

University chancellor opens new Preschool Centre

By KATHY WESTMAN
News Editor

The new Preschool Centre on Windsor Street was officially opened this past Wednesday by Sir Max Aitken. Janet Toole President

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of the Preschool Centre Board of Directors welcomed guests before presenting Sir Max Aitken to cut the ribbon. Aitken made the comment that it was good that today's kids were getting a lot of things that past generations had to do without. He said, "We had the mud, but not the buildings".

The Preschool Centre, a non-profit, charitable organization, has provided a good experience in early childhood education and day care for 540 Fredericton children over the past eight years. The Centre is independent of any other institution or agency. The Board of Directors has always had a substantial representation from the community and is largely composed of parents of children attending the Centre.

For the past eight years, the centre has operated out of a wartime hut on the UNB campus. The hut is scheduled for demolition this year.

The new building will cost an estimated \$220,000. A public campaign to raise \$50,000 toward that goal is currently underway with S.B. Cassidy as honorary chairman.

The remainder of the money necessary to pay for the structure has been provided by the Canadian Beaverbrook Foundation in a grant of \$90,000, a Local Initiatives Program grant from the Federal Government of \$55,420, and by Preschool Centre savings and mortgages. The University of New Brunswick has approved a 30 year lease on a suitable off-campus site for an annual rent of \$1.00.

The new building will have four classrooms for two, three, four and five-year-olds; a playroom-dining room, water play areas, activity areas, sick bay, kitchen, staff room and office space. It will also provide a better opportunity for the continued training of teachers,

psychologists and nurses who want to specialize in the development of pre-school children.

Although the idea for a Preschool Centre was conceived by UNB faculty and students, it has, from its inception, served the entire Fredericton community. Enrolment is one-half children whose parents are not associated with the two universities.

Small neighborhood services indicate the desperate need for day care, but they operate without any government control as to standards of training or facilities. The Centre has used the regulations of the Ontario Department of Education for child-teacher ratio and space per child as a baseline of standards. Neighborhood

schools seldom have qualified staff or adequate space. Given the choice, most parents would wish to entrust their children to fully trained personnel in a properly designed building.

A set number of places will be provided for the Social Services Department (currently six were requested). The remainder will be available on a first-come basis for day care and half-day kindergarten children. Priority will be given only to children who require full day care.

The rates will be the same as at present: \$80 per month for full day care and \$40 per month for the half-day program.

Operating the Centre are a full-time staff consisting of four qualified teachers, eight assist-

ants, a cook, a part-time janitor, and a secretary all under the supervision of a program supervisor and an administrator.

A highlight of this year's program is the bilingual kindergarten. The Preschool Centre is a registered organization administered by a Board of Directors. The are Mrs. Janet Toole, president; David MacNeil, vice-president; Graham MacFarlane, treasurer; Ms. Donna Webber, secretary and administrator; with Dr. Wendy Brennan, Frank Good, David Oltz, Dr. Helga Feider and Mrs. Doreen Kissick as directors. The Board has the assistance of an advisory committee with expertise in child development and education.



The new Preschool Centre, opened this week by Sir Max Aitken, offers improved facilities for the care of children. The bottom photos show the interior of the \$220,000 building.

Photo by Steve Patriquin

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Maggie Jean celebrates 25th anniversary

The 25th anniversary of the opening of the Maggie Jean Chestnut House, UNB's first women's residence, was celebrated Tuesday, October 15, with a public open house from 3-5 and 5-7 p.m.

The public was welcomed by Mrs. R.D. Baird, a former president of the Alumnae Association (1949); who was instrumental in establishing the residence, and Mrs. Margaret Arnett, the association's first vice-president in 1949. Tours of the house will be given and refreshments will be served.

Owned by Lord Beaverbrook, the residence was donated to the alumnae in 1949. It originally housed 21 women, but after extensive renovations and the addition of an annex, the building can now accommodate 75. The Alumnae Association was responsible for the residence until 1952 when its management was turned over to the university.

The late Maggie Jean Chestnut, a 1927 graduate of UNB, is a former member of the university's governing body, the Senate, which is now the Board of Governors.

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