

The Brunswickan

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UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
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Founders' Day

by Colin B. Mackay, Former Editor of The Brunswickan

For the first time in the long and eventful history of the University of New Brunswick, undergraduates and graduates are today setting aside a day to pay tribute to the memory of the founders of this university. It indeed may seem strange to many that a university which has been an active educational institution for 157 years, and is thus the oldest University in Canada, has never had a Founders' Day. No doubt this is due in no small measure to the fact that the old records were vague and the founders many. However, the latter factor is a very good reason for the establishment of such a day. Here tribute is not being paid to one person but to many—to all those far-seeing persons who fought to have this university established, and who fought all the more strongly when the continued existence of U. N. B. seemed doubtful. To all such persons we should indeed be grateful—it is due to them that we have today a well known and increasingly influential university.

The idea of establishing a University in what is now the province of New Brunswick arose during the Revolutionary War between Great Britain and the colonies, the University being brought into being in 1785 with the establishment of an Academy of Arts and Science at Fredericton, N. B. Since that date the name of the institution has changed several times. In 1800 it became known as the College of New Brunswick. Then in 1828, when the Arts Building, now the oldest University building in Canada, was completed, the name was changed to Kings College. It became known as the University of New Brunswick in 1860.

In 1785 classes were held in a small building near the present site of Christ Church Cathedral, and the total enrollment was 12 students. Even today it is a small institution in comparison with many Canadian Universities, but whereas in those early days when it was relatively unknown and supported only by a few persons, today it is known far and wide and many of its graduates are recognized leaders in every field of Canadian life. And today one cannot say that it lacks support after the benefactions of Lord Beaverbrook. Yet we feel that there are many who do not realize that this province possesses such an outstanding University, one that is steeped in tradition and bound up with the very growth of the province. If they did, surely it would receive much more support than it does at present.

And so there is another reason for establishing a Founders' Day at this University. It was felt that by doing so, attention would be focussed not only on the founders, but also on the University's outstanding graduates and those friends of the University who have contributed so much to its welfare.

The present students and the graduates of U.N.B. should indeed be grateful to its founders. As a result of their efforts and foresight the small Academy of Arts and Science of 1785 has been built up into a University of which we can all be justly proud. Today its students excel in both scholastic and athletic lines of

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For sixty-one years the University of New Brunswick has possessed a journal published solely by undergraduates. These years have been filled with progress and change both in the University itself and in the college paper. Throughout this era, although confronted with numerous difficulties, The Brunswickan has struggled for existence, gaining in strength as the years passed. Known as the University Monthly for the first forty-two years, the journal was published in magazine form. Later in 1922, although retaining its original form, its name was changed from the University Monthly to The Brunswickan. Finally eleven years ago, in 1931, the style of the journal was again changed when it was published in newspaper form and in weekly editions. However, at that time, and until 1933 when its size was found to be unwieldy, The Brunswickan contained four pages of seven columns each; while today it has six pages each of five columns.

In 1880, the first edition of the University Monthly appeared on the campus. As to who was the instigator of the movement, the files do not reveal; but it is apparent that a group of enthusiastic students, with a thirst for journalism, decided to publish a monthly magazine, containing articles written by students on topics of college interest.

The contents of the early University Monthlies are very different from The Brunswickan of today. Indeed the literary standard of the articles was much higher, but generally speaking, very little news was printed. The magazine was divided into six main divisions: the editorials, literary, the Ladies Department, the Engineering and Forestry Faculties, College World and Athletics. In addition, smaller sections were devoted to Exchanges, Personals and Rouge et Noir.

When the undergraduate publication took the form of a newspaper, many changes were made in its contents. No longer were the literary contributions of the same high standard, but instead there was a much greater quantity of college news published four times as often, as well as reasonably good articles written by the students.

Since the last month of 1937, many innovations have been introduced into The Brunswickan set-up. At that time, the paper was presented at a conference of Canadian University journals where plans were formulated whereby students across Canada would be kept informed about what was occurring on other college campuses. Consequently The Brunswickan has been able to publish many articles and stories relating to various aspects of Canadian undergraduate life.

Since the spring of 1939, the Co-eds have edited an annual Co-ed edition in conjunction with Co-ed Week. Last year, a special eight page issue was published to mark the opening of the Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium.

That the state of The Brunswickan for sixty-one years has been one of advancement is evident. And it is with confidence that The Brunswickan looks to the future with the hope of ever-improving its motto—"to form a channel of communication between the life of the University and the outside world, and to still more strengthen the bond which knits our graduates to its Alma Mater."

endeavour and in addition, they possess a form of student government undoubtedly one of the most democratic among Canadian Universities. Our University was founded by men who felt that higher education was of utmost importance to the well-being of this Province. They fought to establish it. Now it is the duty of the present and succeeding generations of those connected with the University of New Brunswick to show that the efforts of the founders were not in vain.



IF THE DISCUS THROWER COULD TALK—
"I'm going to throw this thing away and have a Sweet Cap."

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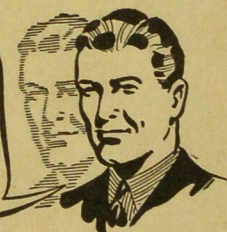
This Founders' Day Issue

The Brunswickan, in this edition, has attempted to deal with certain phases in the growth of our University. Naturally, it was impossible to cover thoroughly the tradition studded progress of the oldest University in Canada—that we leave to future years and future editions.

May we take this opportunity to thank publicly those who so generously contributed to this issue. We are greatly appreciative to Sir Charles G. D. Roberts, noted Canadian author, Dr. W. C. Murray, former President of the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Chester B. Martin, of the History Department at the University of Toronto, and Dr. A. G. Bailey and Professor Smethurst, of the History and Classics Departments, respectively, at U.N.B., for their masterful articles; to Dr. MacKenzie, President of U.N.B., Dr. C. C. Jones, former President, Dr. J. B. McNair, Premier of New Brunswick, and Alastair Cameron, President of the S.R.C., for their inspiring messages; to Colin Mackay former editor of The Brunswickan, for his learned editorial; and to those students who helped make this edition possible.

TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

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