Robertson Library Celebrates Twenty-Five Years Service to the University and to the Island Community, 1975-2000

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is fitting that we celebrate the Robertson Library's 25th Anniversary in conjunction with UPEI's first Founders' Day. The Library is the heart of the University. It gives us access to the accumulated knowledge of the past. It is a vital instrument in the creation of new knowledge. It is a primary site for the University's core educational function. It is an invaluable resource for the entire PEI community.

The Robertson Library's 25th Anniversary has special meaning for me. I was a third-year student when the new Library opened in 1975. I also served on the Senate Library Committee.

The new Robertson Library was an improvement on its predecessor in so many dimensions. For starters, it had a lot more space. There were ample reading rooms, stacks with room
to expand, and new technologies (e.g., better microform readers). Perhaps the greatest innovation was the greenhouse-like lounge facing Belvedere Avenue. I note that the lounge has since been designated a "Super Quiet Area".

There have been so many changes since the Robertson Library was opened in 1975. These include changes in information technology, the unrelenting production of new information, and the continuous evolution of research needs of students, faculty and other library users. It is striking to look back and remember just how much can happen in 25 years, including the elimination of smoking from the Library (imagine!).

University Librarian Lynne Murphy makes the point that the most important contributing factor to the success of the Robertson Library is the human resource. It is especially important in conjunction with Founders’ Day that we recognize that librarians and library staff have, for generations, worked with limited resources, expanding demands, and changing technologies to offer a high quality, essential service to the University community.

We are fortunate today to have a team of librarians and staff who not only cope with change but who lead us through it. There are so many new facets to information, and to the provision of an increasing range of services. There is no question that the Robertson Library is a living, moving, evolving entity. Anniversaries are an important occasion to celebrate continuing change, and to appreciate those who lead—and who have led—the way.

In closing, I reiterate the point about the Library being the heart of the University. As UPEI’s founding President Ron Baker commented when announcing plans to construct Robertson: “If there is to be a university here, then this is necessary.” Today, we celebrate the fact that Prince Edward Island has an excellent university, and that we have at its core the Robertson Library.

H. Wade MacLauchlan
President and Vice-Chancellor

MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

It was with great anticipation that I accepted the position of University Librarian at Robertson Library. Leaving a large university, such as McGill, to come to UPEI was one of those opportunities for personal and professional growth that could not be denied. This stems from my belief that the small flexible organization is far better positioned than a large bureaucratic structure to meet the changes affecting universities and libraries.

Change is not new to libraries. However, the past twenty-five years have seen changes that profoundly alter the way people work in libraries, the way they use the library, their expectation of library service, and even the definition of what a library is. Looking at some of the issues that influenced these changes, the past quarter century may well be an historical transitional period not only for libraries but also for the universities that house them.

Technological innovations—The introduction of online catalogues, the revolution brought to us by the introduction and widespread use of reasonably inexpensive personal computers, the introduction of databases, and the recent access to full text periodical information are some of the major innovations affecting library users. The revolutionary concept of online shared cataloguing enhanced the library’s ability to catalogue materials, to service Interlibrary loan, and to provide access to information—all enhancements to patron service.

Economic trends—The rising costs of all library materials and resources—especially periodicals—with the concomitant general recession, has been a prevailent theme of the last twenty-five years. The phenomenal increase in cost has led to an erosion in book purchasing needed to cover the academic needs of its users. In addition, the use of technology has raised the expectation for more, faster, and better technology which has an additional and recurring cost associated with it.

The cutbacks in government support for higher education has resulted in cutbacks in staffing while demands on library services are increasing dramatically. These facts, coupled with dwindling resources, have driven libraries to look for partners in resource sharing outside their parent institutions.

Publishing growth—Growth in publishing continues at a phenomenal rate. The diversity in format and sources of information is growing both in volume and in complexity. The complexity of resources presents continual challenges to library staff and users alike.

Public accountability—This has become more and more of an issue as we, the taxpayers, expect effective and efficient service from our tax dollar. Universities can no longer depend on automatic funding increases—nor can the libraries that serve them.

A few trends emerge from the points above. Organizational structures and library services need to be evaluated to better reflect the needs of users, especially in the area of instruction and user education. Another trend is that the library staff of the 21st century must take a more relevant and active role than ever before in the evolution of the library. Staff members not only need a broad education and an expertise at levels higher than twenty-five years ago but also an open attitude to learning and change. More than ever they will need to be self-starters, risk-takers, and team players with an ability to acquire new skills for a variety of tasks and opportunities. Lastly, there needs to be a shift in our approach to the library collection in terms of format, coverage, and access.

Whither Robertson Library? Where have all these trends led Robertson Library? Over the past two years the Library has undergone a physical facelift and has begun a philosophical journey of discovery. The renovation project undertaken in the summer of 1999 allowed us to: 1) redesign staff areas; 2) provide better access to the Circulation Desk; 3) provide more space for the Special Collections and Media Centre; and 4) create a Library Learning Centre for in-house teaching and training. During the winter and spring of 1999, the staff met over several days to ask ourselves basic questions necessary to our services, if we are to continue to be the best we can be. We created a strategic plan for the near future which will allow us to develop flexibly and innovatively. Though I have no absolute clarity about where these changes will bring us, I do know that it is not the physical or material changes that will be the deciding factor in our achievement of excellence, but has been, and will continue to be, our human resources—our staff. It is with this in mind that I salute the staff of Robertson Library for all their achievements—past, present, and future!

Lynne F. Murphy
University Librarian
The University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) was incorporated by an Act of the Provincial Legislature in 1969. The amalgamation of Saint Dunstan’s University (SDU) and Prince of Wales College (PWC) into a single university brought with it the amalgamation of the two libraries that served each of these institutions. The combined resources of these libraries—both human and physical—were housed in the Kelley Memorial Library on the campus of the former Saint Dunstan’s University. It soon became apparent that the Kelley Memorial Library was not large enough to serve the combined student body or to house the combined resources. The Kelley Memorial Library, which was built in 1963, was designed to serve 750 students. In 1973, the enrolment had risen to 1,600 full-time students and projections indicated that the numbers would increase to 2,500 full-time students by 1985. In addition, there was a continuous increase in the number of part-time and summer school enrolments.

The Progress Fund was a “capital program to erect new structures and renovate present buildings to meet the needs of the University’s current enrollment, and projected future enrollment”. The objective of the Progress Fund for the Island University was to raise $2,900,000. The Fund was to provide money to build the new library, with a capacity for 300,000 volumes and additional space for up-to-date complementary and ancillary library facilities and a new, multi-purpose academic building. The Fund was designated for capital expenditures not operating expenditures.

FROM CONCEPTION TO REALITY

November 27, 1972 — The Progress Fund for the Island University was established with an objective of $2,900,000. Co-Chairs, Honourable Walter F. Hyndman and Mr. Eugene Cullen, together with the Committee, sought funds from Atlantic and national corporations, local businesses, foundations and individuals—including faculty, staff, and alumni of UPEI’s constituent institutions—St. Dunstan’s University and Prince of Wales College.

April 4, 1973 — Dr. Ronald J. Baker, President of the University of Prince Edward Island, announced plans for a new $3.2 million library on the UPEI campus. In making the announcement Dr. Baker stated: “If there is to be a university here, then this is necessary.”

The 92,000 square foot Library complex was to be built on three levels—two of these levels were to be used to meet the Library’s immediate needs; the third level was to be used by the Library in the future but in the interim it was to be used to provide space for the University community at large.

The Library was designed to house 350,000 volumes; 2,160 current periodicals; and seat 678 (including the student lounge in the annex). Special features of the new Library included: a Library Resource Centre (known as the Media Centre) which included: microform readers, videocassette players, record players, tape recorders, slide viewers, and microform reader-printers; eight faculty research rooms; six individual study rooms; six group study rooms; two typing rooms; and four hundred and one individual study carrels.

The Annex and the basement were designed to house: a student lounge; a lecture theatre; the University Audio-Visual Department, including an A/V Studio; a language laboratory; the Computer Centre; and twelve classrooms.

The Library will have open stacks (except for the Prince Edward Island Collection and the University Archives) and borrowing privileges will be available for students, faculty and staff of the University and the Prince Edward Island community.

The architectural firm for the new library complex was Leslie R. Fair & Associates, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

May, 1973 — Williams, Murphy, and MacLeod Ltd. were awarded the contract for the new 92,000 square foot Library.

June 1, 1973 — The official announcement of the awarding of the contract to Williams, Murphy, and MacLeod Ltd. was made prior to the sod-turning ceremony.

The construction of the new Library complex began with the sod-turning ceremony on Friday, June 1 at 3:00 p.m. Honourable Walter F. Hyndman and Mr. Eugene Cullen, co-chairs of the Progress Fund for the Island University officiated. Also in attendance was Prince Edward Island’s Minister of Education, Honourable Bennett Campbell. Construction was expected to be completed within sixteen months.

The Progress Fund had reached $830,000.

September 27, 1973 — The foundation for the new Library complex was completed.

January, 1974 — Construction of the new Library complex was on schedule.

November, 1974 — The Progress Fund had received $1,922,000 in gifts and pledges at the half-way mark of its campaign.

December, 1974 — The Kelley Memorial Library closed its doors to the public for the last time on Tuesday, December 17. On December 18, the Library staff, the student assistants, and the Maintenance Department began the move of 175,000—200,000 books and periodicals to the new Library complex. Also moved at this time were the microfilm, microfiche, records and cassettes and the furniture. The complete move from the Kelley Memorial Library to the new Library complex was completed over a three week period and without the use of equipment or personnel external to the University.

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

1975 January — The new Library opened its doors on January 11, 1975—the day classes resumed following the Christmas break. The staff complement of thirty included nine librarians and twenty-one library technicians and secretaries.

The Library installed a 3-M Tattle Tape detection system to ensure the security of the Library materials.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS ANNOUNCED THE NAME CHOSEN FOR THE NEW LIBRARY

The Board of Governors announced the name chosen for the new Library.

“The new University Library will be named after Dr. Samuel Napier Robertson, a long-time principal of Prince of Wales College, the Board of Governors has announced. For a half a century Dr. Robertson, a distinguished native son, was a leader in the educational system of the Island.

Born at Cape Traverse in 1869 he received his early education at North Bedeque, P.E.I. He entered Prince of Wales College in 1884, and graduated in 1887. He continued his education at Dalhousie University where he received both his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees. As a scholar and educationist he was honoured by St. Francis Xavier and Dalhousie Universities with a degree of Doctor of Laws. After his death in 1937 Dalhousie University established the S. N. Robertson Scholarship which was awarded annually to a superior Prince of Wales student who entered Dalhousie in Arts, Science or Commerce.

In 1903 Dr. Robertson was appointed to the staff of Prince of Wales College, and in 1901 he became its principal, a position he held until his death on October 3, 1937. An exceptional teacher, he was a firm believer in the advantages to be derived from a Classical education.

In 1950 Prince of Wales College inaugurated the S. N. Robertson Memorial Lecture Series, which brought distinguished Canadians to the lectern. Among them were Sir Ernest MacMillan, Leonard W. Brockington, Dr. Wilder Penfield, Dr. Charlotte Whitten, Dr. O. M. Solandt. U.P.E.I. President R. J. Baker, then President-Designate, delivered the final lecture in March 1969.” (Topics, 5 (10), January 31, 1975: 2)

February — On February 2, the University Library, in conjunction with the Fine Arts Department, launched the first Library Film Series with the presentation of the first in a series of films from the BBC “Civilization” series with Lord Kenneth Clark.

March — NAMING CEREMONY

The naming ceremony for the Robertson Library was held on March 14 at 3:00 p.m. in the foyer of the new Library.

“Over 100 guests attended the unveiling ceremony that marked the naming of the Robertson Library on March 14. Miss Louise Callbeck of Central Bedeque, P.E.I., a niece of Dr. Robertson, unveiled the oil portrait which hangs in the foyer of the 3.5 million-dollar library, to be officially opened in the fall. The Chairman of the Board of Governors, the Hon. C. St. Clair Trainor, was the master of ceremonies. Besides members of the Robertson family, a special guest was Dr. G. Douglas Steel, now 93 years old.”
old, who succeeded Dr. Samuel Robertson as principal of Prince of Wales College in 1937. Also present was Mrs. Jadi Bilibiyi, the 88-year-old English artist who painted the portrait of Dr. Robertson.

Speaking on behalf of the Robertson family the Hon. Catherine Calbeck, Minister of Social Services and a grand-niece of Dr. Robertson, noted that on the day before his death Dr. Robertson ended his class with the words: "Young gentlemen, read on from here...". This simple invocation to further scholarship, work and thought, she said, characterized the life and career of Dr. Robertson. "It expresses the inspiration and the challenge that he was to all with whom he came into contact."

University President R. J. Baker remarked that if a scholar is to be remembered by a building, how fitting that it should be a library. "If there is a special heaven for scholars, I'm sure that it looks like a library; and I hope that Dr. Robertson, reading there now, may perhaps pause for a moment and accept our attempt to honour him and his work."

In his remarks, Chief Librarian Merritt Crockett extended a formal invitation to the entire Island community to make use of the Robertson Library. "In the past, although we had 1,000 outside borrowers registered, we have not extended a general invitation because of lack of facilities. The opening of the Robertson Library marks the first time we are able to invite all Islanders to enjoy our facilities." (Topics 5 (14), March 28, 1975: 1)

Among those in attendance were Lieutenant Governor Gordon Bennett and the Honourable J. J. Bell, Chairman of the Board of Governors of Prince of Wales College. The portrait of Dr. Robertson was presented to the University of Prince Edward Island by the Board of Governors of Prince of Wales College.

September
OFFICIAL OPENING

On September 27 the Robertson Library was officially opened by Chancellor Gustave Gingras during ceremonies held in conjunction with Fall Convocation.

"To mark the official opening of the Robertson Library, a Fall Convocation honouring five outstanding librarians was held in the University Gym, on Saturday, September 27. Receiving Doctor of Laws degrees were H. Bramwell Chandler, a former Superintendent of P.E.I. Libraries, the Citation being read by Donald Scott, Provincial Librarian; Professor M. E. P. Henderson, Director of the School of Library Science, University of Alberta, the Citation being read by Mary Beth Harris, Head of U.P.E.I. Library Information Services; Dr. Jean-

Guy Sylvestre, National Librarian, the Citation being read by Edward J. Hanus, U.P.E.I. Associate Librarian; and Louis G. Vagianos, Vice-President (University Services), Dalhousie University, the Citation being read by Franklin L. Figo, U.P.E.I. Reference Librarian. A Doctor of Laws degree was conferred upon Professor William B. Ready, University Librarian, McMaster University, the Citation being read by C. Merritt Crockett, U.P.E.I. University Librarian. Fifty-nine students received Bachelor degrees, and one earned a Diploma in Public Administration. Dr. Ready delivered the Convocation Address." (Topics, 6 (3), October 17, 1975: 1)

Two books were presented to University Librarian, Merritt Crockett. Dr. Gustave Gingras, Chancellor of the University presented a copy Combes pour la survie, an autobiography that "traces his medical career from his orientation to medicine in his youth, through years of World War Two service in the Canadian Army Medical Corps overseas, to his quarter-century fight for the rights of the disabled and of the geriatric generation."

Dr. Jean-Guy Sylvestre, National Librarian, on behalf of the National Library of Canada presented a copy Canadian Scenery. "It is a collection of well-known W. H. Bartlett prints, with the text by N. P. Willis, Esq."

SOME REMARKS AT THE LIBRARY OPENING

President Ronald J. Baker: "Looked after properly [libraries] should survive perturbations in the economy, in student numbers, in generations. They look after our past and help us understand our present... All too often, one of the first places to suffer as a result of necessary economies is the library, and particularly the collection. I believe that it is essential
that the universities, the granting agencies, the provincial and federal governments work together to ensure, now that we have begun to develop good library collections, that we do not fall behind again." (Topics 6 (3), October 17, 1975: 3)

Dr. Louis G. Vagianos, representing Leslie R. Fain & Associates, Architects: "A building is never merely a functional shell or an intellectual shed: it is almost always an attempt at a coherent solution towards a problem in life. This building, a public building, should mirror faithfully a kind of spirit, a kind of humanity, with a kind of grace that reflects this kind of attitude...So the goal of every architect, using physical materials, is to try to translate this into something to serve the needs of a given community. We hope we have accomplished this in the Robertson Library." (Topics 6 (3), October 17, 1975: 3-4)

Dr. Regis Duffy, speaking on behalf of the Board of Governors: "Men and women who build libraries are people of faith because they believe in the great intellectual traditions of the past; they are people of hope because they would like to take this heritage and pass it on to the future. University libraries are no longer secret enclaves accessible only to a few people. We hope that the Robertson Library will be part of the life of P.E.I., not only a University asset but an Island asset." (Topics 6 (3), October 17, 1975: 4)

C. Merritt Crockett, University Librarian: "I wish to thank the Senate Library Committee whose duty it was to analyse and to consider the needs of the University community and the P.E.I. community and the kinds of services which were to be offered. It was responsible for establishing the philosophy, the size, the services and the utilization of space not required currently for Library use...I also want to thank the Library Building Committee which was responsible for translating the building programs of the Senate Committee into a viable and functional building, aesthetically pleasing inside and out..." (Topics 6 (3), October 15, 1975: 4)

October—Telex service became available in the Robertson Library.

1976

January—When the Library opened in January, 1976, University Librarian Merritt Crockett issued an invitation to Islanders to use the new facilities. Over 2,000 Islanders accepted the invitation and were issued UPEI Library cards in the first year.

Turnstile figures showed that 292,102 users (repetitive) entered the Library since January, 1975.

February—Frank Pigot, Reference Librarian at the Robertson Library, published A History of Mount Stewart. The book provided a comprehensive history of the community from its beginnings to the present. The cover was designed by Frank's sister Etta Penney.

Robertson Library experienced some growing pains. The most recent problems were with floor tiles in the mezzanine and a crack in a washroom wall. Earlier there were problems with faulty wiring and a leaking roof.

November—The Association of Atlantic Universities signed a contract with Blackwell North America (Canada) for the installation and use of a computerized library system in the Atlantic region. "The computerized catalogue support system, developed by Blackwell North America, will be a huge database of Library of Congress machine-readable catalogue (MARC) records, updated weekly. MARC records from other national databases will be added as will original contributed cataloguing from libraries using the system." (Folietter 22 (11), November, 1979) The pilot project was scheduled for a two year period.

1977

January—The German Research Foundation donated one hundred and sixteen volumes of German literature, the majority in German, to the Robertson Library. The collection covered twentieth century literature and included both critical works and writings.

May—The Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) was held at UPEI, under the chairmanship of APLA president and UPEI Associate Librarian Ed Hans.

June—The Robertson Library received a $7,690 grant from the Young Canada Works project. The monies were used to classify the contents of the Colonial Office Papers.

1978

April—Mike Egan, senior Psychology student at the University of Prince Edward Island, was the one-millionth visitor to enter the Robertson Library. He was presented with a reproduction of the Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Province of Prince Edward Island: From Surveys made under the direction of C. R. Allen (Mechan's Atlas of Prince Edward Island, 1880).

Dr. Ronald J. Baker, retiring President of the University of Prince Edward Island, during whose term of office the Robertson Library was built, was also presented with a copy of the Atlas.

The number of Islanders who obtained Off-Campus Borrowers cards had reached 3,095. Library holdings reached 290,000 items—34,000 of these items in the Media Centre—including microfilm, microfiche, phonographs, records, motion pictures, and slides.

June—Robertson Library's annual circulation figures were released. Almost 90,000 books were borrowed during the year.

September—UPEI Day was held on Saturday, September 23. The highlight of the day was the official presentation of a collection of one hundred and one picture from Saint Dunstan's University and Prince of Wales College on a permanent loan basis to the University of Prince Edward Island. The framed class pictures, dating back to 1962, will be housed in the Robertson Library. The collection was officially presented to the University by Dr. Kent Ellis, President of the Prince of Wales College Alumni Association and Charles Campbell, Chairman of the Saint Dunstan's University Board of Governors. Accepting the collection on behalf of the University were President Dr. Peter Meincke and University Librarian Merritt Crockett. The presentation resulted from consultations with the Prince of Wales College Alumni Association, the Saint Dunstan's University Board of Governors and the University Librarian Merritt Crockett.

1979

The Robertson Library Lecture Theatre was the venue for the Prince Edward Island Science Fair and an exhibition of Modern Sacred Art.

1980

The Robertson Library Lecture Theatre was the venue for the Prince Edward Island Science Fair and two art exhibitions—Realism and Works of Ann Beverly Place.

1981

January—A computer connected to the Canadian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information, the Library of the National Research Council of Canada, enabled Library staff to conduct bibliographic searches for scientific and technical information through the Canada On-Line Enquiry System (CAN-OLE).

Two Exhibitions were presented in the Robertson Library Lecture Theatre—A sale of works by Island artists in aid of the 1981 United Way and an exhibition and sale of rugs by Mrs. Helen Gallant.

1982

The University Arts Council presented a Retrospective Exhibition and Sale of Paintings and Intaglios by Island artist Rowena Nemetz.

1983

January—On behalf of the Class of 1982, Jayne Hickiey, class treasurer, presented University Librarian Merritt Crockett with a cheque for $1,000 to be used to purchase resources for the Library. The money was used to purchase a lighted globe of the world.

Summer—Claire MacDonald, a Dalhousie University Library School student, worked for
1984

Fall—The Robertson Library converted to energy-efficient lighting featuring “super saver” tubes. Timers were installed in the stack area on the second floor and were designed to stay on for a maximum of fifteen minutes.

In preparation for the opening of the Atlantic Veterinary College in September, 1986, the Robertson Library placed advertisements in a number of journals for donations of library materials to support the curriculum of the Atlantic Veterinary College. Approximately 24,000 volumes of backfiles of journals were received from Canada, England and the United States. In addition, a number of monographs, both historical and current, were donated.

The stacking area in the Prince Edward Island Collection was expanded considerably to accommodate the increase in the number of publications relating to Prince Edward Island. Since the mandate of the Prince Edward Island Collection is to be definitive, space needs will continue to be a concern.

The University Arts Council presented an Exhibicion and Sale of Works by Gwen Fichaud in the Robertson Library Lecture Theatre.

1985

May—Heather Boylan, a Dalhousie University School student, worked for the summer at the Robertson Library as part of her in-service training. The programme was designed and co-ordinated by Reference Librarian Cathy Callaghan.

September—The Robertson Library received $3,000 from the Samuel and Sadie Bronfman Foundation for the acquisition of books and periodicals in the area of human rights.

October—Frances Dindial, Collections Librarian, passed away on October 17.

November—An annual music scholarship—The Frances Dindial Memorial Music Scholarship—was established by the Music Department at the University of Prince Edward Island in memory of “Frankie”.

A UPEI Art Exhibit featuring arts and crafts by faculty, staff and spouses was held in the Robertson Library.

1986

April—The Benevolent Irish Society presented historical documents dating back to 1787 to University Librarian Merritt Crockett.

June—Dr. Lauchlin D. MacDonald, Professor Emeritus at the State University of New York and an honour graduate from Prince of Wales College, donated his professional library of over 3,000 volumes to the Robertson Library.

July—In preparation for the opening of the Atlantic Veterinary College, the Robertson Library created the position of Reference Librarian responsible for the Atlantic Veterinary College and offered the position to Jennifer Taylor.

September—The Atlantic Veterinary College welcomed its first class—52 students—on September 2.

With the opening of the Atlantic Veterinary College in September, “the Robertson Library will be housing the Veterinary medicine collection and delivering library service in the unique situation of being the only centralized library of its kind in North America”.

(APLA Bulletin, 49 (2), May, 1986: 6)

Fall—Five new xerox machines were installed and debit cards for use in the xerox machines were introduced.

The Robertson Library Lecture Theatre was the venue for three art exhibits—Henry Purdy; Photographs of Ecclesiastical Stained Glass on Prince Edward Island; and a Selection of Works from the University Art Inventory.

1987

September—The Robertson Library added forty-five historical maps to the P.E.I. Collection. Some of the maps date back three hundred years. The Map Collection, which University Librarian, Merritt Crockett, started in 1984, includes a 1663 map by John Blaeu, maps of Samuel Holland, a 1757 map by Jacques Bellin, and the 1863 Lake map.

The P.E.I. Collection now includes over 6,000 books, articles and other written works by or about Islanders and about the Island.

1988

January—The Robertson Library adopted a “No Smoking” policy. The Senate Library Committee unanimously adopted a motion prohibiting smoking in the Library. This included the entire Library including the Staff Lounge. However, smoking was permitted in the Breezeway and in the Student Lounge—“the Pit”.

The Study Lounge on the second floor was designated as a “Super Quiet Area”.

March—The Robertson Library closed for an hour on March 27. A small fire in the basement caused smoke damage. Workers were cutting pipes in the basement when sparks ignited nearby garbage.

Summer—Some members of the Robertson Library visited Angus L. MacDonald Library at St. Francis Xavier University to study their computerized circulation system.

1989

Spring—Dr. David Morrison of the Department of Religious Studies presented a series of videotapes on Religion in Canada to the Robertson Library. The videotapes contained Dr. Morrison’s interviews with eminent theologians during their visits to the University of Prince Edward Island.

1990

Spring—Robertson Library decided to purchase an automated library system from Data Research Associates.

Summer—A one-year Systems Librarian position was created to assist with the automation project.

Robertson Library acquired LaserQuest to assist with the retrospective conversion of the catalogue.

August—As a space saving measure, the Robertson Library installed mobile shelving system in the basement. The Drummex system, manufactured in Drummondville, Quebec, was installed at a cost of $190,000. Almost 100,000 items—books and backfiles of journals were moved to the “compact storage” area.

Fall—“The Atlantic Consortium for
Resource Sharing, an ad hoc action group consisting of University Librarians from Acadia, Dalhousie, Memorial, Mount Allison, University of New Brunswick and University of Prince Edward Island, has purchased site licences for interlibrary loan software developed by Binkley Communications Incorporated." (APLA Bulletin, 54 (3), November/December, 1990: 11) The system was to result in faster cheaper Interlibrary Loan service.

1991

**Spring**—Robertson Library began the automation of its catalogue using the DRA Software. As of early summer, 90,000 titles had been entered into the automated catalogue.

A six-unit CD-ROM workstation was purchased to provide access to Readers' Guide, Agricola and PysCLit.

The Board of Governors accepted University Librarian, Merritt Crockett's application, for early retirement effective August 1, 1992. "Mr. Crockett started his career in 1968 as the last Chief Librarian for Saint Dunstan's and became the founding University Librarian of University of Prince Edward Island in July, 1969." (APLA Bulletin, 55 (2), September/October, 1991: 11)

**Summer**—The installation, training and testing phase of the Circulation Module of the DRA system was in progress. The Circulation Module was implemented on a limited basis during the Second Summer Session.

Retrospective conversion and entering bar codes into the system continued.

**September**

ROBERTSON LIBRARY LAUNCHES ON-LINE CATALOGUE

On September 3, Robertson Library's automated system became fully operational. A bar-coded photo ID was now required to borrow library material.

BOBCAT—the library's automated catalogue—was officially launched on September 27. The ceremony was attended by President C. W. J. "Willie" Elliot, Professor Vern Smith, Dean of Arts, members of the University Senate, library staff and invited guests.

**October**—Half of Robertson Library's 350,000 monograph titles were entered in BOBCAT.

Robertson Library acquired a printer that enabled patrons to print bibliographic citations from searches on the CD-ROM databases.

Three art exhibitions were held at the Robertson Library—Fancy, Motions and Imagination, an art exhibition featuring the works of students, faculty, staff and friends; the Works of Dr. Hung Min Chiang; and Changing Seasons paintings of seascapes and landscapes.

1992

**The Book of Kells—One of the World's Greatest Art Treasures**

The Celtic Heritage Association, in conjunction with the University, conducted a fund-raising drive to purchase a facsimile edition of the Book of Kells—a book of Gospels created in 8th century Ireland to glorify the life of Christ. It is on permanent display in the foyer of the Robertson Library.

CINAHL (Cumulated Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature) a CD-ROM database, was purchased to support the Nursing Program.

**April**—An external review of the Library by Tom Eade, University Librarian, University of Calgary and Ron Lewis, University Librarian, St. Mary's University was conducted in early April. The purpose of the review was to determine the state of current operations and to examine future directions. The final report was presented in May.

**July**—The Board of Governors approved the "Terms and Conditions of Employment for Librarians" giving the librarians official faculty status as of July 1, 1992.

Mr. Ambrose Lee, an alumnus of Saint Dunstan's University Class of 1962, donated money to enable the Library to replace and/or upgrade the OPACS (On-Line Public Access Computers).

**August**—University Librarian Merritt Crockett retired after twenty-four years as University Librarian at both Saint Dunstan's University and UPEI.

Ed Hanus was appointed Acting University Librarian.

**September**—Robertson Library acquired ERIC—a CD-ROM database—through funding provided by the Extension Department at St. Mary's University who were sponsoring a Master's Program in Education at the University of Prince Edward Island.

The University Arts Council presented two exhibitions in the Robertson Library Lecture Theatre—an exhibition featuring forty-two paintings, drawings, cartoons, small wood sculptures, photographs and works on computers; and an exhibition of twenty-six of the Islands best known artists.

1993

**January**—The University Librarian position was advertised with a closing date of March 31.

**February**—With funding from federal work programme, the Library employed four people for twenty-five weeks entering bibliographic records in the DRA system.

**June**—The periodicals and acquisitions modules of DRA were installed. Staff were trained in the use of these modules.

The University of Prince Edward Island announced the appointment of Mr. Daniel A. Savage to the position of University Librarian effective mid-September.

**September**—The Library received funding from Employment and Immigration that enabled the Library to employ two people for six months to assist in the entering of bibliographic records in the DRA system.

**November**—A portion of the University of Prince Edward Island Alumni Fund money was committed to the Library to purchase updated computer equipment.

1994

**Spring**—ISM provided training in REF-CATTS and PRISM/ILL to members of Cataloguing, Interlibrary Loan and Reference.

Robertson Library added several new CD-ROM products to its database collection. These included: General Science Index, Humanities Index, Medline, Social Sciences Index and the Oxford English Dictionary.

**Summer**—Students were employed under the Provincial government's "Job for Youth" program to assist with the RECON project. By the end of the summer, only 50,000 monograph records remained to be entered.

Ed Hanus retired on June 30. He joined the Library in 1969.

**Fall**—"Journal price inflation is now "the #1 problem for university libraries, running over 11% annually. Over the past 20 years average prices have increased 400%. Since 82% of journals are published outside Canada, the decline of the Canadian dollar on the world market has contributed to the current crisis in purchasing power." (http://www.upei.ca/library)

A review of periodical titles resulted in the cancellation of one hundred and forty-two titles. Seventy new titles were added for a net loss of seventy-two titles.

The Alumni Association launched "an Adopt-A-Journal" campaign as part of its Annual Fund to help support the teaching and research programs at the University (http://www.upei.ca/library).

In 1994 20.6% of all loans were made to Off-Campus Borrowers.

1995

**January**—The Robertson Library installed an automated 3M Self Check system for borrowing books on a one year trial basis. Funding from Human Resources Development Canada enabled the Robertson Library to hire six people to continue the RECON project.

**May**—Robertson Library co-hosted the annual Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Conference—Building Better Bridges, Forging Stronger Links.

The RECON project of the monographic and audiovisual materials was completed in the Spring.

**September**—As of September 1, smoking was not permitted anywhere in the Library, including the "Pit" and the Breezeway.

The Robertson Library held its first book sale in the Breezeway from September 28–30. Funds collected from the sale were designated to purchase new library materials.

The knoll/burn outside the Robertson Library was removed.

1996

**June**—Merridith Crockett, Acquisition Librarian; Suzanne Manovill, Circulation Librar-
ian, Jane Naylor, Library Technician in the Circulation Department; Isabel MacIsaac, Library Technician in the Reference Department; and Marge MacDonald, a member of the Maintenance Department in the Library retired on June 30.

**July** — The recent reorganization of the administrative structure of the University placed the Robertson Library under the direction of the Vice-President, Academic Support—Dr. John Crossley.

**September** — Susanne Manovill, retired Circulation Librarian, and Frank Lechowick began the process of establishing a Friends of the Library group.

Robertson Library piloted full-text electronic access to non-copyrighted reserve material.

**1997**

**January** — Robertson Library, as a member of the Association of Atlantic Universities Libraries Council, signed a two year agreement with CISTI for preferred access and fees for information services.

Full-text electronic access to non-copyrighted reserve material was introduced.

An increase in the cost of periodical subscriptions necessitated the Library to cancel thirty per cent of its periodical titles effective January 1, 1998. The Library "embarked on a full acquisitions study to examine the impact of continuing book and periodical price inflation on the library’s ability to support specific courses and academic programs and to explore alternative opportunities for obtaining information." (APLA Bulletin, 60, (6), May/June, 1997: 8)

**June** — Frank Pigot, Reference Librarian responsible for the Prince Edward Island Collection; Jennifer Taylor, Reference Librarian responsible for Health Sciences; Cathy Dillon, Periodicals Librarian; and Winifred Robbins, Secretary to the University Librarian retired.

Dan Savage resigned his position as University Librarian.

Cathy Callaghan was appointed Acting University Librarian.

The University of Prince Edward Island presented a proposal for funding for a five-year pilot project to incorporate information technology into higher education—to create a smart campus—to the R. Howard Webster Foundation.

**July** — Frank Pigot, retired Reference Librarian responsible for the P.E.I. Collection, offered his time and expertise to the Library two afternoons per week on an ongoing, volunteer basis.

Robertson Library joined a consortium through University of New Brunswick to purchase electronic databases. This resulted in a decrease in cost and the provision of remote access to University of Prince Edward Island students, faculty and staff who had a University of Prince Edward Island Internet account.

The Library introduced its first full-text database—CBCA (Canadian Business and Current Affairs).

**August** — The Library initiated a pilot project in document delivery for the Faculty of Science whereby the Library covered the cost of documents requested from those science periodicals that were selected for cancellation in 1997 and effective in January, 1998.

**September** — Robertson Library negotiated a secondment with the Provincial Government.

Friends of the Library held its first book sale in the foyer of the Robertson Library.

**October** — Robertson Library negotiated a Librarian exchange with Acadia University.

**November** — Robertson Library received the designation of Asian Development Bank Depository Library.

**December** — The R. Howard Webster Foundation announced that it would provide $500,000 over a five-year period to assist in creating a "smart campus" at UPEI.

**1998**

**January** — Work began on automated access to holdings in the P.E.I. Collection, beginning with the indexing of articles in Island newspapers.

The University announced that the Library would receive funding from the Webster Foundation monies in the second year for the expansion of electronic information services and the purchase of the Z39.50 Client/Server software.

**February** — The Robertson Library purchased its second full-text database—EbscoHOST (Academic Search Full-Text Elite).

**April** — The P.E.I. Collection included approximately 12,000 books and thousands of vertical file items, newspaper clippings, and journals.

**May**

**DR. J. R. MORRISON COLLECTION**

Dr. Ray Morrison, a native of Prince Edward Island and a retired Carleton University professor, donated his music collection to the Robertson Library. The collection consists of approximately 1,800 LPs, 1,100 open reel tapes, 60 commercial tapes, and ephemeral print materials of musical programmes, covering the second half of the 20th century. Approximately 85% of the collection is opera, choral and concert singer repertoire. The collection provides an opportunity for residents of Prince Edward Island and researchers to listen, to study, and to enjoy opera.

**June** — Virginia McCarrill retired on June 30 after thirty-one years of service to Saint Dunstan's University's Kenley Memorial Library and the Robertson Library.

**July** — The Robertson became a member of a multi-University consortium that applied for infrastructure funds under the "Regional/National Facilities" program of the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI). The funds would provide monies for a Canadian National Site Licence Project (CNSLP) to access the full-text of an extensive collection of science journals.

**August** — On August 10, Robertson Library, as a member of the Council of Atlantic University Libraries, acquired access to the full-text of one hundred and seventy-four Academic Press journals, including backfiles for 1996 and 1997.

Lynne F. Murphy, newly appointed University Librarian, commenced her duties on August 18.

**October** — Librarian exchange with Acadia University was extended for another year.

**1999**

**March** — The Library embarked on strategic planning facilitated by The Learning Centre. Four half-day sessions were scheduled from March 26 to April 20.

**May** — The Instructional Services Department was created.

**July** — Rachel Kelly, a student from the School of Library and Information
Studies, Dalhousie University, earned her practicum work experience during the summer.

The renovations to the Robertson Library began on Monday, July 10 and were, with a few exceptions, completed at the end of October. The architects were Coles Associates. The general contractor was WMM Ltd. Phase One of the renovations included: relocating the Special Collections (P.E.I. Collection, University Archives, and Rare Books) to a climate controlled area with a reading room; relocating the Periodicals Department to the second floor; relocating the Technical Services Department; enlarging the Media Centre; changing the entrance; lowering a portion of the Information Desk to make it wheelchair accessible.

**September**—Drop-in orientation tours began in early September.

**December**—Renovations continued. Phase Two of the renovations included: redesigning and enlarging the Circulation Desk (which was built by the UPEI Maintenance Department) and changing the entrance and the exit.

**2000**

January—Twenty-five years ago today—January 11—the Robertson Library opened its doors to the public.

The Library introduced a series of hands-on workshops to introduce students/faculty/staff to the variety of electronic resources available at the Robertson Library.

The Twenty-fifth Anniversary Committee made plans to celebrate the Robertson Library's twenty-five years of service.

**February**—The first event of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration was a pot luck held in the Robertson Library. Invited guests included President Wade MacLauchlan, Vice-President Dr. John Crossley, Bob Gibson and the staff of Student Services and the staff of ITEC, both of whom are housed in the Library building.

**May**—A very successful Coffee Party for past and present staff was held on May 6 in the Robertson Library Staff Lounge. Coffee and sweets were provided and tours were available. Each former staff member who was present was presented with a t-shirt.

**June**—Albert Gosbee retired after twenty-eight years of service to Kelley Memorial Library and Robertson Library.

**September**—The Robertson Library will hold an Open House as part of the first Founders' Day, scheduled for September 14. The Library Instruction Centre will open in mid-September.

**October**—The Web version of BOBCAT will be available.

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**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AT THE ROBERTSON LIBRARY**

The story of the development of Robertson Library's Special Collections provides considerable insight into the Library's tradition of service to the University and Island communities. Indeed, the creation of the Special Collections' centrepiece, the Prince Edward Island Collection, was closely linked with the development of a well-known Island institution, namely Father E.W.P. Bolger's spectacularly successful courses in Prince Edward Island history. As early as 1971, it was becoming clear to the reference staff at UPEI's original library, the Kelley Memorial Library, that Father Bolger's courses would help to fuel an ever-growing interest in Prince Edward Island-related writing, both at the University and throughout the Island. In the autumn of that year, the Kelley Memorial Library took a proactive step to meet this emerging demand and established the P.E.I. Collection, mandated to gather all materials written by Islanders, published on the Island, or written about the Island. Funding to purchase materials for the new collection was secured from yet another Island institution, the St. Dunstan's University Alumni Association, which provided a generous endowment for the purpose.

In the absence of a provincial legislative library, depository legislation, and any conventional bibliographic tools dealing with Island literature, the mandate of the P.E.I. Collection represented a formidable challenge. Fortunately, the librarian hired to develop and manage the collection was Franklin L. Pigot, who brought to his task a tremendous talent and an unflagging devotion. Frank's efforts were duly recognized in 1998, when he was presented with the P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation's Meritorious Achievement Award. At the ceremony, it was noted that he had contributed so many hours to the development of the collection that a good deal of his work had, in effect, been done on a volunteer basis!

When interviewed about the award, Frank recalled that there were a scant half-dozen books in the P.E.I. Collection on the day he began work—when he retired in the summer of 1997, the collection had grown to encompass over 12,000 book and periodical titles. There were also hundreds of microfilm reels of current and historic Island newspapers, periodicals, theses, and other research materials, a fine selection of maps and charts, and, of course, the vertical file—eight filing cabinets full of pamphlets, newsletters, clippings and other material not suitable for shelving. Taken together, this represented a fantastic resource of published Island information, unmatched anywhere else. To protect it the decision was made to permit the use of P.E.I. Collection materials within the UPEI Library only, a policy which remains in place today, although everyone with an interest in the printed word on P.E.I. has always been welcome to use those materials.

For many years, the holdings of the P.E.I. Collection were accessed through a card catalogue. The advent of automation in the early 1990s allowed the books and, some years later, the government documents of the P.E.I. Collection to be catalogued on-line in BOBCAT.
TECHNOLOGY TIME-LINES

1970 UPEI gets a new computer.
1975 Robertson Library opened.
1981 On-Line bibliographic literature searching offered.
1990 Integrated library system purchased.
1991 CD-ROM databases available.
1993 Library information made available via Gopher.
1994 Library information made available via WWW.
1995 UPEI establishes IT Committee.
1997 Access to databases made available via the Internet.
1997 Library sends overdue notices electronically.
1997 Introduced full-text electronic access to non-copyrighted reserve material.
1997 Introduced first full-text database (CBCA).
1998 Purchased second full-text database (EBSCOhost).
1998 Provided access to full-text of one hundred and seventy-four Academic Press journals.
1998 Access provided to 10000 E-journals.
2000 Library Instruction Centre will open mid-September.
2000 Web version of BOBCAT will be available in October.
2001 The Canadian National Site Licence Project (CNSSL) will provide access to the full-text of an extensive collection of science journals.

STUDENT ASSISTANTS CONTRIBUTE TO THE LIBRARY

Student assistants have played a significant role in the Robertson Library since it opened on January 11, 1975. In fact, thirty students worked side by side with Library staff and Maintenance staff to move the Kelley Memorial Library to the Robertson Library in December, 1974.

Student assistants have always been employed by the Circulation Department to work at the Circulation Desk and to re-shelve books and periodicals. In later years, students have been employed in the Reference Department working in Government Documents and Interlibrary Loan, in the Periodicals Department and in the Prince Edward Island Collection.

Students have also worked on special projects. These have included: adding additional shelving; expanding the collection and re-labeling the shelves; expanding the card catalogue and re-labeling the drawers; dismantling study carrels and reassembling them; inventorying the donations of journals for the Atlantic Veterinary College; preparing these journals to be sent to the bindery; integrating the journals into the collection when they returned from the bindery; and a variety of word-processing projects.

The Library has employed hundreds of students over the past twenty-five years—between ten and twenty-two per year. A number of these student have pursued or are pursuing careers in the library profession. Two of the students who worked in the Library for the past three years—Brandie Adams and Natalie Munn—are entering the Master of Library and Information Studies programme at Dalhousie University this month.

SELECTED STATISTICS

| Tuition       | 1975       | six semester hour credit course | $120.00 |
|              | 2000       | six semester hour credit course | $696.00 |
|              | 1975       | three semester hour credit course | $60.00  |
|              | 2000       | three semester hour credit course | $348.00 |
| Enrolment    | Fall 1975  | 1,463                          |
|              | Fall, 2000 | 2,650 Est.                     |
| Library      | 1975       | 30                              |
| staff        | 2000       | 25                              |
| Library      | 1975       | 84                              |
| hours        | 2000       | 84.5                            |
| Information  | 1975       | 78                              |
| Desk hours   | 2000       | 73                              |
| Interlibrary | 1975       | Items borrowed                  | 926     |
| Loan         | 2000       | Items borrowed                  | 3,868   |
|              | 1975       | Items loaned                    | 39      |
|              | 2000       | Items loaned                    | 2,959   |
| Microfilm/   | 1980       | 37,085 items                    |
| microfiche   | 2000       | 123,520 items                   |
| Total books  | 1984-1985  | 4,838                           |
| purchased    | 1999-2000  | 1,810                           |
ROBERTSON LIBRARY STAFF AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, ETC.

1976—Pat Rogers, Library Technician, was chosen Islander of the Year "for her exceptional service to the community, and most particularly, because of her distinctive contribution to the disabled members of society" (Topics, 6(10), February 27, 1976). Frank Pigot, P.E.I. Collection/Reference Librarian published A History of Mount Stewart, Prince Edward Island, a comprehensive study of the small community from its earliest days.

Pat Rogers was honoured by Library staff on her resignation after ten years of service with Robertson Library. Pat resigned to devote full-time to the operation of her wheelchair-equipped van, The Elephant, which she purchased in 1975.

1977—Merritt Crockett, University Librarian, was elected President of the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries at their June conference in Montreal.

1984—Frank Pigot, Reference/P.E.I. Collection Librarian's biographies of Thomas DesBray, John MacDonald of Glenaladale and James Robertson and were published in Volume 5 of The Dictionary of Canadian Biography.

1985—A music scholarship was established by the University of Prince Edward Island Music Department in memory of Mrs. Frances Dindial, Collections Librarian at Robertson Library, who passed away in October.

1986—Valerie Phillips, Secretary Robertson Library, was invited by the Bahá’í International House of Justice to work as a volunteer in Haifa, Israel.

1991—A quartette from the Abegweit Chimes Inc. Chorus, including Mariedith Crockett, received the highest ranking novice quartette score and were presented with the Kathryn Ryan Trophy.

1992—Leo Cheverie, Library Technician, Reference Department, participated in a one-year cultural exchange with Crossroads International teaching English in China.

1995—Cathy Dillon, Periodicals Librarian, was inducted into the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame.

1996—Friends of the Robertson Library was established under the leadership of Susanne Manovill, retired Circulation Librarian.


1999—Betty Jeffery, Cataloging Librarian, received a P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation Publishing Award for The Jeffery Family of the Isle of Wight and Prince Edward Island, a book she co-authored with her cousin Carter W. Jeffery.

2000—Susanne Manovill, retired Circulation Librarian, reached the twenty-nine year milestone teaching the Effective Reading Course at the University of Prince Edward Island.

Kelley Memorial Library and/or Robertson Library Staff 1975-2000

University Librarians
Merritt Crockett
Ed Hanus (Acting)
August, 1992—September 12, 1993
Daniel Savage
September 13, 1993—June, 1997
Cathy Callaghan (Acting)
June, 1997—August 17, 1998
Lynne F. Murphy
August 18, 1998—

In Memoriam
Mona Clow (1994)
Frances Dindial (1983)

Retired Library Personnel
Blanche Campbell (1983)
Mona Clow (1983)
Mariedith Crockett (1996)
Merritt Crockett (1992)
Cathy Dillon (1997)
Albert Gosbee (2000)
Ed Hanus (1994)
Mary Beth Harris (1992)
Isabel MacIsaac (1996)
Virginia McCarvill (1998)
Susanne Manovill (1996)
Jane Naylor (1996)
Frank Pigot (1997)
Winnie Robbins (1997)
Jennifer Taylor (1997)

Current Library Personnel with More Than Twenty-Five Years Service at Kelley Memorial Library and/or Robertson Library
Cathy Callaghan (1970)
Judith Callaghan (1969)
Andrea Gallant (1974)
Virginia Kopachevsky (1974)
Dale McClure (1973)

Current Library Personnel
Stephen Allen (term 2000)
Dawn Ball (2000)
Cathy Callaghan (1970)
Judith Callaghan (1969)
Leo Cheverie (1985)
Sharon Clark (Contract 1999)
Gordon Connors (1986)
Gerry Forsythe (1979)
Andrea Gallant (1974)
Crystle Gavard (1985)
Norene Hanus (1990)
Dawn Hooper (1997)
Donny Jagoe (1996) (Leave of absence)
Betty Jeffery (1996)
Susanne Jones (1991)
Virginia Kopachevsky (1974)
Simon Lloyd (1999)
Peggi Lyriotokis (1978)
Joy MacLaine (1983)
Christine MacLauchlan (2000)
Dale McClure (1973)
Cindy McKenna (1988)
Lynne F. Murphy (1998)
Sharon Neill (1996)
Nicole Parsons (2000)
Dorothy Peters (1979)
David Weeks

Library Staff Who Have Held Positions on the CUPE Executive
Leo Cheverie (President)
Andrea Gallant
Peggi Lyriotokis (President)
Dale McClure (President)
Joy MacLaine
Dorothy Peters

Librarians Who Have Been Directors on the Faculty Association Executive
Jennifer Taylor
Suzanne Jones
Sharon Neill
Cathy Callaghan

Volunteers
Frank Pigot (1997)
Gigi Joffes (2000 — Summer)

Physical Plant
Byron Stevenson (1986)
Retirees and current staff gather for a Coffee party to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Robertson Library, May, 2000.