

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY  
Antigonish, Nova Scotia

April 11, 1973

Mr. Thomas Raddall, O. C.  
44 Park Street  
Liverpool, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Re: Convocation

Father MacDonell, University President, advises me that you will be present for Convocation and its activities on Saturday and Sunday, May 12 and 13. For your information a schedule of events is attached.

I have reserved a room for you in your name at the Wandlyn Motel, Main Street, Antigonish, and about three minutes from campus. Should you require additional rooms, please let me know soon. For the convenience and comfort of the Honorary Graduates, a hospitality suite will also be maintained at the Wandlyn.

No doubt there are relatives, friends and associates whom you wish invited to Convocation or to whom you might wish announcements sent. We would be pleased to do this for you.

To assure your comfort and convenience, we shall require the following information:

5' 8"	Your height
42"	Suitcoat size
6 7/8"	Hat size
May 12	Date of arrival
Noon	Approximate time of arrival
Car	Method of travel
Morning of May 14	Planned date of departure
None	Number of those in your party

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me. I will be pleased to oblige. My office telephone is either 863-3300, extension 2237, or 867-2237.

Mr. Thomas Raddall, O. C.  
April 11, 1973

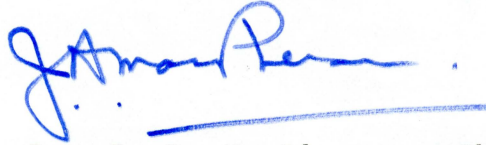
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My residence number is 863-4495.

With personal congratulations and best wishes,  
I am

Yours very truly,



Dr. J. A. MacPherson, Chairman  
Convocation Committee

JAMP:ag

Enclosure

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY  
ANTIGONISH, NOVA SCOTIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

April 26, 1973

Dr. Thomas H. Raddall, O.C.  
44 Park Street  
Liverpool, Nova Scotia

Dear Dr. Raddall:

Thank you for your letter of yesterday.

In addressing the Chancellor, who is also the local bishop, Most Reverend Chancellor is the formal appellation. Elsewheres, Mr. Chancellor is sufficient, and in conversation everyone calls him Bishop instead of Your Excellency (which he dislikes).

The President, Father MacDonell, usually gets Mr. President formally, and Father, otherwise.

The following salutation, therefore, is customary:  
Most Reverend Chancellor  
Mr. President  
Members of the graduating class  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Should someone else warranting special attention come into the picture, I'll advise you as soon as I know.

We would be grateful if you could get us a copy of your address somewhat before the weekend of Convocation so that press releases might be prepared in advance.

Yours sincerely,

*John A. MacPherson*  
John A. MacPherson  
Chairman, Convocation

JAM'bm

*Mailed a copy  
of my address on  
May 2/73*

SCHEDULE OF CONVOCATION EVENTS  
Spring, 1973

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Saturday, May 12, 1973

- 2:00 p.m. St. F. X. (Sydney Campus) Convocation
- ✓ 9:30 p.m. Baccalaureate Mass  
University Chapel
- ✓ 10:30 p.m. Wine and Cheese Party  
Sponsored by the St. F. X. Alumni  
Morrison Hall

Sunday, May 13, 1973

- ✓ 12:00 noon Chancellor's Luncheon  
Morrison Hall  
(by invitation)
- ✓ 2:30 p.m. Convocation  
The Oland Centre
- ✓ 5:00 p.m. The President's Reception  
Morrison Hall  
(by invitation)
- ✓ 7:00 p.m. Graduation Dinner and Ball  
- 1:00 a.m. The Bloomfield Centre

## CITATION

### THOMAS HEAD RADDALL

Most Reverend Chancellor, I am sure that many of us assembled here today have taken the delightful journey over the historical trails of Thomas Head Raddall's Nova Scotia. Through his novels Mr. Raddall has reopened our eyes to the natural beauty of the province, and reminded us of its rich and colorful history.

Starting with after hours work as a writer of magazine stories, Mr. Raddall's literary career has achieved for him the best of both possible worlds - a large readership and the acclaim of literary critics around the globe.

He has authored 17 books, and has an estimated total readership of almost two and one-half million persons in several languages. Thomas Raddall has three times won the Governor General's award for his literature, and has been elected an officer of the Order of Canada, as well as a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Yet he remains one of us, a Maritimer whose prose has added to the quality and quantity of the stocks of history and literature of the region.

We are grateful that 35 years ago Mr. Raddall heeded the encouragement of authors and statesmen to begin his full time literary career. Readers around the globe continue to reap the benefits of that decision.

Most Reverend Chancellor, I ask you to confer the Degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, on Thomas Head Raddall, a man whose literature has enlivened our history and our heritage.

Box 99  
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY  
ANTIGONISH, NOVA SCOTIA

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

May 22, 1973

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall  
Liverpool  
Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Raddall:

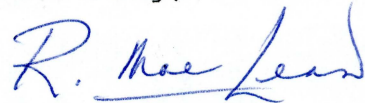
*This reply was delayed for I have spent most of the past week in the Archives.*

*We wish to express our deep appreciation for your kind letter and the arrival of an autographed book. It is a gift that we shall always cherish for it will be a constant reminder of your gentle courtesy and kindness. The pleasure of having time to converse with you and to receive your views on literature was, for both of us, a memorable experience.*

*I am very glad that you enjoyed your visit here for St. F. X. was honored by your presence.*

*With every good wish to you and Mrs. Raddall.*

Sincerely,



Ray MacLean

RML'ad

**THE  
ST. F. X.  
STORY**





# The St. F. X. Story

by Brian O'Connell  
illustrated by the late Frank Wintermans  
St. Francis Xavier University Press  
Revised, 1970



1823 a grammar school for Catholics was opened at East Bay, Cape Breton. Its principal was Malcolm MacLellan of Aberdeen, Scotland. Fifteen years later this learned gentleman became principal of a second school at St. Andrew's on the mainland. This second school was founded by Bishop William Fraser, the first Bishop of the Diocese.

One of the graduates of the tiny East Bay School was Colin MacKinnon, a young man destined to succeed Bishop Fraser. When he began his term of office conditions were indeed primitive. But his keen eye perceived that the pioneer period was drawing to a close. He saw an immediate need for priests and teachers. An appeal to the Irish failed to help the situation much.

The Archbishop of Dublin sent . . . one priest!

Bishop MacKinnon expressed the self-reliance that was to characterize St. F. X. for the next century. He announced that he would supply his own needs. He would found a college.

While preparations were underway to erect a college building in Antigonish, temporary quarters were found in the town of Arichat and the college began operation in 1853. The acting rector was Dr. John Schulte of Paderborn, Germany. This scholar was recruited by Dr. John Cameron while a student in Rome. When the new building opened in the new location in 1855, Dr. Cameron himself assumed the presidency. He was a distinguished teacher and churchman and later became Bishop of the diocese.

The following year there were 49 students and six professors. By 1860 the institution had produced 11 priests and 13 were studying theology. Six years later the college was chartered and empowered to grant degrees. In

the next 20 years the student body rose to 106 and by 1893 alumni ranks included bishops, priests, judges, senators, members of parliament, education officials, lawyers and doctors.

### The Fruits of Struggle

If the ghosts of the founding fathers were to cross the beautiful campus of modern times it is unlikely they would recognize their own handiwork. The red brick structure that once housed all of St. F. X. has sprouted many wings and has been surrounded by a complex of 27 buildings. These include residences, the most modern of science facilities, a commanding library, University and Academic centres.

It is a small city, almost completely self-sufficient and, according to the many visitors who walk its elm-shaded walks, a very beautiful one indeed.

Its reflection can be found in smaller image in Xavier College of Sydney where, in 1951, a new institution began life in a war surplus building with some 60 students.

Founded to serve the sons and daughters of the industrial area of Cape Breton it has expanded to two buildings devoted to Arts and Science and is pressing hard to provide for the needs of a student body that has grown to 600 and promises to be far larger in the years ahead.

As of 1970 Xaverian institutions were serving over 3000 full time students with an additional two thousand attending weekend classes and summer schools and special courses.

These represent the close to home family of the institution. There are more than 10,000 listed alumni in Canada, United States and abroad. But

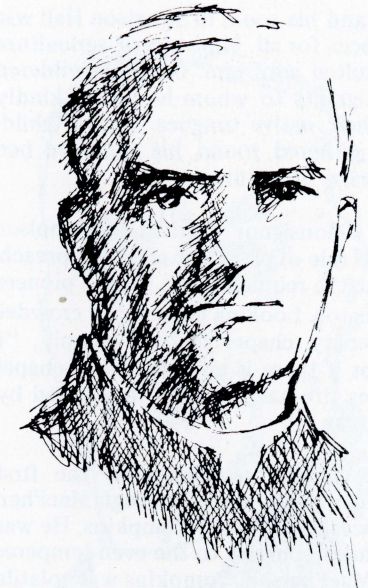
these figures do not represent its overall impact because Dr. Desmond Connor's study conducted while at Cornell University shows that close to six million people have benefitted from the self-help program known as the Antigonish Movement which was a product of this "campus unlimited."

### First Catholic Co-eds

An excellent example of the progressive spirit of the pioneers is to be found in the establishment of Mount St. Bernard College for Women. It was founded in 1883 by Bishop Cameron and given into the hands of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame. Soon the two campuses were linked and young women students began taking classes with the young men. It was the first time that any North American Catholic College offered courses for women leading to a bachelor's degree. The campuses still adjoin, separated only by the stately St. Ninian's Cathedral with its Gaelic inscription, "Tigh Dhe" — House of God.

But there have been great changes also on the campus of Mount St. Bernard. In 1963 the venerable Congregation of Notre Dame provided all new facilities at a cost of close to two million dollars. As a consequence the enrollment of young women increased substantially.

In 1899 St. F. X. had offered leadership in yet another field with the establishment of the first Engineering department in Nova Scotia. At first several technical men served on a part time basis but these gave way to one of the great names of St. F. X. — Dr. Hugh MacPherson. He came to the university in 1900 fresh from studies in Lille. He was and continues to be one of the most astounding figures ever to appear on the eastern Canadian scene.



"Little Doc Hugh"

Before he completed his active life he taught every subject on the engineering curriculum. In addition he gave courses in piano, violin, Gaelic, German, French and Latin. Somehow he found time to coach the hockey and football teams to memorable victories and set a standard of athletic endeavour that was to prevail forever after. He became perhaps the outstanding scientific farmer of his time in Nova Scotia. Probably Doctor Hugh MacPherson was the man who first burst the perimeter of the campus of St. F. X. He moved from farm to farm patiently inculcating the scientific spirit into minds traditionally conservative and became an example to his fellow faculty members.

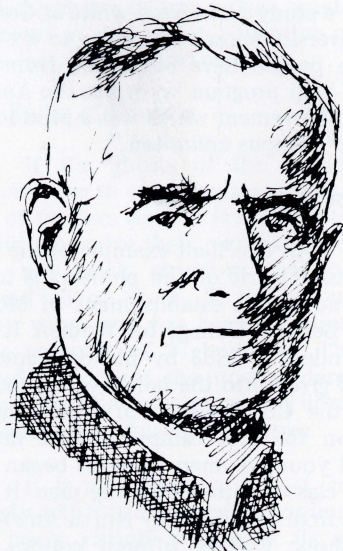
This man, known affectionately as "Little Doc Hugh," (a name he detested) died at the age of 88 in the spring of 1959. For years preceding his death he had been totally bedrid-

den and his room in Morrison Hall was a mecca for all. Ministers of agriculture consulted with him. So did bewildered immigrants to whom he talked kindly in their native tongues. School children gathered round his cluttered bed to learn of nature.

Monsignor Patrick J. Nicholson in his role of president emeritus preached at the requiem mass for the pioneer educator. Looking around the crowded university chapel he said simply, "I doubt if there is anyone in this chapel whose life has not been influenced by this man."

Closely associated in the first pioneer group with Dr. Hugh MacPherson was Dr. James J. Tompkins. He was in sharp contrast to the even-tempered Dr. MacPherson. Tompkins was volatile and eager. He was a strong advocate of simple education, of books and libraries. He had great confidence in the people. Inform them, he said, and they'd order their own universe better than it could be done for them. From St. F. X. and from various parishes he moved out among them. He was the "needle" of the infant Antigonish Movement, the constant irritant. He was a true rebel, impatient with the established order and fearless of repercussions. Eventually his own fires consumed him. But before the great flame in its frail container winked out, it had burned a deep impression everywhere. He gave to Nova Scotia the Regional Library Movement; he authored the first piece of adult education literature on the campus. It was called "Knowledge for the People" and the philosophy of adult education that was expressed in the work has passed unchanged through the Extension Department to its International arm, the Coady International Institute.

Father Jimmy's story has been told in every major magazine in North



*"Father Jimmy"*

America. He fought starvation in the fishing villages and his shrill voice more than any other was responsible for the Royal Commission that changed the lives of Atlantic Coast fishermen.

With H. P. MacPherson — "The Old Rector" — he foraged far and wide for support for the university. His friendship with Andrew Carnegie was as close as that with the fishermen.

He lacked the fire of his cousin Dr. Coady but he was unequalled in working with individuals and small groups. The seeds he planted all over his native land sprouted to become the founding ideas of the Movement.

## Balanced Program

Under the impetus of men like Dr. Tompkins there was danger that the departure from the ivory tower of traditional university life would become a rout with consequent danger to the powerhouse itself, the university. But authority saw the perils of such a course and stopped to reconnoitre. A new program of action evolved. It was a planned and balanced course of action. One hand built at home while the other reached out to the people. It has been this program that has been followed in modern times with a considerable degree of success; the university has grown and the work among the people has shown steady progress.

Some made contributions to the St. F. X. story in a manner that makes special mention mandatory. Dr. Hugh P. MacPherson (not to be confused with the Dr. Hugh MacPherson already treated) was rector from 1906 to 1936. He was a teacher of classics, rich in eccentricities, and one of the most beloved figures in the history of the university. He was keen, cultured and courteous. From the time he retired until his death he continued to be known as "The Rector." It did not seem fitting that any other could carry the title while he lived. On St. Francis Xavier he bestowed a double legacy. He gave it a mutual affection between student and teacher and the gift of courteous hospitality that has become a hallmark.

In addition he began the search for outside recognition and support. With Dr. Tompkins as his vice-president he campaigned vigorously and with considerable success, and thus began the first great period of expansion at St. F. X.

During his tenure the old science hall, the original college chapel, Mockler Hall, the original library, the mem-



*"The Old Rector"*

orial rink and the power plant came into being. It was also during this period that Extension work was begun and the whole philosophy of carrying the university to the people was put into action.

He was followed in office by Dr. Daniel J. MacDonald who continued the period of growth and completed Morrison Hall which was to become the hub of a new building complex. Morrison was followed in due course by the University Chapel and the twin residences, Cameron and MacKinnon.

Dr. MacDonald was followed by Monsignor Patrick J. Nicholson who was to serve the University for a decade.

His legacy to the university is rich and full. As a physicist he attracted back to the university many young men of science who had been his students and paved the way for the upsurge in scientific teaching. He helped weld the universities of the Maritimes into a working unit with a common cause — the improvement of higher education. He was a prominent figure in the National Conference of Canadian Universities and greatly enhanced the St. F. X. image.



*"Doc Pat"*

His first love was his Church and the University followed. There is no way of counting the young men whom

he inspired to embrace the priesthood and eventually return to serve St. F. X. in many and varied ways.

To him also must go credit for helping keep the Gaelic language and traditions alive for he was certainly one of the nation's leading Gaelic scholars.

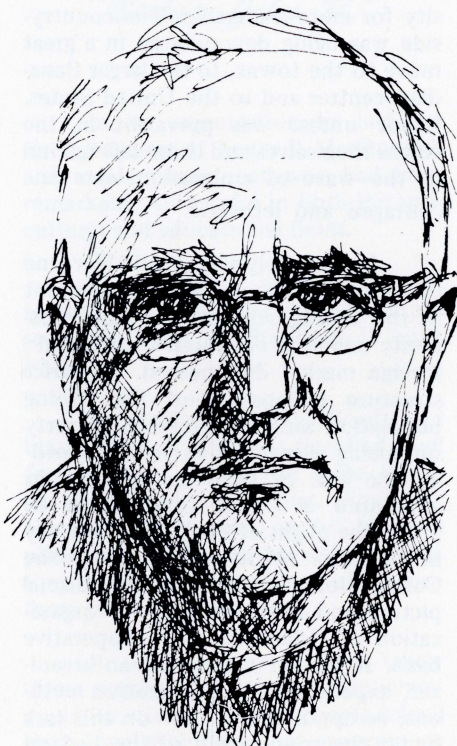
All three presidents relied heavily on the abilities of Dr. Hugh H. Somers, an historian who left his classroom to assume a large share of responsibility for the finances and building program of the university.

Dr. Somers who had served 24 years as Bursar and vice-president was a logical choice to succeed Dr. Nicholson. He carried on the building program in which he had so long participated and St. F. X. enjoyed a period of great physical growth. During Dr. Somers' regime there was a great effort to bring the university's science facilities and staff into the first rank. Morrison Hall was expanded to meet the needs of a growing student body; the Physics-Chemistry building was completed; largely through the generosity of His Eminence Archbishop James Cardinal Cushing, the first unit of the Coady International Institute was erected and the sorely needed Angus L. Macdonald Library was pushed to completion. In addition wide scale renovation of older facilities was undertaken. He also maintained the position established for St. F. X. in the Canadian community of Universities and strengthened ties between the growing universities of the Atlantic area. It was not surprising that he was selected to become executive director of the newly formed Association of Atlantic Universities in the summer of 1964 and continues effectively in this role today.



*"Doctor Somers"*

He was succeeded by a veteran administrator, Monsignor M. A. MacLellan. A specialist in teacher training and adult education, Dr. MacLellan assumed office after a distinguished career as principal of Xavier College. It was he who had established Xavier in 1951 in the face of many difficulties. His efforts had resulted in building the infant Xavier to an imposing place as Cape Breton Island's first institution of higher learning. At the same time he had so integrated it into the community that it received the full support of peoples of all faiths and its future growth seemed assured. He was succeeded in Sydney by Dr. D. F. Campbell, former head of the Department of Education who immediately launched plans for needed expansion to meet increasing demands being made on the Cape Breton "branch" of St. F. X.



*"The President"*

All of Dr. MacLellan's immediate predecessors had maintained the two pronged effort which has become the program of St. F. X. — concentration on expansion to meet the increasing enrolment demands and at the same time the continuation of the adult education effort that had given the establishment its unique reputation.

Dr. MacLellan was admirably suited to carry on the program. His doctoral thesis had been in the field of adult education and he had kept abreast. At the same time a great part of his life had been spent on the improvement of teaching standards.

If there seems to be a concentration upon recent times in this version of the St. F. X. story it is not because

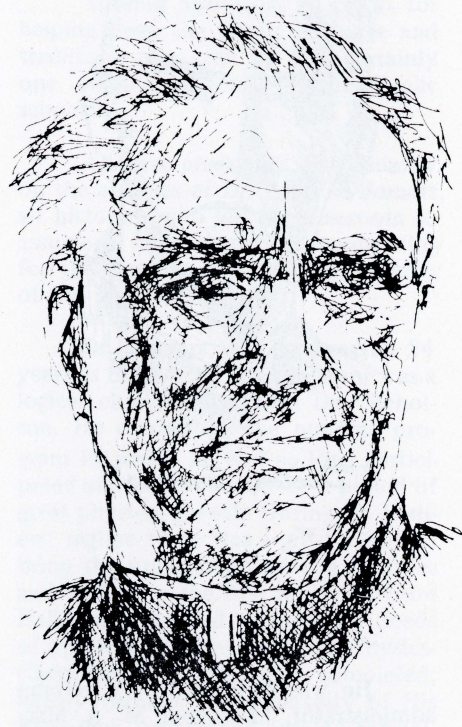
of any failure to recognize the firm foundation on which recent presidents have been able to build. It is rather because, while St. F. X. remains basically unchanged; still possessing the same objectives and philosophy of education, it is radically changed externally and also completely changed in the immediate tasks. While it helped shape the changing social and educational structure, it has been affected by the same changes.

#### Adult Education — Flashback

Despite the early contributions of Dr. Hugh MacPherson and Dr. James Tompkins to the social problems of the area, much remained to be done. The people of the diocese were struggling in the grip of economic distress and insistent calls were made on the university for more leadership. The countryside was being depopulated in a great move to the towns, to the larger Canadian centres and to the United States. Labor unrest was prevalent in the towns themselves and those left behind in the wave of emigration were encouraged and lethargic.

Immediately after World War One this situation was particularly apparent in the fishing villages. Wartime prosperity ended in economic turmoil and foreign market disappeared. The price structure collapsed and the fishing population sank to a level of poverty surpassing even the lean years preceding the war. In 1928 the government appointed a Royal Commission to probe the plight of the fishing industry in Canada's Maritime Provinces. The Commission's report presented a dismal picture and recommended the organization of fishermen on a cooperative basis. It further urged that an organizer, experienced in cooperative methods, be appointed to take on this task under the sponsorship of the Federal Government. Soon the Minister of

Fisheries announced the appointment of Dr. Moses M. Coady.



*"The Giant of Margaree"*

This dynamic giant, who was one day to capture practically all available awards for leadership in adult education was the logical choice. He was a professor of education at St. F. X. and a born teacher. The son of a Margaree farmer he was the embodiment of the social spirit of the University.

#### The Movement Matures

Now the university began to broaden its activities off the campus. For a twelve month period, through a severe winter and over poor secondary

roads, Dr. Coady travelled unceasingly. He moved under all conditions and by every means of transport. At the end of a year he was wearied and suffering a severe heart strain. But the foundation was in place. The United Maritime Fishermen was a reality. From his headquarters at St. F. X. he guided the pioneer organization which he had inspired the fishermen to found and operate. The fire that burned in Dr. Tompkins was in full flame in Dr. Coady and it burst forth in passionate oratory and whiplash tactics that shook the fishermen from their lethargy and forced them to use their latent abilities. A program that was to change the face of eastern Canada's coastal dwellers was well underway.

Earlier, in 1917 the Antigonish Clergy had already met many times to discuss the economic plight of their changes. In 1921 they had organized self-improvement groups under the heading of "The People's School" but the numbers reached had been relatively small.

Prominent among the socially-minded clergy were Father Michael Gillis and Father John R. MacDonald, later to become Bishop of the Diocese of Antigonish. Father Gillis had been a wartime chaplain and a keen observer. He had written much to the faculty expressing the opinion that the university must offer leadership to the depressed people of its constituency. His views were shared by Father MacDonald and their concern received solid support from others.

In 1928 they prevailed upon the Board of Governors of St. Francis Xavier to establish a Department of University Extension, and soon after Dr. Coady completed his assignment for the Fisheries Department he was named to direct the new venture.



*"Bishop John R."*

In its organization he had the strong support of Angus B. MacDonald, a dynamic young man who had been remarkably successful in both the agricultural and educational fields.

The hand that was reaching out to the people now was stronger, more searching, sure of the tasks it must perform.

Everywhere that Dr. Coady and his handful of stalwarts travelled they found pretty much the same thing, an atmosphere of waiting. What was the government going to do? In some places they were frightened by what they uncovered, rumblings of discontent; talk of communism.

It was no easy task to teach these people that genuine democracy could function only when people solved their own problems, that government intervention was a last, desperate resort.

The problem was to make people realize their own power. It was a task demanding the ultimate in practical adult education. And it was obvious that these people would be interested in rehabilitation only if they had a stake in the land and the industries that stood in need of reclamation.

So began the slow, laborious sponsorship of group experiences.

One of the crying needs of these peoples was credit, money to buy food, working equipment, to meet hospital and medical bills. Already the province of Quebec had found an answer in the "Caisses Populaires" or Peoples' Banks. Edward Filene the Boston philanthropist had taken up the idea of these and under his influence the idea was spreading widely in the United States. There was universal agreement that the people of the Maritimes needed something similar and the Extension Department set out to provide what became known as Credit Unions

#### Study and Action

The first move in the program of economic rehabilitation was to capture the interest of people through public meetings. A. B. MacDonald shared the gift of oratory bestowed on Dr. Coady and between them they packed the schoolhouses, storehouses and meeting places of the various communities. They were giants on the platform and they lashed the lack-luster ones into action. "Get hold of your bootstraps." they thundered at the people.

Leadership had come at last. The people reached for their shabby bootstraps.

From the mass meetings grew study clubs. They met in kitchens and country stores and unheated schoolhouses. Soon there were a thousand of

these little groups.

The Nova Scotia Legislature cleared the way for credit unions. Thirty-five years later the credit unions had become a huge undertaking, even in the confines of Nova Scotia. The men of St. F. X. carried the movement into all provinces of Canada where it came the keystone of self-help programs in places far removed from St. F. X. The people were now in business for themselves with a per capita capital of ten cents. That was the way they began, with dimes rather than dollars. When a group had sufficient knowledge and interest they set up their own credit unions.



"A. B."

The money was used for provident loans. It was given out for nets and twine and caulking materials; for gasoline and fertilizer; for a proud funeral and to bring a baby into the world. But these people had been without money for a long time. They had learned its value. In spite of the persistent demands on the credit accounts, surpluses began to show. As they mounted so did the pride of ownership now growing in the people who had been stirred to action. They moved on to co-operative enterprises.

#### Changing Times, Techniques

The Extension Department after its foundation moved through various stages of development. The hardy band who began the effort — Dr. Coady, A. B. MacDonald, Mrs. Kay Desjardin, Sister Marie Michael, Sister M. Anselm and George Boyle added to their numbers and formed credit unions and embryo co-ops using kitchen meetings, study clubs and mass meetings as the principal tools and set up a communication system as well. From their cramped headquarters they began the first circulating library. This was to find its ultimate development in the Regional Library system founded by Dr. J. J. Tompkins in a separate effort. The Extension library, long in the process of withdrawal, was finally closed down in 1964.

Dr. Coady had already sparked the formation of the United Maritime Fishermen and the University continued to carry on the education program for fisheries in the Atlantic provinces at the request of the federal government.

It was inevitable that the credit unions and co-ops would ultimately, when they had attained maturity, build their own organizations and this they did successfully.

In the formative period radio was added to the personal methods in use and two programs aired on CJFX — "The People's School" and "Life In These Maritimes" played a major role in educating the people. In recent times "The People's School" moved to Sydney and to television and it also continues.

Meanwhile the strangers at the gates had been increasing. The University had fathered a simple program for economic rehabilitation and students from abroad were coming in larger numbers.

It fell on the shoulders of Monsignor Mike MacKinnon who succeeded Dr. Coady to co-ordinate the studies of students from underdeveloped countries and this he did along with other notable contributions. He laid the foundation for the formation of Eastern Co-operative Services and generally



"Father Mike"

put the emphasis on organization of the primary industries. Always an outstanding logician and presiding officer, he was elevated to the post of executive vice-president and was incumbent at the time of his sudden death in 1959.

Father John A. Gillis, an experienced pastor who had lived long and close with area problems succeeded him. He did a great deal to re-organize the fisheries education program and continued close relationship with government agencies doing work similar to that of Extension.

He in turn was succeeded by Monsignor J. N. MacNeil, a youthful and thoughtful cleric who had distinguished himself as diocesan administrator during the period immediate following the death of the revered Bishop, Most Rev. J. R. MacDonald.

For a number of years he oversaw the difficult transition of Extension's role in a changing society. Appointed Bishop of Saint John, he was succeeded by the Rev. George Topshee, an earnest disciple of Coady and Tompkins.

In the beginning the role of Extension was clear cut. Its people were in severe economic distress. It rallied to meet their needs with dramatic results. But the whole climate on the Nova Scotia coastline has changed. While there exist pockets and areas in need of development, the stark poverty and extreme needs are gone. Much of the initial work done by extension has been assumed by appropriate government departments.

#### The Coady Institute

The influx that began in the thirties as a trickle became heavy in the fifties and it was apparent that the university had no choice but to expand

on behalf of students from underdeveloped countries. With the major assistance of the Archbishop of Boston the MacDonald Building of the Coady International Institute rose on the south campus in 1961. In the short time since its inception students from some sixty countries have benefitted.

Msgr. Francis J. Smyth, sociologist-economist, was recalled from service with the Canadian Catholic Conference to direct the Institute and he enhanced its prestige during a decade-long period during which he travelled most of the globe and all of the emerging countries. Ill-health forced his retirement in 1970 and he was succeeded by a distinguished graduate of St. F. X., Dr. D. Hugh Gillis. A former professor, he had become an expert in the field of international communications.

It is not likely that anyone will ever document completely the results of the Extension work in the Atlantic Provinces. It would be a difficult task. The chief purpose of such an effort would be historical, and to encourage the support the university both needs and merits. Its best testimonials are the leaders that have come from its short courses, the communities it has helped, the economic units it has organized and the evident relief it brought in time of stress. Never was it large and never has it claimed full credit for much of its work. Without the assistance of individuals, government departments and organized groups with common interests, it could never have succeeded.

Particularly would it never have succeeded without the "first line" — the parish priests of the diocese of Antigonish who have provided a far flung volunteer corp of workers in every good cause the university undertook.

#### The End of an Era

The 1950's can well be said to have marked the end of an era. It was a sad decade for St. F. X. for many of its great figures passed from the scene. The wisp that was Dr. Jimmy was borne to the hillside by the same people he had spent a lifetime helping. The miners, steelworkers and fishermen also assembled a second time to carry the last remains of Coady, the Giant of Margaree to rest beside him.

Most Rev. John R. MacDonald, the Bishop of Social Action, a man who not only had sparked the university's move to the people but had supervised and encouraged every worthwhile effort of St. F. X., on campus and off, also departed to keep watch above the campus.

Finally, as the turn was made into the sixties there left the scene a beloved figure in the person of Doctor Daniel MacCormack — "Doc Dan." He was linked with Extension work for 20 years, pioneered radio station CJFX and radio education, and ended his days as the leader of St. F. X.'s far flung alumni.

Each of the foregoing gave something special to the people and it is not difficult to look around and find a particular event, organization or creation that serves as a memorial.

But the real heritage of this group is the number of young men — priests and laymen whom they have inspired toward spirituality, scholarship, to the attainment of social justice and to achievement in all fields.

Because St. F. X. reveres its dead it is not indicative of a preoccupation with the past. St. F. X. has been singularly blessed in the kind of men who



*"Doc Dan"*

gave it leadership. These men were, in most cases, shot with quicksilver. They were most sensitive to change, they had to be to meet the challenges that faced St. F. X., on its own campus and in the areas where it had chosen to work. There is every reason to believe that those who elected to follow in their footsteps have inherited this quality.

The whole history of the institution has been one of recurring crisis, either to survive on campus or assist extra-murally. Where one building stood, twenty-seven now serve a student body that grows yearly by a substantial percentage. Every year has brought its problems and each year some, if not all, are surmounted.

## Advances In Science

The year 1957 saw the birth of the so-called "space age" with the launching of the first satellites. It is indicative of the University's determination to keep pace with world advances in the field of science that the Science Building on the campus was opened in the same year. This building, housing the chemistry and physics faculties, provided at last the kind of modern facilities which make possible a wide variety of research which has since been conducted in these fields. At the same time there was a parallel expansion in laboratory facilities of the biology and geology departments elsewhere on the campus.

During recent years the research projects at St. F. X. have covered a wide range of subjects. Construction of a mass spectrometer has made possible some significant advances in physics, and the development of the electron selector, a vital piece of apparatus which is used today in research laboratories around the world, is due in large measure to work done by members of the St. F. X. faculty of physics. Additional mass spectrometers also made possible some promising research into potential new methods of petroleum prospecting.

During the 60's substantial support from National Research Council and the private sector made possible the continuing acquisition of vital new equipment, and by 1970 the overall research contribution had become significant.

In addition there has been much interesting research in the realm of biology. One important project involves the crossing of a wide variety of fir trees, with the objective of developing new strains capable of more rapid growth and greater resistance to disease.

The effects of heavy doses of radiation on plant seeds in another significant avenue of research in the St. F. X. biology department. In the field of embryology, which is of increasing importance to modern medical research, St. F. X. biologists are studying the inhibition of organ development by means of implanted homologous tissue extracts.

Recently young biologists and chemists from the University entered the area of pollution control and current research can be said to be very much in tune with the times.

## The Future

When Dr. Malcolm MacLellan took office in late 1964 he made it clear that there would be no attempt to sidestep increasing student enrolment and its challenge. It was inevitable that the expansion program initiated by his predecessor be continued. The Angus L. Macdonald Library, named for a Premier of Nova Scotia who had been both a student and a professor at the University, was opened in 1965. This was closely followed by the Oland Centre, an auditorium-gymnasium-stadium complex so badly needed to meet the recreational life of the students. MacIsaac Hall, a male student residence, and MacNeil Hall, a residence for foreign students at the Coady Institute, were also on the building program. At the Sydney campus a new Science Hall was opened in 1966.

Corresponding expansion took place on the Mt. St. Bernard campus, culminating in the magnificent complex known as Lane Hall, honoring an alumnus, Francis E. Lane, long-time Mt. St. Bernard benefactor.

Steadily increasing enrolment, straining classroom facilities to the limit made it necessary to proceed in 1968

with construction of a central academic building. First high-rise structure on the campus architecture, Nicholson Hall houses several large auditoria, numerous classrooms, the computer centre, and offices for faculty members.

In spite of the capital expansion program, Dr. MacLellan recognized the problems inherent in the approach to "bigness" and expanded the traditional counselling program to ease the transition from high school to college, and has also put increased emphasis on assisting the all-important teacher-student.

Dr. MacLellan was succeeded in 1970 by Dr. Malcolm MacDonell, who has served as Dean of Arts for a number of years, and who was the principal author of the revised curriculum in use at the University. In the same year work commenced on the new University Centre, designed to provide the student body with a central complex including student and faculty lounges, dining facilities, bookstore, bank and other essential elements of a progressive student community.

Presiding over the whole in his role as Chancellor, Most Rev. W. E. Power, D. D., who succeeded the beloved Bishop MacDonald, has proven to be cast very much in the mould of his predecessors. With a strong background in social action work in his native Montreal he brought to his office an appreciation and understanding of the work of St. F. X. that has permitted him to enter wholeheartedly into University affairs. He has continued two great traditions — the close liaison between the clergy and the university and the custom of his predecessors of encouraging freedom of initiative among his diocesan and university officials.

It was mentioned earlier that there were heartening signs in relation to future problems. This is indicated by the fact that both corporate and government support is on the increase; a growing and dedicated alumni continues to assist alma mater and special groups have been formed in support roles.

## "The Marthas"

No story of St. F. X. would be nearly complete, and this one is necessarily short of that objective, without a reference to the Sisters of St. Martha. As noted earlier two of their members have played key roles in Extension. Their overall dedication has been a 64-year service to the University in a number of capacities that have, to a large extent, permitted the university to operate.

There can be, of course, no end to the St. F. X. story.

For 118 years the men of St. F. X. had labored to build their own tradition; enrich the heritage they would leave. The number of graves high on the hillside overlooking the south campus has increased but no soil, no snow, no blanket of leaves can cover the deeds of the men who lie there keeping watch.

To those who labor below — young men and women, priests, and laymen — they have left a rich inheritance. It includes not only scholarship and the pursuit of excellence, but the desire to serve all mankind.

Because of the dedication of the men of St. F. X., past and present, the university can truly be said to be serving on three fronts.

Its academic program strives to create a corp of young leaders to technical breadth and moral stamina.

Its adult education program provides continuous learning for all who seek it and helps in the development of stable and prosperous communities.

Its international program seeks to provide the leadership necessary for new nations in the achievement of maturity in a democratic society of nations.

In 1949 in an interview in Saturday Night the late Moses Michael Coady said this:

"We want our people to look into the sun, and into the depths of the sea. We want them to explore the hearts of flowers and the hearts of their fellow-men. We want them to live,

to love, to play, and pray with all their being. We want them to be men, whole men, eager to explore all the avenues of life and to attain perfection in all their faculties.

"Life for them shall not only be in terms of merchandising but in terms of all that is good and beautiful, be it economic, political, social, cultural, or spiritual. They are the heirs of all the ages and of all the riches yet concealed. All the findings of science and philosophy are theirs. All the creations of art and literature are for them. If they are wise they will create the instruments to obtain them. They will usher in the new day by attending to the blessings of the old. They will use what they have to secure what they have not."

That is the vision, that is the mission, of St. F. X.

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