

opportunity to view at first hand archival operations and question professionals on all aspects of their work. The Archives of Ontario also used the occasion to mark its 75th anniversary. The Public Archives of Nova Scotia exhibited several recent acquisitions; the Toronto Area Archivists Group also sponsored a display at Toronto City Hall and the Public Archives of Canada, the Provincial Archives of Manitoba and Alberta and Edmonton City Archives were involved in special displays. The Saskatchewan Archives Board was very active in the Saskatchewan Heritage Conference while other repositories and regional associations were featured on radio, television and in the print media. The Eastern Ontario Archivists Association offered "Archives in the Attic", an archives appraisal day to which the public was invited to bring their personal archives for historical evaluation and tips on conservation of archives in the home. The Mennonite Heritage Centre of Winnipeg chose Archives Day '78 to unveil its new archival facility. Public lectures and special meetings of archival groups were among a host of other activities that helped observe Archives Day '78. In the province of Quebec, displays, round tables, films, and a variety of publicity ventures highlighted a "La Semaine des Archives" sponsored by the Association des archivistes du Quebec.

Archives Day '78 was successful in view of the interest it gathered across the country, particularly when one considers the short space of time and resources available. It was disappointing, however, that a number of major repositories did not participate though most have indicated a strong willingness to take part in Archives Week '79. As a dress rehearsal for Archives Week '79, the first nation-wide Archives Day was profitable: events were tested and public response was favourable. I am most confident that with the additional time that is available for planning, Canadian participation in Archives Week '79 will be bigger and better.

Carman Carroll,
Chairperson,
ACA Archives Day Committee.

Charles Bruce Fergusson

The death of Charles Bruce Fergusson, Nova Scotia's third Provincial Archivist, occurred on 20 September 1978 in Halifax. Bruce Fergusson had just retired after thirty-two years as an archivist, twenty-two of these years as Provincial Archivist. He had overseen extraordinary growth, not only in the holdings of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia but in their use, typified by the more than thirteen thousand researchers who visited the archives in 1977. This was a five fold increase since he had been appointed provincial archivist in 1956. An energetic practitioner of the total archives concept, Bruce Fergusson was responsible for large acquisitions of municipal, county, court and school records. The library doubled its numbers of books and pamphlets to 40,000. In 1956 the Public Archives of Nova Scotia had a fine collection of prints, paintings and drawings but few photographs; by the last years of his stewardship, the photographic collection was expanding annually by thousands. Similarly, the map collection was expanded and spawned a developing collection of architectural plans. The photographic, map and architectural collections proved their value as the conservation and restoration movements gained force in the last decade. Without these collections, much of old Halifax could have fallen to the bulldozer, since they provided an unrivalled source for researchers.

One of Bruce Fergusson's first actions on becoming Provincial Archivist was to begin a microfilming programme which resulted in the accumulation of over ten thousand reels of microfilm. Programmes were carried out with a very limited budget and staff, for instance in 1957 the budget was \$35,000 with an archival staff of four.

Although the budget was to increase by ten times and the staff would triple, operating funds were never large, and thus his achievements were that more remarkable. He also pioneered the policy of keeping the Archives open with full service seven days a week until 10 p.m.

Bruce Fergusson was born at Port Morien, Cape Breton, and his Scottish inheritance was to be very much an essential part of his life and character. After training to be a teacher he went to Dalhousie from where he was selected as a Rhodes Scholar. The Second World War interrupted his academic pursuits and during the war he served first in the civil service and then in the Royal Canadian Navy. In 1946 he became Assistant Provincial Archivist and ten years later Provincial Archivist. He obtained his doctorate in history from Oxford after the war.

Writing was very important to him and he published nearly one hundred books, articles, pamphlets and book reviews, nearly all related to Nova Scotian history. Many of these were published under the auspices of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, the best known being: *Nova Scotia M.L.A.'s 1758-1958*, *Place Names and Places of Nova Scotia* and the 700 page *Inventory of Manuscripts in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia*. He was a masterful editor and volumes 2, 3, 4 and 5 (forthcoming) of the *Diary of Simeon Perkins*, published by the Champlain Society of which he was a member, remain the outstanding example of his editorial skills. His publications and lectures gave a public visibility to the Nova Scotian archives which was probably unrivalled in the country.

The organizations to which he contributed his time and knowledge were many and spanned the spectrum from the North British Society to the presidency of the Canadian Authors Association. An exhausting and exacting, but rewarding, activity for him was his position as secretary to the Confederation Centenary Celebration Committee in Nova Scotia, the records of which he, of course, made certain were deposited in the Archives. He was subsequently awarded the Order of Canada.

Bruce Fergusson was a provincial archivist when the importance of archives to our heritage was little recognized beyond a few scholars. His greatest achievement was to ensure that the Public Archives of Nova Scotia became an institution widely used and valued by the public at large. The new archives building, due to be completed in September 1979 and for which he worked so hard, will truly be a monument to his endeavours in the archival profession for a third of a century.

Brian Cuthbertson
Public Archives of Nova Scotia