



Autumn 2023
Number 56

Silhouettes

The Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

THE
12 DAYS
OF CHRISTMAS
NB STYLE

Silhouettes

(ISSN 1201-8333) is published twice yearly. Address inquiries or submissions to the newsletter to
Provincial Archives of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 5H1
or e-mail archivesNB@gnb.ca

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of The Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick are members of the public who volunteer to support the activities of the Provincial Archives.

The Directors are:

President, Bernard-Marie Thériault
Cyril Donahue
Fred Farrell
Gail Campbell
Gwendolyn Davies
Joan K. Pearce
John Thompson
Joseph Day
Marion Beyea
Nancy F. Vogan
Philip Christie

IF YOU WISH to become an Associate, please complete the enclosed form or visit The Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick website for more information. Contributions are welcome and tax receipts will be provided.

 **THE ASSOCIATES OF THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 5H1
Phone: (506) 453-2122
Email: archivesNB@gnb.ca
Website:
<http://archives.gnb.ca/Associates/>

Coordination: Meredith J. Batt
Edited by Monica Smart
Design: Jeannie Lauzon
Printed by Rocket

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS NEW BRUNSWICK STYLE

As a new holiday season approaches, New Brunswickers have a variety of different ways of celebrating. When it comes to traditions, we often do as our parents did, and there is some comfort in that. It is certainly so in my case, as it was my Dad's love of the season, of playing Santa and producing church pageants, and his joy of carol singing that led to my abiding interest in the seasonal celebrations. I have probably carried it further than he did in authoring three books on the topic, and from these books (titles noted below) I have gathered some unique ways that others have marked the season that I call the "12 days of Christmas, NB Style." You will find that I believe our citizens have been doing this since the settlement of the province and thus I have selected just 12 of their most notable ideas, in chronological order, in this account. I hope you will find it entertaining and enlightening, and perhaps be inspired to add some of the events to your own traditional celebrations of the season.

First settlers' accounts of Christmas, usually brief diary entries, involve notes of a spiritual focus on the day. While this is still an important element of the season, other ways of marking the 12 days have also come into the fore:

DAY 1. The earliest known written accounts are a series of letters sent from Lady Hunter to her family in England beginning in 1804, in which she states, "our gay season does not commence until after Christmas." She describes lavish feasting and sleigh riding on the St. John River, and then in her 1807 letter, she writes "the children are saying, 'O mama what do you think the fairy will put in our stockings?'" That fairy was known as Queen Mab, and she explains that the children hang their stockings on Christmas Eve, and "she (the fairy) always pops something good or pretty into it."

DAY 2. On December 25, 1830, New Brunswickers learned of another gift giver when Clement Clarke Moore's "A visit from St. Nicholas" was published in the province in the *New Brunswick Courier* newspaper. It appeared under the title "Christmas Times" with the subtitle "A visit from St. Nicholas or Santa Claus." The only variation from this classic poem between then and now was the spelling of the reindeer Blitzen, which was typeset as Blixen.

Cover photo: *Christmas Scene, c. 1910.* (P485-534 Bathurst College fonds.)

DAY 3. Fourteen years later, another poem became New Brunswick's first of many musical pieces to be published. Titled "The Emigrant's Christmas song," it was composed by Thomas Hill and sung to the tune of the English folk song "The Farmer's Boy." How widely sung this Christmas song was is unknown. The first lines, "Come crown again the festive bowl, and toast the bye-gone year. Since mirth should resign without control, we'll broach our Christmas cheer," would certainly indicate that the season was welcomed and well-celebrated.

DAY 4. That Santa was starting to become better known is clear from reports that Charles Sampson, confectioner in Fredericton, boasted his shop was Santa's headquarters. As Santa, he would deliver all goods purchased at his shop on Christmas Eve. He did so for four years, from 1872-1876, and opened his shop on Christmas Day so all leftover candy could be distributed freely to poor children near his store.

DAY 5. Sampson was not the only one in the confectionary business. It was in 1873 that the Ganong Company, which marks its 150th anniversary this year, began business. Over time, the firm developed the Chicken Bone as a Christmas staple and were the first to market specially-packaged heart-shaped Christmas boxes which later became Valentine staples. Besides Chicken Bones, their Red Wrap Chocolate boxes are likely their most famous addition to a New Brunswick Christmas.

DAY 6. On the Saturday before Christmas in 1887, Manchester Robertson Allison, who proclaimed they were the Maritime's Greatest Department Store, staged an appearance of a live Santa in the window of their King Street, Saint John store. It was the premiere appearance of a costumed Santa in any department store in Canada. There was such a large crowd who came to see that police had to be called to revive ladies who had fainted and to send the crowd trying to catch a glimpse of the old gent on their way so



"Winter Travelling on the Kenebekacis [sic] River - New Brunswick", Lithograph by Mary Hall, 1835. (P305-3 Mayes Collection.)



Duncan Family Christmas gathering, December 1910. (P210-2621 Isaac Erb fonds.)



Two boys with Christmas tree look at a window display with a sign reading "It is More Blessed to Give than to Receive", Fredericton c. 1930. (P120-21-17 Madge Smith Photographs.)

he could retreat to Toyland. The Santa appearances continued each year until the store closed in 1973 and the idea was copied by many other department stores. A visit to see a department store or mall Santa is still a staple of pre-Christmas shopping.

DAY 7. Acts of benevolence during the Christmas season are a long-standing tradition. On December 23, 1890, the *Fredericton Gleaner* carried a report under title "Jack's Christmas," with the subtitle "How Santa Claus came to a destitute family." It told the tale of how a lumberman brought "Sandy Claus" to children deep in the wilderness outside the Capital city. Somehow, a passing woodsman learned the

children in the camp had been told by their sister and father, who were both near death, not to expect anything for Christmas. The story gives no details of who the benevolent passerby was, but notes he made a long trip by sleigh to Fredericton and returned with goodies that the children believed "Sandy Claus" had left for them. While it might seem a bit of a Victorian embellishment, the fact that such acts of mercy still occur during the festive season makes it entirely believable.

DAY 8. In early December of 1905, the first shipment of Christmas trees ever to leave the province by train moved out of Fredericton bound for the Boston market. The shipper was Moe Cohen, and it was not a successful venture, as the train ran into a snowstorm which



Ronald Hayes (born 4 April 1903), looking up at a Christmas tree in the home of Frank Hayes and Mary Eloise (Hughson) Hayes, Bloomfield Station, Kings County.

(P39-1 Sherwood Hughson Photographs.)



Christmas play at the Jacksontown School, c. 1958. (P26-17 Northern Carleton County Schools collection.)

slowed progress, and cinders from the steam engine landed among the trees. The greenery was damaged to the extent that the shipment was received in Boston "with little enthusiasm," according to a report in the *Sussex King's County Record* of November 23, 1972.

DAY 9. Caroling around a brightly lit Christmas tree is a tradition in many communities these days, but just a little over a hundred years ago, it had only happened in Saint John and St. Stephen. The border town was actually the first to have caroling, when in 1919, patients at the Chipman Memorial Hospital were serenaded by a company of Girl Guides who had gathered around the first community tree ever, supplied by power from the now defunct Milltown Cotton Mill, that lit up in the town.

DAY 10. Among the many treasured written pieces about Christmas time by New Brunswickers is Bliss Carman's evocative poem "Christmas Song," written in the early 1920's:

"Above the weary waiting world,
Asleep in chill despair,

There breaks a sound of joyous bells
Upon the frosted air...".

The second verse begins with the line, "What Makes the Yellow Star to Dance?" which Robert C. Bayley of Fredericton used as his title when he set the poem to music fifty years later. Thus, two Frederictonians gifted New Brunswick with a carol that has been sung across the country.¹

DAY 11. It was December of 1954 when the first television shows that celebrated the Christmas season were seen by New Brunswickers. They were programmed by CHSJ, based in Saint John. Some features shown over 6 decades ago are still shown to this day, such as "The Littlest Angel" and "A Christmas Carol." Other shows and performers, like "The Leslie Bell Singers" and "Jackie Gleason," are but a memory to those who watched them.

¹ Stated in a letter from Robert C. Bayley to David Goss, October 1981.

DAY 12. On December 18, 1958, the demise of the longtime tradition of placing a “begging letter” in New Brunswick Christmas trees that were destined for the American market was predicted to come to an end after an article appeared that year in the *Bathurst Northern Light*. The newspaper had conducted a yearlong investigation of the matter, and many American papers had picked up on the fact that, while there were many deserving people who were helped over the years, there were just as many who had no real need but were appealing for help unnecessarily. As one US editor wrote: “to many foreigners, the average American is a fat wallet...” and the “softest touch...” but noted after considering the investigation’s finding: “Americans will probably close purse strings to pleas this year.” ■

DAVID GOSS

David Goss is a Saint John columnist for the Telegraph Journal, founder of the community exploration Walk ‘n Talk program in his home city, now in its 46th year, and author of 23 books of local legends, folklore, and historical recollections. Three of them, Old Tyme Christmas in New Brunswick (Arcadia Publishing, 1997), Christmas in Atlantic Canada (Nimbus Publishing, 2018), and Christmas Day by Day (Blue Rock Books, 2022), are devoted to the Christmas season.



A Santa Claus parade float featuring Santa going down King Street, Saint John, near Manchester Robertson Allison Ltd., 19 November 1955.

(P338-2065 Saint John Heritage Resources, Inc.)



Harvested Christmas trees, Bouctouche, c. 1950. (P214-2047 A. C. Cormier photographs.)

FAREWELL MR. FARRELL; IT'S BEEN SO MUCH FUNDS!

At the end of May, the Provincial Archives said “see ya later” to former Provincial Archivist and long-time archivist Fred Farrell. So inextricably linked to the archives that staff considered him to be a record, Fred retired after a career that spanned 45 years!

Although the majority of his working life was spent devoted to preserving New Brunswick’s documentary heritage, Fred was born and raised in Valley, near Truro, Nova Scotia. The only son of Margaret Rita (Heuser) and Maurice Farrell—both employees of the Canadian National Railway—his appreciation for the importance of history was no doubt fostered by his mother, who in addition to having a 40-year career as a telegrapher, was a local historian.¹

After graduating from St. Francis Xavier University in 1973, Fred arrived in Fredericton to pursue a Master’s in History at University of New Brunswick, with a plan to concentrate his studies on the Grand Falls area. While a student, he worked part-time at PANB on the reference desk, and the rest, as they say, is history.

When Fred began working as an archivist in 1977, PANB was still in its infancy as it had only been established in 1967–68. This period saw a great rise in public interest in Archives and their functions as various family genealogy research shows were airing on television. Today, PANB’s archivists typically work one four-hour reference desk shift per week, but Fred had been fully in the fray, working the desk for the whole day, every day. During a period when

most archival material was still being arranged and described and there was no database to facilitate the identification of records, the work was challenging and required a deeper knowledge of the Archives’ holdings from memory. Fred likes to tell overwhelmed summer students and interns on their first day that when he started working at PANB, he didn’t know the names or locations of the 15 counties. With much practice and many archival curveballs from clients, in time, he found his way.



Tintype portrait of Fred Farrell taken in 2018 by artist Karen Stentaford.

(P154 Provincial Archives photographs.)

Fred’s tenure as Provincial Archivist was eventful, having included a year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of PANB’s establishment; a major revamp of the Provincial Archives Collections Management database (PACMAN); the acquisition and implementation of a digital repository; the phasing out of microfilming and the introduction of digitization; and the hiring of small armies of students and interns. He also was at the helm during the COVID-19 pandemic which caused the Archives to shut down for 8 weeks and required considerable creativity for many subsequent months to provide the level of client service that PANB is known for.

As a younger member of PANB’s staff, I am so fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Fred and be mentored by him. He was always keen to im-

¹ Rita Farrell was the author of *Our Mountains and Glens: The History of River Denys, Big Brook and Lime Hill (North Side), Cape Breton, Nova Scotia* (1993).



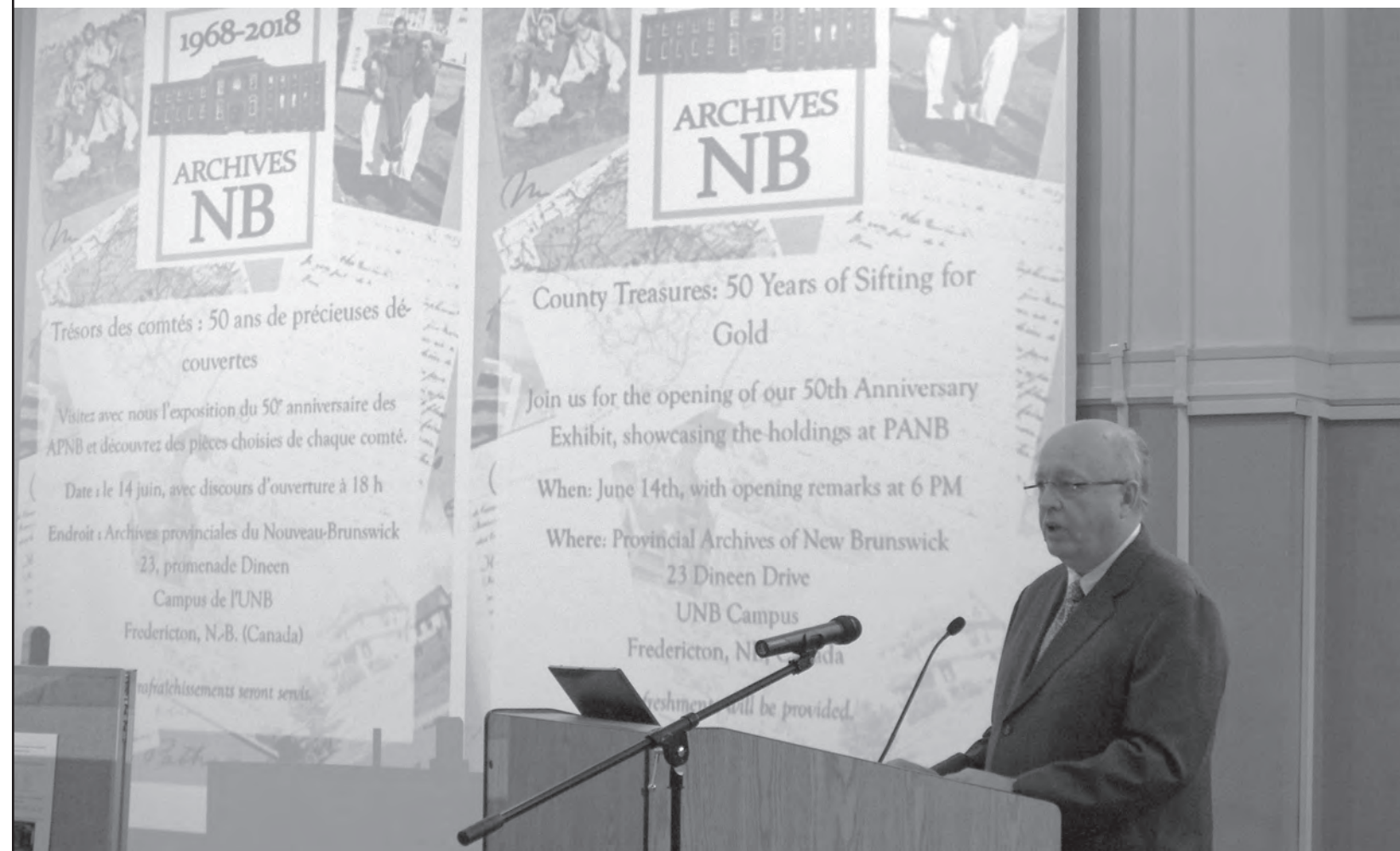
Fred Farrell assisting a client in PANB's research area, ca. late 1970s. (P154-44 Provincial Archives photographs.)



Over his career at PANB, Fred served in a variety of roles, including as Photo Archivist between 1980–1985. Photo taken by CBC reporter Catherine Harrop in 2016. (P154-356 Provincial Archives photographs.)



A young Fred Farrell at the retirement celebration for former staff member Lois Graham, 1985. (P154-224 Provincial Archives photographs.)



Fred Farrell speaking at the launch of PANB's 50th Anniversary Exhibit, 2018. (P154 Provincial Archives photographs.)

part knowledge; to suggest a different course of action if a situation was proving difficult; or to take the time to explain why something had to be done in a particular way. Always willing to pitch in and lend a hand, he was there to help unload boxes and wield a palate around the loading bay, even as the Provincial Archivist.

While work and the archival records were his top priority, I also got to know his sense of humor, as he would regale myself and other colleagues with stories from his earlier years that would leave us cackling during lunchtime. A golf fanatic, he would keep us briefed on rankings, and no lunchtime was complete unless it was accompanied by a golf magazine or paperback mystery. During one of our many chats, Fred admitted that at least three rooms in his house are filled with books! He frequently emailed staff curated lists of oldie goldie Country hits with the hopes of widening our appreciation for the genre.

Fred's influence has left a lasting impact on the Canadian archival community. He held positions on the Council of Archives New Brunswick, the Canadian Council of Archives, and in 2020, became a Fellow of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA). Joanna Aiton Kerr, New Brunswick's new Provincial Archivist, noted in her nomination letter: "He has been a tireless, vocal advocate for archives and archivists at every opportunity, whether that be during a one-on-one conversation with a middle school student at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, or making an impassioned argument for meaningful funding to all levels of government."

On behalf of myself and the staff at PANB, we would like to thank Fred for his many years of dedicated service and the impact he has had; not only at the Provincial Archives, but also in the Canadian archival community through the organizations he has been involved with. We know he will continue to play a role with the Associates of the Provincial Archives, and



Fred and his wife Mary at his retirement party, May 2023.
(P154 Provincial Archives photographs.)

many issues of *Silhouettes* wouldn't have been possible without his input. We wish him all the best for a retirement filled with golfing, reading, and time with his wife, Mary. ■

MEREDITH J. BATT

THIS GENEROUS GIFT TO THE PEOPLE OF NEW BRUNSWICK

THE OPENING OF THE LORD BEAVERBROOK ART GALLERY, 1959

Thanks to the generosity of the late Margaret Hamilton, a portion of my summer has been spent working with three other student archivists processing MC4047, The Beaverbrook Art Gallery fonds, which is comprised of over 150 containers of records donated by the Gallery in multiple accessions since 2014. As can be imagined, the records are extensive and contain a variety of formats, including audiovisual, digital, photographic, and textual. In addition to this fonds' considerable volume, the records

cover the breath of the Gallery's functions and history: its well-known legal battle from 2004 to 2014 (MS8), collections and holdings (MS5), and exhibitions held at the Gallery (MS6), are among many other aspects of its operation.

MS1, entitled "Records Relating to the Founding of the Gallery", highlights Max Aitken, better known as Lord Beaverbrook, and his dedication to the development of cultural institutions in Fredericton. He supported



Visitors viewing the Graham Sutherland wall of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery on opening day, September 16, 1959. This photo features four portrait canvasses of Lord Beaverbrook, Sir Winston Churchill, Somerset Maugham, and Helena Rubenstein, all painted by Graham Sutherland. (P93-Y-614, New Brunswick Travel Bureau County photograph series.)

almost the entirety of the funding for these institutions and contemporary newspapers hailed the Lord Beaverbrook Art Gallery as a “generous gift to the people of New Brunswick”.¹ Since its opening in 1959, the Beaverbrook Art Gallery has been a significant feature in downtown Fredericton, and being a lifelong Frederictonian, this building and its history has always intrigued me. Processing the records that were created during the Gallery’s initial founding and opening has provided me with a glimpse into the institution’s development, and the relationship Lord Beaverbrook had with other institutions such as the University of New Brunswick. These records also shed light on the

history of the Bonar Law-Bennett Library, the former UNB library which has housed the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick since 1967.

A review of the history and significance of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery could not be done without a brief history of Lord Beaverbrook himself. Max Aitken, a Canadian businessman, was born in Maple, Ontario in

¹ “The Official Opening of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery,” *Daily Gleaner*, (Fredericton, NB), 14/09/1959, pp. 10, https://da.tj.news/viewer?opub=The_Daily_Gleaner&date=19590914&page=9&search=beaverbrook&filename=1022_DG_A7400



The University of New Brunswick’s original library was built in the early 1930s. In 1951, it was renamed the Bonar Law-Bennett Library. Today, this building houses the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. This photo of the library was taken in 1941. (P93-Y-122, New Brunswick Travel Bureau County photograph series.)



The Beaverbrook Reading Room in the Bonar Law-Bennett Library, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, 1950s. Today, this is the Provincial Archives’ research area. (P744-533, Donald Peacock fonds.)

1879 and raised in Newcastle, New Brunswick. Aitken had early connections with other well-known New Brunswickers, including R. B. Bennett, who was elected Canada’s eleventh Prime Minister (1930–1935).² Aitken emigrated to the United Kingdom in 1910 and quickly rose to prominence in British politics. The same year, he was elected as a Conservative MP and received a peerage in 1917, becoming the 1st Lord Beaverbrook.³ Lord Beaverbrook made connections with notable British politicians, including New Brunswick-born British Prime Minister Bonar Law (1922–1923).⁴ Aitken also developed ties to British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (1940–1945; 1951–1955), and was appointed Minister for Aircraft Production by Churchill in 1940; however, Beaverbrook did not maintain a steady position in politics during his career and was better known for his business pursuits.⁵

Alongside his powerful connections and business ventures in the United Kingdom, Lord Beaverbrook was also a known philanthropist who financially supported institutions, many of which have remained significant facets of the city of Fredericton, back home in New Brunswick. One such institution is the University of

² Gregory Marchildon, *Profits and Politics: Beaverbrook and the Gilded Age of Canadian Finance* (Toronto: Toronto University Press, 1996), 19–23.

³ *Oxford Reference: A Dictionary of Political Biography* 1st ed, “Beaverbrook, William Maxwell Aitken, 1st Lord,” (Oxford University Press, 2009). <https://www-oxfordreference-com.proxy.hil.unb.ca/view/10.1093/acref/9780199569137.001.0001/acref-9780199569137-e-64>

⁴ *Oxford Reference*, “Beaverbrook, William Maxwell Aitken, 1st Lord.”

⁵ D. George Boyce, “Aitken, William Maxwell [Max], first Baron Beaverbrook,” *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, 10/11/2022, <https://doi-org.proxy.hil.unb.ca/10.1093/ref:odnb/30358>

New Brunswick where Lord Beaverbrook supported the development of buildings such as the Lady Beaverbrook Residence, the Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium, and the creation of the Beaverbrook Scholarship. Beaverbrook was awarded the position of Honorary Chancellor of the University in 1947.⁶ In 1951, Beaverbrook supported the changing of the name of the University's library to the Bonar Law-Bennett Library and the addition of the Beaverbrook Wing to the library. In total, Beaverbrook estimated that he donated over 16 million dollars to various institutions throughout New Brunswick during his lifetime, including cultural institutions such as the Playhouse and the Beaverbrook Art Gallery.⁷

The Gallery's records held at the Provincial Archives demonstrate Beaverbrook's passion for facilitating the cultural development of the province and highlights the contributions from artists, art professionals, and other citizens who helped establish what would become known as the Provincial art gallery. Before the official opening, Lord Beaverbrook regularly exhibited his early collection of paintings at the UNB's Bonar Law-Bennett Library. One such exhibition ran from October to November of 1955 and featured over 100 works by British and Canadian painters. Paintings were loaned from larger institutions like the National Gallery of Canada and private collectors like Sir James Dunn and Lady Dunn, who later became Beaverbrook's second wife.⁸ Over 9,000 guests visited the exhibition that featured works by British artists such as Walter Sickert, Winston Churchill, Thomas Gainsborough, and Canadian painters like Emily Carr, Miller Brittain and Alex Colville.⁹ The staff at the Bonar Law-Bennett Library reported that they "continued to serve the needs of the university" during the exhibition and enlisted the help of student workers to ensure that the exhibition did not disturb library patrons.¹⁰

While the building at 703 Queen St. was being built, Lord Beaverbrook and his staff relied on the University of New Brunswick's library to store the collection.

Lord Beaverbrook had purchased everything with his own funds rather than relying on external financial support.

Judith Sund managed things as the Librarian of the Beaverbrook Collection, she often wrote to London, England to give Lord Beaverbrook and his secretary, Margaret Ince, updates on which works were being added and removed from the collection, and to provide biographical information on the artists who were represented in the collection. Sund's efforts were also crucial in helping to prepare the Beaverbrook Art Gallery for its opening, and she updated Lord Beaverbrook on instances when individuals wanted early access to the Gallery. One letter describes Lady Alice Egerton, a

Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth II, pushing past Sund and demanding a tour of the Gallery during the Queen's July 1959 visit to the Maritimes. Lady Egerton had refused to leave until she was shown the unopened and unfinished gallery. Lord Beaverbrook did not appear to be deeply upset with Sund's inability to stop the intruder and commented: "*when these English aristocrats are on the prowl there is no resisting them.*"¹¹

Some of the correspondence reflects Lord Beaverbrook's intense management style: A note at the

end of a letter penned by Margaret Ince and sent to J. Russell Harper, a curator of Lord Beaverbrook's collection, in March 1959 notes: "*P.S. I expect you are busy. Lord Beaverbrook has just left for France. Somehow, we never seem to get a slack period, but I suppose that is the penalty for working for a man like Lord Beaverbrook. At least we build a lot of memorials!!!*"¹² Beaverbrook's high expectations of his

⁶ "The Lasting Legacy of Lord Beaverbrook," *University of New Brunswick*, 2010, <https://www.unb.ca/initiatives/225/stories/lordbeaverbrook/index.html>

⁷ Boyce, "Aitken, William Maxwell [Max]."

⁸ MC4047, Beaverbrook Art Gallery fonds, MS1/E/1. Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. Fredericton, New Brunswick.

⁹ MC4047, MS1/E/1.

¹⁰ MC4047, MS1/E/1.

¹¹ MC4047, MS1/A/8/a, 12/08/1959

¹² MC4047, MS1/A/12/a, 31/03/1959.

staff—or perhaps his admirable attention to detail—shines through in his correspondence to Edwy Cooke, the first director and curator of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery. Even from afar, Lord Beaverbrook wanted to be informed of happenings in the Gallery during its early years, and provided his staff with clear instructions about how he expected the gallery to function. In a note from June 1963, Lord Beaverbrook told Cooke that he is "on no account to move the DALI Santiago [sic]. It is not to be taken down no matter what demands for space there are for the Exhibition. It stands where it is."¹³ This note was in reference to Salvador Dalí's *Santiago el Grande*, which remains part of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery's International Collection and is still one of the Gallery's best-known pieces.

After his death in 1964, Lord Beaverbrook's support of cultural institutions in New Brunswick did not go unnoticed. Stuart Allen Smith, a university professor and curator for the Gallery, commented in March 1966 that at the moment, the gallery had no funds in their budget for acquisitions of new works, as Lord Beaverbrook had purchased everything with his own funds rather than relying on external financial support.¹⁴ Today, the Beaverbrook Art Gallery hosts exhibitions featuring local, provincial, national, and international artists and remains a cultural and artistic hub for the City of Fredericton and the people of New Brunswick. Despite Lord Beaver-

¹³ MC4047, MS1/A/3/a, 13/06/1963

¹⁴ MC4047, MS14/B/1/c, 11/03/1966



Photo of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery shortly before its opening in September 1959. The largest painting in the photo is *Santiago El Grande* by Salvador Dalí, which remains displayed in the Beaverbrook Art Gallery today.

(P155-3634, Travel Bureau photographs.)

brook's somewhat controversial legacy, his contributions to the province remain evident to this day. ■

EMILY LEADBEATER

Emily Leadbeater is the 2023 recipient of the Margaret Hamilton bursary which enables PANB to hire students to complete traditional (non-digital) archival work. Emily is going into her final year at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton and is completing a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in History. Upon graduating, Emily plans to pursue a career in archives and records management.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK: BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND PRESERVING LABOUR HISTORY

WITH THE NEW BRUNSWICK FEDERATION OF LABOUR

On a typical day, one can expect to find PANB staff at 23 Dineen Drive arranging mountains of papers, wading through microfilm reels, scanning photographs, or assisting clients in the Research Room. However, on March 28th, Private Records archivists Meredith, Monica, and Kate, alongside Special Media Unit manager Josh, traded their offices for the Trans-Canada Highway. The crew embarked in two Ford Transit vans to the New Brunswick Federation of Labour (N.B.F.L.) headquarters in Moncton to collect the fourteenth accession of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour fonds, MC1819.

While PANB eagerly accepts both scheduled and drop-in donations, they are also happy to visit donors to collect records. Donation pick-ups offer an exciting chance to visit different areas of the province, assign a face to the records, and expand holdings. As many clients cannot travel to Fredericton or transport large volumes, archivists can coordinate trips to collect archival documents. Moreover, pick-ups widen PANB's geographic scope and make its holdings more representative of the whole province. Visits around the province afford archivists an opportunity to familiarize themselves with various milieus, which aid in contextualizing a document's origin. It is also beneficial for staff to observe the state of records before their arrival to the Archives and glean any prior organization system

or arrangement. Finally, pick-ups potentially enable archivists a chance to acquaint themselves with the documents' original creators or guardians while also granting donors opportunities to interact with PANB staff. In short, donation pick-ups are mutually advantageous to donors and archivists.

**N.B.F.L. members
have doubled as both
witnesses to and
instigators of
New Brunswick's
social transformations
over the
past 110 years.**

The N.B.F.L. trip in Moncton fulfilled all the conditions of a successful pick-up and more; staff reaped so many benefits from visiting the site as opposed to merely receiving the records at the office. Moncton, as one of the hotbeds of N.B. union activity, remains an influential site for labour politics in the province.¹ While the N.B.F.L. is headquartered in Moncton, their records and activities involved, and reflect, the whole province. Standing in the NBFL's active storage unit, the political posters decorating the walls clearly broadcasted the group's priorities and agendas. During the visit, staff photographed any signage that grouped records according to a corresponding event or committee, to inform the future arrangement and description of the materials. By travelling to Moncton, archivists could acknowledge the city's past and present involvement within N.B. labour history.

¹ Kimberley Dunphy, *The Feminization of the Labour Movement in New Brunswick: Women in the New Brunswick Federation of Labour, 1913-1984* (MA diss., University of New Brunswick, 2009), 16.

Perhaps the most memorable part of the day was meeting N.B.F.L. President Danny Légère. Also welcoming the staff were Ron Batt and Leslie Chandler, N.B.F.L. supporters and the parents of PANB's very own Meredith Batt. After PANB staff filled an entire van to the brim, and covered the floor of another, Légère gifted the archivists with sandwiches he prepared himself. Here, they experienced first-hand the N.B.F.L.'s goodwill, kindness, and appreciation for hard work. It was one of the warmest receptions the archivists have been greeted with during a donation pick-up. After transporting 267 containers and increasing MC1819's volume by forty-eight per cent, the trip was an example of carrying out PANB's mandate "to discover, collect and preserve records having any bearing upon the history of New Brunswick,"² while also deepening the Archives' community connections.

MC1819 chronicles an integral part of New Brunswick history, highlighting the voices of working-class New Brunswickers and their efforts to forge better lives for themselves and others. Although New Brunswick experienced a great deal of social change since the N.B.F.L.'s inception in 1913, the Federation has remained a centralized voice and platform for the province's varying unions. As of 2023, the N.B.F.L. encompassed 40,000 workers across 19 participating unions and 317 locals.³ Current members have continued the legacies of their predecessors who advocated for labour rights. As labour historian David Frank captures in his study *Provincial Solidarities: A History of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour*, N.B.F.L. members have doubled as both witnesses to and instigators of New Brunswick's social transformations over the past 110 years.⁴ In this time, New Brunswickers served in two world wars, weathered the Great Depression, and ushered in Equal Opportunity. Each of these

historical moments underscored existing inequalities while raising new challenges for labourers. While change in itself has proven constant, so too has the N.B.F.L.'s commitment to protecting workers' rights to unionize and engage in collective bargaining.⁵ With the N.B.F.L.'s support, unions achieved shorter workdays, increased wages for female workers, and implemented age restrictions to thwart child labour.⁶

² *Archives Act*, SNB 1977, c A-11.1, accessed on 14 September 2023, <https://canlii.ca/t/54vxxm>, 5.1.E.

³ "About New Brunswick Federation of Labour," *NB Federation of Labour/Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Nouveau-Brunswick*, accessed 14 September 2023, <https://fednb.ca/about/who-we-are/>.

⁴ David Frank, *Provincial Solidarities a History of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour* (Athabasca, AB: Athabasca University Press, 2013), 4.

⁵ Frank, *Provincial Solidarities*, 64.

⁶ Frank, *Provincial Solidarities*, 29.



From Left to Right: Archivists Josh Green, Kate MacEwen, Monica Smart, and Meredith Batt, with NBFL President Danny Légère outside the N.B.F.L. headquarters in Moncton, N.B. (Photograph taken by Ronald Batt and Leslie Chandler on 28 March 2023.)

Records at PANB, spread across genres and mediums, enable researchers to trace the N.B.F.L.'s efforts over the course of these historical shifts, with its earliest material dating back to the N.B.F.L.'s founding in 1913. MC1819 contains reports, press releases, meeting minutes, strike bulletins, membership forms, speeches, budgets, and countless other documents that track the N.B.F.L.'s evolving priorities. Alongside class concerns such as unemployment insurance, workers compensation, and national health plans, the N.B.F.L. broadened their scope to promote increased bilingualism, environmental protections and anti-harassment policies for female workers. The collection also features correspondence with prominent New Brunswickers such as Premiers Frank McKenna, Richard Hatfield, Louis J. Robichaud, and Hugh John Flemming and organizations such as NBTEL, N.B. Senior Citizens Federation, N.B. Department of Education, N.B. Electrical Power Commission, and the Canadian Labour Congress. In conjunction with MC3477 Labour History in New Brunswick = Histoire du Travail au Nouveau-Brunswick (LHTNB), also housed within PANB, MC1819 establishes the Provincial Archives as a rich source of labour history both within the province and Canada as a whole.⁷

In conclusion, the New Brunswick Federation of Labour pick-up proved to be a huge success. It was the largest volume of records collected in a single trip, nearly doubling the size of MC1819. The pick-up granted PANB an opportunity to strengthen their relationship with the NBFL and reinforce the importance of archives, first cultivated with the Archives' previous partnership with the LHTNB during the early 2000s.

Bibliography

Archives Act. SNB 1977, c A-11.1. Accessed 14 September 2023. <https://canlii.ca/t/54vxxm>.

Dunphy, Kimberley. *The Feminization of the Labour Movement in New Brunswick: Women in the New Brunswick Federation of Labour, 1913–1984*. MA diss., University of New Brunswick, 2009.

Frank, David. "New Resources for Labour History in New Brunswick." *Silhouettes* no. 34 (Spring 2012): 6–7.



Archivist Kate MacEwen posing with political posters decorating the N.B.F.L.'s storage unit. (Photograph by Monica Smart.)

PANB archivists greatly appreciated the NBFL's hospitality and are looking forward to their next visit! ■

KATE MacEWEN

⁷ David Frank, "New Resources for Labour History in New Brunswick," *Silhouettes* no. 34 (Spring 2012): 6-7.

———. *Provincial Solidarities a History of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour*. Athabasca, AB: Athabasca University Press, 2013.

NB Federation of Labour/Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Nouveau-Brunswick. "About New Brunswick Federation of Labour." Accessed 14 September 2023. <https://fednb.ca/about/who-we-are/>.

The New Brunswick Federation of Labour. *Constitution of The New Brunswick Federation of Labour*.

NEW AT THE ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT RECORDS

RS746 Moncton Judicial District Probate Records. 2005, 2007. (0.8m)

RS751 Woodstock Judicial District Probate Records. Various files for the year 2005 (0.4m).

RS814 School Attendance Registers. Private donation of Registers of Attendance for Red Bank, Queens County (September 1948 – June 1949). (0.01m)

RS866 Sports Branch Records. Various publications including Recreation, Sports and Leisure Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in New Brunswick, 2000. (0.03m)

RS1153 Records of the Old Manse Library, Newcastle. Operational records including acquisitions and donations to the library, daily circulation and visitor statistics, reference questions and other enquiries from patrons, and staff recruitment. Also includes correspondence between Lord Beaverbrook and the institution's first librarian, Louise Manny. (1.2m)

PRIVATE RECORDS

MC1576 Saint John City Directories Collection. 1894–1991. 90cm textual. McAlpine directories for years 1894–1895, 1902, 1905, 1915–1916, 1919–1920 and Mighty directories for years 1951, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1966, 1980, 1981, 1991

MC3688 Fonds Wénéfrede Dionne et la famille Dionne. c. 1900–2021. 1.5m textual. Records of former Beaverbrook Scholar and Edmundston area teacher, Wénéfrede Dionne and her family. Material includes poetry written by her father, Albert J. Dionne, correspondence, educational records, photographs, etc.

MC4111 Queer Heritage Initiative of New Brunswick Collection. ca. 1990–2003 70cm textual & digital. Copies of photographs of the 8th International Two-Spirit Powwow held in Rexton in 1995, donated by Tuma Young. Records relating to the establishment of Moncton Gay Pride by former President Greg Daborn.

MC4566 John Homan Draper. 1851–1884. 5cm textual. Diary of John Homan Draper, describing life in New Brunswick, a long ship voyage to Australia, resettlement in the province, marriage, and the birth of his children.

MC4568 The Millville Banner fonds. 1958–1963. 2.5 cm textual. 12 issues of "The Millville Banner", school newspaper created by the Student Council of Millville High School. Issues note various events happening at the school, the creation of the yearbook, exams, gossip, sports, etc.

MC4570 Miramichi Area Retired Teachers Association fonds. 1976–2023. 30cm textual. Contains files of minutes, finance reports, photos, membership lists, newspaper clippings

MC4571 Bill Saunders Collection. 1970–2019. 1m textual. Material relating to New Brunswick Senior Men's Baseball, compiled by Bill Saunders, former player and coach. Collection contains brochures, photographs and other records of teams as well as regional and national tournaments.

MC4572 26th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force Regimental Association fonds. 1888–2000. 120cm textual & photographic. Material relating to the 26th (New Brunswick) Battalion, an infantry battalion during the First World War and the Regimental Association formed after the war. Includes nominal rolls, reunion records, meeting minutes and battalion history.

Lutz Street, Moncton in the Winter, 1950–1960. (P994-10 David V. Reid fonds.)



PHOTOGRAPHS

P14 Harvey Studios fonds. Additional commercial/scenery negatives, c. 1940s–1960s.

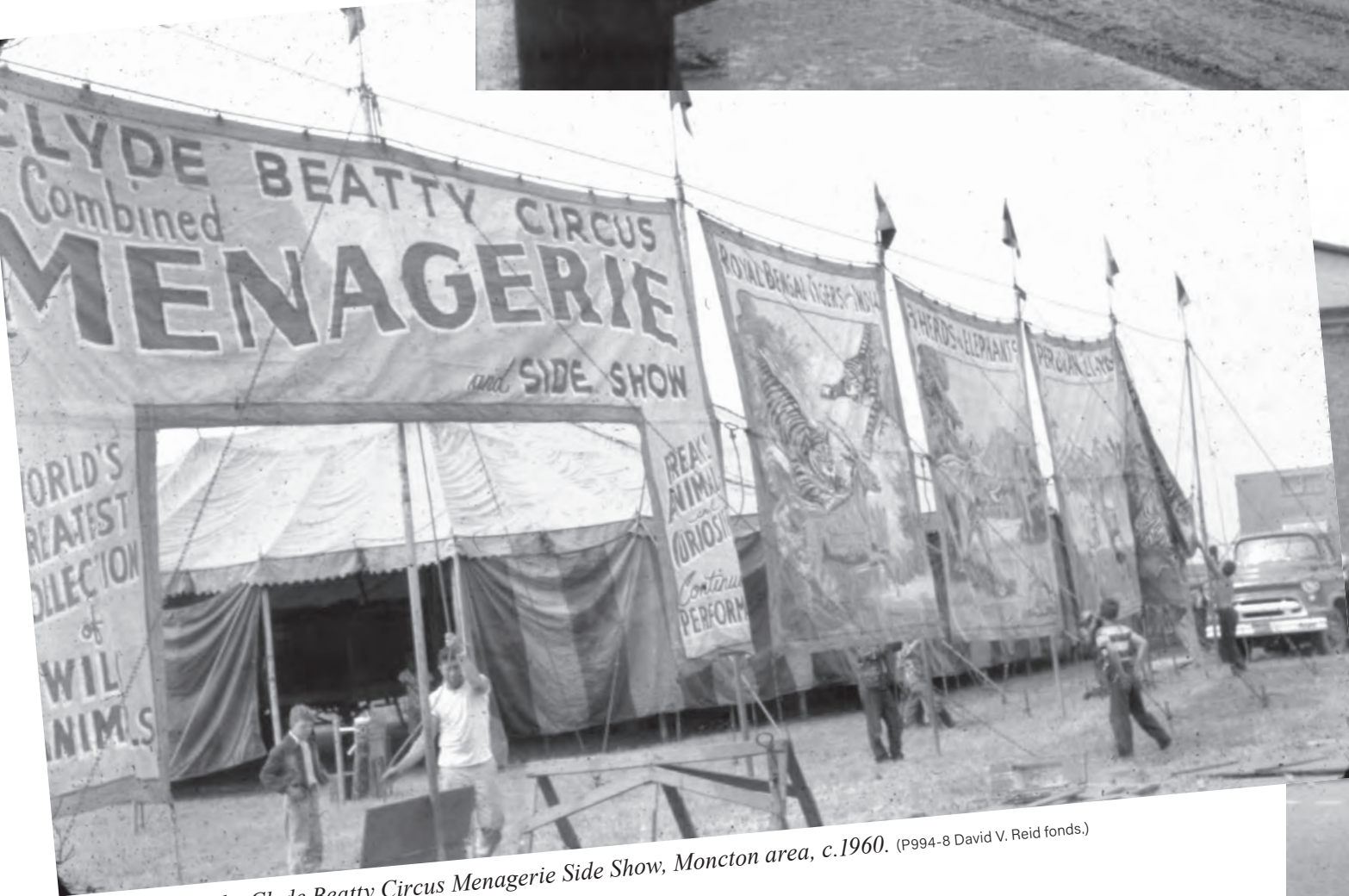
P990 Shirley Sloat fonds. St. John River Valley scenery and aerials, 1976–1992.

P991 William Brown fonds. 35 photographs of logging in Saint John County, c. 1940s.

P993 Ken & Sally Smith fonds. NB Power sites and Fredericton Capitols hockey team photos, c. 1950s–1980s.

P994 David V. Reid fonds. Moncton area circuses and scenery c. 1950–1970s.

Girl Guide Troop in front of the Canadian Bank of Commerce building on the corner of Main and Alma Street, Moncton, c. 1960. (P994-11 David V. Reid fonds.)



Entrance to the Clyde Beatty Circus Menagerie Side Show, Moncton area, c.1960. (P994-8 David V. Reid fonds.)





The Fredericton Capitols Hockey Team, Willie O'Ree (second row, center) played with the team in 1952–1954 and went on to be the first black player in the National Hockey League. (P993-14 Ken & Sally Smith fonds.)

AUDIO-VIDEO RECORDS

MC1986 Fredericton Society of Artists fonds. Audio and video recordings from the "Ludmiliana Piano Suite" concert held in April 2023 by renowned concert pianist and composer, Ludmila Knezkova-Hussey.

MC4366 New Brunswick Community History Project fonds. Interview with Tom Vickers, retired RCMP helicopter pilot living in Fredericton about his career, artwork and poetry.

MC4563 Music and Musicians of New Brunswick. 226 newly accessioned audio and video records created by musicians from across the province. Majority are cassettes, cds and

VHS recordings by members of the Musician's Association of New Brunswick.

MC 4580 Nicholas N. Smith fonds. 23 audio interviews with Peter Paul and Cree speakers on cassette tape conducted by Nicholas N. Smith, a professor at the University of Maine and ethnographer.

RS1020 Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission Appeals Tribunal Records. 830 audio cassettes of recordings of workplace safety tribunals, ca. 1980s–1990s. ■