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...^{7th} of the
creation of the new William C. Mearns Centre for Learning. This new \$20M Centre will be funded by a donation of \$5M from the Mearns family, \$5M from the Province of British Columbia, \$5M from a series of other donors and \$5M from the University.

I believe that Thomas Shanks McPherson, whose \$1M donation in the early 1960s was instrumental in funding the McPherson Library, would be very pleased to see his legacy being continued through this generous community support. The Library named in his honor will form a major part of the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning. Other components included in the Learning Centre will be individual and collaborative study areas; two classrooms, each equipped with 25-30 computer workstations; an expanded Information Commons; a Media Commons to accommodate music listening, film viewing, multimedia instruction and interactive video; a food outlet; and new space for Special Collections and Archives.

The \$5M donation from the Mearns family is the largest donation, outside of an estate, ever received by the University of Victoria. Bill Mearns was instrumental in assembling the land that today is the University's Gordon Head campus and he played a critical role in helping raise the funds that were used to buy the property. The Mearns family's involvement with the University of Victoria spans four decades, and continues today through the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning.



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...Mearnes Centre for Learning Announced, continued from page 1

We have been working towards this goal for several years and I want to acknowledge the vision and hard work of Wendie McHenry, Joan Sandilands, Terry Sherwood, Birgit Castledine and Ron McDowell, all of whom have been instrumental in helping us achieve this goal. In addition there were many other faculty and staff members who participated on a variety of committees and focus groups as we planned for both McPherson Library renovations and a new building.

The next few years will be busy ones as we plan for the new building, which will be an extension of the McPherson Library situated on the green space between McPherson and the Ring Road. The first task will be to prepare a program of requirements which will provide the selected architects with the information they will need to prepare the detailed drawings for the new building. The tentative completion date is December 2007.

We plan to create a web page devoted to the project so our Friends will be able to view our progress and I'll provide regular updates in the Friends Newsletter.

New Building Projects

Wendie McHenry, Projects and Planning Librarian

Recently, two campus-related building projects have evolved within the McPherson Library with positive implications for the Libraries.

PROJECT NOVA CLASSROOM

Project Nova is a multi-year project to replace UVic's aging set of computing systems with an integrated, web-accessible suite of applications. The University has selected the Banner System which will provide users with convenient access to university e-services. UVic students, faculty and staff will have up-to-date information twenty four hours a day, no matter where they are or what technology they choose to use.

The next major step for the Campus is to train a large number of UVic employees on the Banner system, creating an urgent need for a classroom facility. The McPherson Library was approached by the UVic administration, and within a very short time period the Libraries and UVic representatives created a renovation plan for an area of the second floor of the library to

address the classroom need. This plan will produce a twenty-work station training room for the project. Once the project training is completed, the McPherson Library gains possession of the classroom for student use. This area of the second floor was slated for future renovations, but this project has moved the renovations forward at a rapid pace.

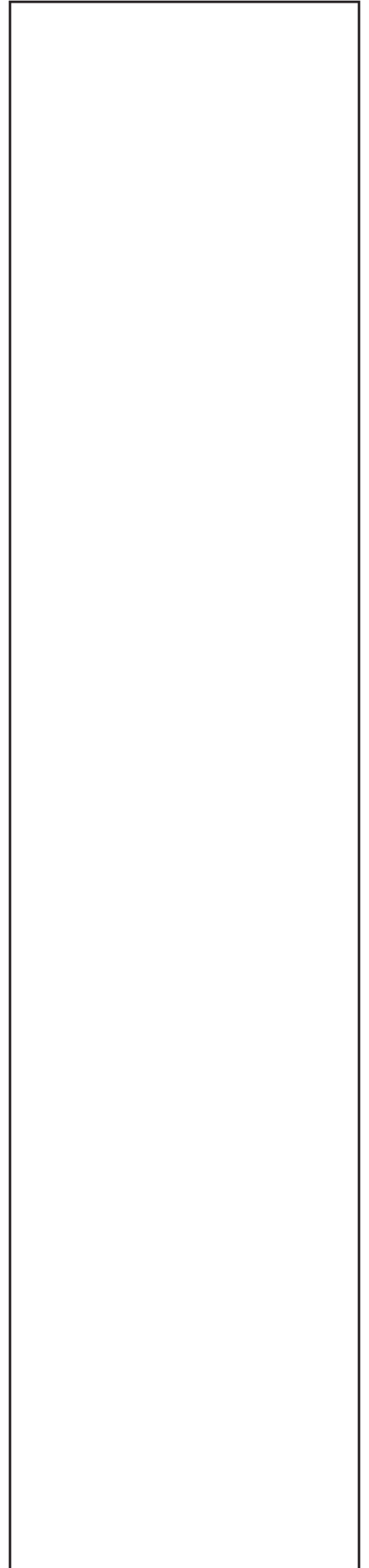
Once this project is finished the library gains a new classroom plus upgraded office, study and media viewing areas. Work on this project started February 3, 2002 c M

McPherson Library's Remarkable Early Years

Peter L. Smith, Professor Emeritus and University Historian

Substantial progress had been made by July 1, 1963 when Victoria College became the University of Victoria. A good omen the very next day was the symbolic cornerstone ceremony for the McPherson Library, soon to be an admirable facility on the new Gordon Head Campus. But not even the most optimistic book-worm was likely to have predicted that UVic would soon rank among the leading Canadian universities in surveys designed to measure library support and achievement. There was no secret formula—just visionary leadership, exceptionally generous funding, and dedicated effort on the part of professional librarians and faculty members.

We must not overlook those three years leading up to 1963. Like Dean Halliwell, I also arrived on faculty in 1960, and can testify to the Library's spectacular progress. Books seemed to be arriving daily by the truckload. The main champions of the Victoria College Library were Sydney Pettit and Roger Bishop, long-time rival heads of History and English. The Victoria College Council had a powerful nucleus of



Notable Achievements

The Friends' Programme and Events Committee are a busy bunch.

**Programme and Events
Committee Report:
The Art of the Book
Exhibit and Book Arts
Display**

Joan Coldwell

One of the most popular events of 2004 was the Art of the Book Exhibit, co-hosted by the McPherson Library and the Maltwood Gallery and sponsored by the Friends. The touring exhibition from the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild included examples of fine binding, printing, calligraphy and decorated papers in some unique re-interpretations of the form of the book.

Visitors were treated to a guided tour of the exhibition by Keith Valentine, an exhibit award winner from B.C.

A special day was devoted to demonstrations of the different arts involved in making or restoring fine books. A steady stream of enthusiastic guests kept the demonstrators busy from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

In November we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of Irish dramatist Oscar Wilde with a talk by distinguished lawyer Cecil O.D. Branson QC on the legal issues raised in the aftermath of Wilde's public disgrace and imprisonment. Friends enjoyed discussion with the speaker afterwards at a reception in the University Club.

Watch for announcements of exciting events to come in 2005!



The Art of the Book Demonstration held October 14, 2004

Upcoming Event: Tea at Lantern Lane

JOIN US FOR TEA AT LANTERN LANE, the house in Gordon Head so named by writer and activist Nellie McClung, which she and her husband bought when they retired to Victoria in 1935.

Built in 1914 for John Fullerton, the last chief engineer on the S.S. Beaver, first steamship on the West Coast, the house is now owned by Judith and Reg Terry, both former members of the English Department.

Judith will present a brief history and tour of the house and Nellie's time in it; Misao Dean, Professor in the English Department and specialist in early Canadian women's writing, will talk about Nellie McClung's work and its significance.

At the Former Residence of Nellie McClung in Gordon Head

Saturday, 13 August at 2:30 p.m.

Seating is limited for this event: tickets, for a suggested donation of \$10, will be available in July. A reminder will be sent to you at that time.

The Reginald Roy Military History Collection

Victor Neufeldt

At a formal reception at the University Club on January 20, the Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. Iona Campagnolo, announced the creation of

in the presence of UVic Professor Emeritus, Dr. Reginald Roy, and a large contingent of armed forces brass and veterans. “It is the largest and most complete collection of military oral history in the country,” said Roy.

Dr. Roy, who served with the Cape Breton Highlanders in WWII, and who helped write the Canadian official history of the Second World War, was Professor of Military History at Victoria College and UVic from 1958 to 1988. Roy encouraged his students to use oral history as a research tool. His earlier research and the oral histories collected in a new project, entitled _____ will be housed in Special Collections. The project, initially offered as a special course last year, is now a regular part of UVic’s history curriculum under the direction of Dr. David Zimmerman, thanks to a partnership with the Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island, a non-profit organization that includes serving and retired officers of the Canadian and Allied forces and the RCMP. This course in the theory, methods and practical application of oral history enables students to interview and archive the personal stories of veterans, including peacekeepers and veteran’s families.

“I’m proud to recognize Professor Roy for his valuable contribution to the University of Victoria and for his part in helping to preserve this country’s collective historical memories,” said President David Turpin. “The foundation that Professor Roy has laid in partnership with _____”

Talking to a Friend: Roger Bishop

Ann Saddlemyer

It all began back in 1941. Having completed his BA Honours and Certificate in Education at UBC and a library degree from the University of Toronto, Roger was invited to teach English at Victoria College, still at that time situated in Craigdarroch Castle. Roger spent most of the winter up on the top floor where the “library”, its books supplied primarily by the Carnegie Foundation, doubled as the study hall. The next three winters were spent in graduate studies at the University of Toronto and teaching at the University of Saskatchewan, while he waited the call to return.

The year 1945 was a bumper year for Victoria College – the student body tripled thanks to the returned servicemen, but the library did not. With customary energy and the realization that “you can’t have a college without a library”, Bishop urged the administration to budget for books. While some heads restricted their purchases to immediate needs, he moved beyond – searching out catalogues (the complete works of Shelley came from an anniversary sale advertised by Columbia University Press), roaming the