

# Section/B

Liverpool, N.S., Wednesday, May 6, 1992/page 1B

## Raddall honored by Acadia University for contributions to Atlantic region literature

by Arlyene Barrett Corkum

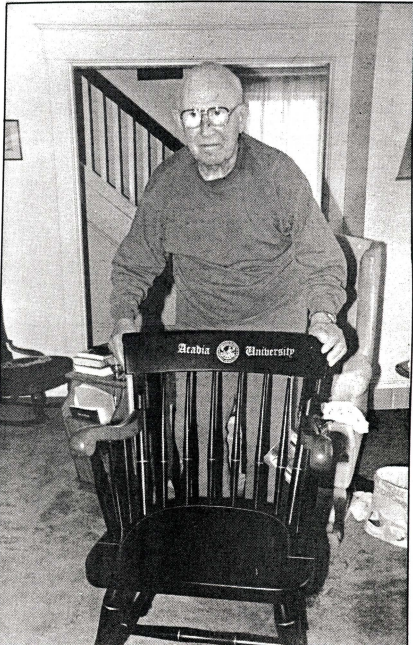
Acadia University President Dr. James Perkin presented author/historian Thomas H. Raddall with a solid wooden Acadia University chair prior to an evening of tribute and readings from Raddall's works at White Point Beach Lodge last Monday, April 27.

The black and gold chair is emblazoned with the college crest.

In making the presentation, Dr. Perkin said he hoped Raddall would sit in it and look back with pride on his contribution to Atlantic literature and hence to Canadian identity. "We hope that he will look around with pleasure at his beloved Liverpool. And that he will look forward and catch a glimpse of the value of his work as it will be presented and appreciated in 50 or 100 years from now."

Dr. Raddall, who is crippled with arthritis and a degenerative spinal condition, was unable to attend the gala event, but said he was indeed "flattered" to be remembered in this way. He said he was honored to be presented with this beautiful handmade chair. Various universities have been issuing these chairs on special occasions. Each chair is numbered so that a record may be kept of them.

The evening of recognition for the 89-year-old author was highlighted by a selection of readings from his various works by Dr. Alan Wilson, professor Emeritus, Trent University. The Honorable John Leefe, MLA for Queens County, said knowing the author is a "fulfilling experience." Leefe said Raddall's works have been translated into a dozen languages, which is certainly "a tribute in terri-



# to Atlantic region literature

by Arlyene Barrett Corkum

Acadia University President Dr. James Perkin presented author/historian Thomas H. Raddall with a solid wooden Acadia University chair prior to an evening of tribute and readings from Raddall's works at White Point Beach Lodge last Monday, April 27.

The black and gold chair is emblazoned with the college crest.

In making the presentation, Dr. Perkin said he hoped Raddall would sit in it and look back with pride on his contribution to Atlantic literature and hence to Canadian identity. "We hope that he will look around with pleasure at his beloved Liverpool. And that he will look forward and catch a glimpse of the value of his work as it will be presented and appreciated in 50 or 100 years from now."

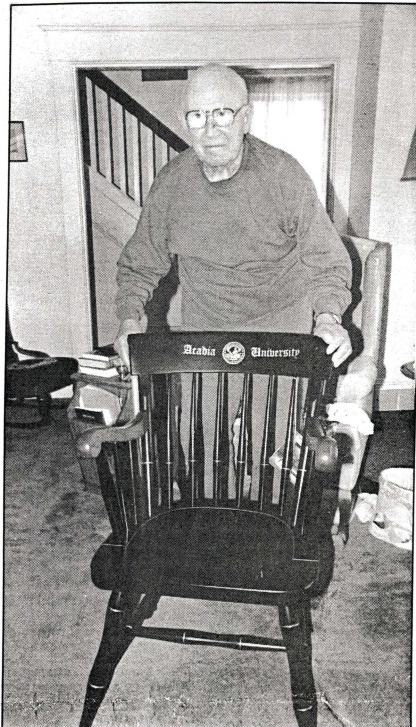
Dr. Raddall, who is crippled with arthritis and a degenerative spinal condition, was unable to attend the gala event, but said he was indeed "flattered" to be remembered in this way. He said he was honored to be presented with this beautiful handmade chair. Various universities have been issuing these chairs on special occasions. Each chair is numbered so that a record may be kept of them.

The evening of recognition for the 89-year-old author was highlighted by a selection of readings from his various works by Dr. Alan Wilson, professor Emeritus, Trent University. The Honorable John Leefe, MLA for Queens County, said knowing the author is a "fulfilling experience." Leefe said Raddall's works have been translated into a dozen languages, which is certainly "a tribute in territory to Raddall." Leefe also read greetings from Premier Don Cameron.

Well-known folksinger Clary Croft played a selection of musical folk tunes collected by the late Helen Creighton, among which folksinger William H. Smith of Liverpool had recorded some sea shanties for Creighton's collection, back in 1948, when he was 81 years old. One song in particular, titled by the Banks of Sacramento, was sung by Raddall.

Other speakers included Paul Robinson, regional coordinator, National Book Week with Chris Clarke, director of public relations, Bowater Mersey Paper Company.

Author Marjorie Whitelaw and CBC-Radio taped the event for a fu-



Well-known author Thomas H. Raddall displays the chair he received from Acadia University president James Perkin honoring his contributions to Atlantic literature. (Photo by Arlyene Barrett Corkum)

ture program on Raddall.

In speaking on behalf of his father, Dr. Tom Raddall Jr. thanked Acadia and the people of Queens County who turned out to recognize and honor his father. Raddall spoke of his mother Edith (deceased), a music teacher by profession and said she was a great asset to his father. Raddall said he wished his father's autobiography in

My Time would have mentioned his mother more than it did because in no way "could he have done (this) without her."

In closing, Dr. Raddall quoted his father's favorite saying regarding his writings, "I hope that everyone enjoys what I wrote. If they don't, at least they're going to get a damn good history lesson."