

Big bucks spent, more to come on MacKenzie House

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

UNB has spent \$420,000 this summer replacing windows, adding a new sprinkler system, updating the fire alarm system and renovating the main lounge in MacKenzie House.

The work was the first part of a two year major upgrade to the facilities at MacKenzie House in the residence Community.

An electrical upgrade, including the installation of the Residence Computer Network (ResNet) will be undertaken at MacKenzie House next summer.

UNB's Director of Residential Life and Conference Services, Michel Ouellette, said an average of about \$1.5 million annually is being spent on a continuing program to improve the facilities in the residence community.

The money is being spent on both major renovations and more minor improvements such as lounges, washrooms or apartment renovations in the university-owned apartment complex, McGee House.

Meanwhile major renovations have been completed on the Maggie Jean Chestnut complex at the corner of Charlotte and Church Streets in downtown Fredericton.

The Maggie Jean is the new home of UNB's newest academic program, Renaissance College.

The Maggie Jean will house some 26 students for the 2000-01 academic year, about half of whom will attend Renaissance College.

Bigger, Brighter, and finally more checkouts University Bookstore gets major facelift

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It's a brand new University Bookstore with a brand new look!

Follett of Canada, the private operator of the University Bookstore on campus, has spent an estimated \$400,000 this past summer on a 1,500 square foot expansion complete with new lighting, ceilings, flooring, carpeting, shelving, painting, offices, and up to eight new checkouts.

Several walls have been bashed out creating a new open-store concept. "The center of the store will be used a lot for cross-merchandizing to display a little bit of everything so that when people come into the store they will be able to get a quick overview of the kinds of things we have," Bookstore Manager, Sharon Fillmore, explained.

Customers will find an expanded clothing and giftware section, an updated computer sales area, a stationery supplies section, a 'trade book' area, magazines and new products being carried for the first time, such as CDs and videos.

Another added feature is moveable shelving in the center of the store, including shelving on casters in the trade book and textbook sections. "The shelving can be moved quite easily to allow us the flexibility to change things regularly throughout the year," Fillmore said.

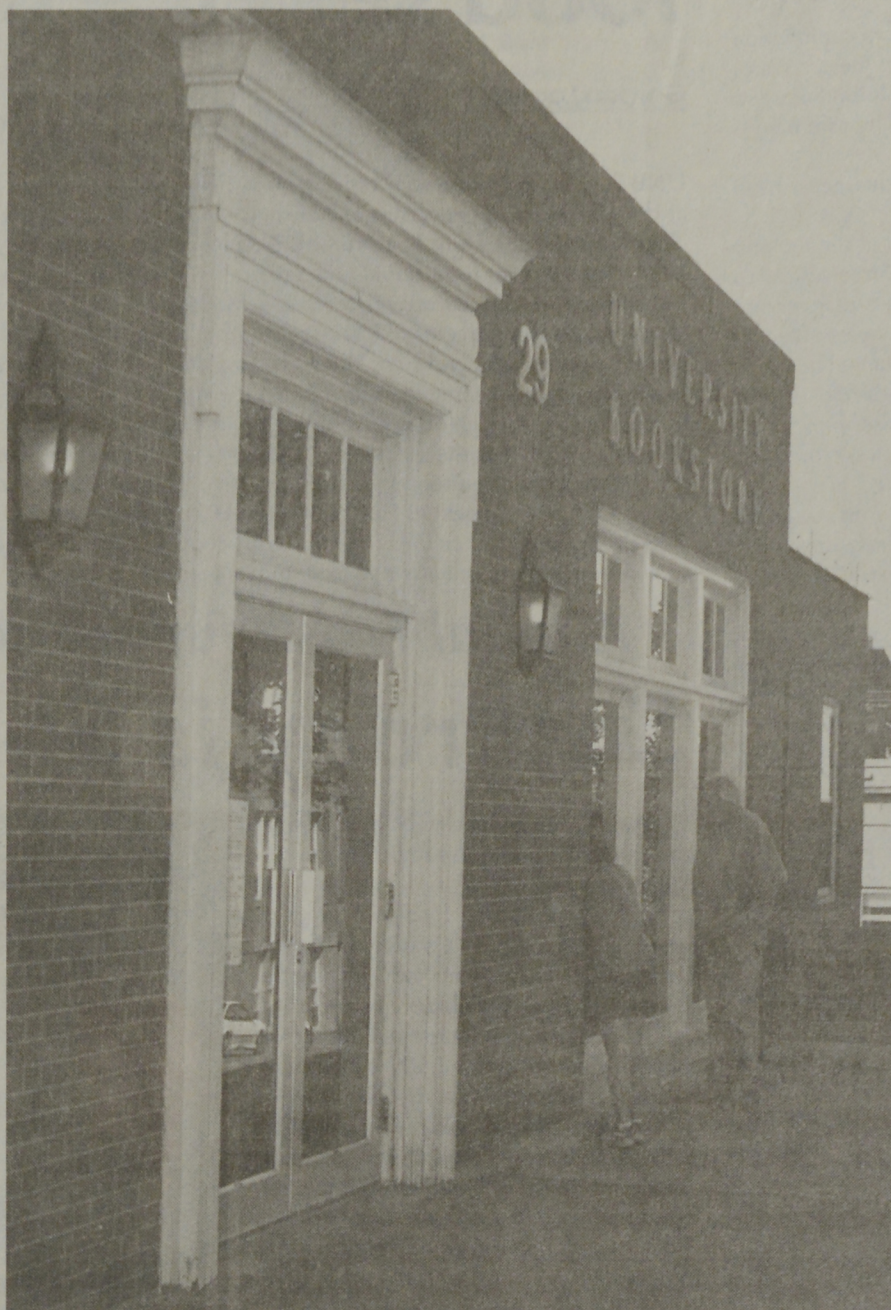
Students looking for textbooks will find them shelved alphabetically at the back of the store and for the first time, textbooks for first year courses will be available on the main sales floor. Previously first year texts were only available in the basement area, which will now be exclusively used for storage and receiving.

As for the pricing of textbooks this Fall, Fillmore has not noticed any dramatic increases compared to a year ago. While the price of many textbooks published internationally or in the U.S. depends on the exchange rate, Fillmore said the Canada/USA exchange rate seems to have eased by about five cents on the dollar compared to a year ago.

"The majority of textbook prices are set by the publisher. We use their suggested retail price and we don't bump them up or add to the price to cover shipping, etc.," she said.

With 19 years experience at the University Bookstore, Fillmore has a few words of advice for students buying textbooks and a few tips to avoid the inevitable rush and lineups during the first three or four days of classes.

She strongly recommends that first year students go to class first before buying textbooks because several



Kevin Molyneaux Photo / The Brunswickan
Curious onlookers peer into the University Bookstore to get a glimpse of the renovations.

courses have many sections which don't always use the same texts.

If for some reason a student needs to return a textbook there is a full refund policy in effect for the first week following the start of classes. After the first week, a 48 hour full-refund policy

is in effect.

Fillmore said it is most important not to lose receipts or not to put any marks in a new textbook, otherwise, a full refund cannot be granted.

Fillmore also advises students trying to save money on textbooks to shop

early. "In some courses, used textbooks are available at a 25 percent discount off the price of a new textbook," she said.

The University Bookstore has also extended its hours from Monday, September 11th, to Thursday, September 14th, to 8:00 p.m., from the regular closing time of 4:30 p.m.

To avoid the lineups, Fillmore said the supper hour and early evenings are usually not as busy as during day time hours, and Saturdays provide a time when customers can also avoid lineups and get free parking within easy walking distance of the Bookstore.

During the first three days of UNB classes from Monday, September 11th, to Wednesday, September 13th, the University Bookstore will be extra busy with longer lineups – the most inevitable on Tuesday, September 12th. "It actually will look worse than it will be. In most cases the lineup will take about 15 minutes from start to finish," Fillmore forecasted.

Students can also pay for their textbook purchases by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, cash, cheque, or with a bank card. Follett uses the Bank of Nova Scotia as their corporate banker and students with accounts at the Bank of Montreal on campus may have to pay an Interac fee to use their bank card as a method of payment.

Above all, Fillmore said students having difficulty finding a textbook or other supplies should ask a staff member of the store for help.

During the next week, the University Bookstore has hired 13 part-time St. Thomas, UNB, and community people to complement the 17 full-time staff members. "It will be a really busy place for the next week or two but staff members are really excited with the décor changes now in place and are looking forward to serving St. Thomas and UNB students, faculty and staff, as the Fall term begins," Fillmore said.

"We also welcome any suggestions that people may have."



Kevin Molyneaux / The Brunswickan
One of the most tangible differences is the construction of 8 checkout counters designed to handle the flood of students at the beginning of term.



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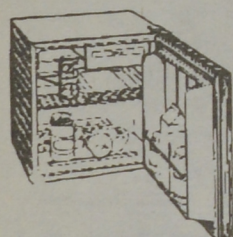
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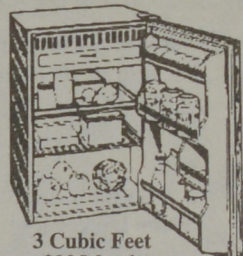
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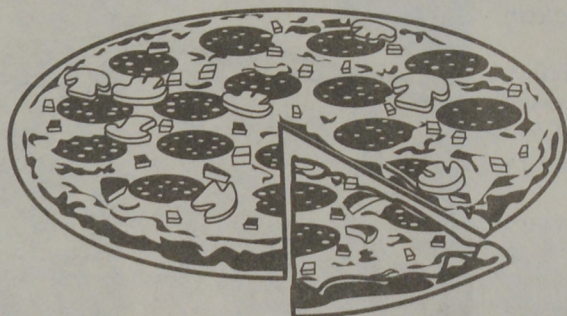
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