number of former pupils and teachers.

Councillor McGillivray, who represents the Eas Sutherland Ward, paid full tribute to Dornoch Burgh Council which had the vision in 1913 to erect the building adjacent to the current school.

"One hundred years later, now as Dornoch Primary School, the building stands proudly as testimony to the skill and workmanship of a previous generation. It will stand for a hundred year yet."

"I furthermore pay full tribute to the Sutherland County Council of 1963 - chaired by the dominant and expressive figure of Rev William Macleod of Dornoch Free Church.

"Foremost amongst the elected representatives of this county, he displayed the incisive vision and resolute determination to find the public funding necessary to invest in the future of this community in a way that has never since been matched, and presents to us today this building in which we now gather.

"A special mention must also be made of the Murray family of Balloan who made the land for this magnificent four-acre site available to the community for this purpose."

Councillor McGillivray also paid tribute to the Dornoch Academy School Board of 1993 which, he explained, "took up the daunting challenge of returning Dornoch Academy to its rightful status as a six-year secondary school".

He added: "To all of the many characteristics I have already mentioned, they brought full passion, full belief and a tenacious energy which brushed past many obstacles to drive this school forward to what it is today.

"There are always challenges, there always will be challenges, and it behoves the community to put forward a champion to meet these challenges."

He stressed that he couldn't let the moment pass without recognising the determined efforts of his predecessor, former councillor and Provost

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Jim McGillivray

Duncan Allan, in rising to meet the challenges of that demanding time leading to the upgrade.

"We are fortunate, therefore, to stand today on the shoulders of giants, but with that fortune comes a responsibility - a civic responsibility to pick up the standards of those who have gone before and drive forward, not just on this school campus, but across the whole community. And that responsibility lies with us all."

Yvonne Ross, the Provost of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch and who works at Dornoch Academy, introduced Dr Monica Main, the Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland, who read out the Queen Mother's official opening speech of the new Dornoch Academy in 1963.

The vote of thanks was given by the academy's rector John H Garvie.

There were also contributions from Rev Christopher Mayo, minister of St Finnbarr's Church, Dornoch; Rev Susan Brown, minister of Dornoch Cathedral, and Rev Duncan MacLeod, minister of Dornoch Free Church.

Presentations to Dr Main were made by Dorothy Bell (nee May), Michael MacLeod and Ruby Grant.

And the soloist was school pupil, Alexander Murray John, a member of the National Youth Choir of Scotland, who sung "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" which had been performed by the school choir in 1963.