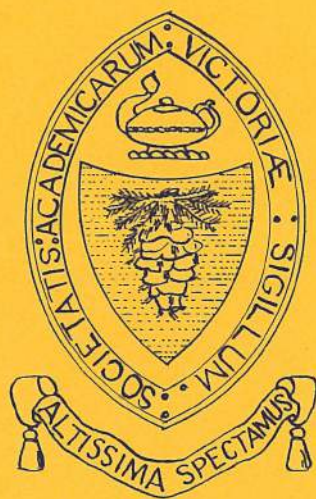


The University Women's Club  
of Victoria

50th Anniversary

1908 - 1958



PROGRAMME OF WEEKEND EVENTS

November 14, 15, 16, 1958

DINNER: Friday, November 14th, Empress Hotel

GRACE

TOASTS The Queen

Charter Members - - - - - Miss Ellen Hart

Reply - - - - - Mrs. H.E. Young

Past Presidents - - - - - Mrs. H.R. Turner

Reply - - - - - Mrs. J.W. deB. Farris

C.F.U.W. - - - - - Miss Dora Moore

Reply - - - - - Mrs. Rupert Neil

GREETINGS from Mrs. Frank MacKenzie Ross  
Honorary President"SECOND READING OF THE MINUTES"  
Miss Marie Riddell

MUSIC GROUP - "Do You Remember?"

SPEAKER - - - Dean Neville Scarfe  
College of Education, U.B.C.  
"THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS"

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BIRTHDAY TEA at the home of Mrs. H.E. Young  
Saturday, November 15th, 3 p.m.RECEPTION at the Art Gallery, Moss Street,  
Saturday, November 15th, 8 p.m.CHURCH SERVICE at Christ Church Cathedral  
Sunday, November 16th, 10:45 a.m.

CHARTER MEMBERS

1st Meeting, November 7th, 1908

Mrs. H.E. Young M.A.

Mrs. Alfred Watt M.A.

Miss Jeanette A. Cann B.L.

Miss Lilian R. Smith (Mrs. Arthur R.  
Walsh A.B.)

Miss Grace D. Burris M.A.

Miss A.E. Fraser B.A.

Mrs. E.C. Hart M.A.

Mrs. H.S. Playfair B.A.

Mrs. Edward Smith B.A.

Dr. Helen E. Ryan M.D. C.M.

Mrs. Georgiena B. Clarke M.A.

Miss A.O. Edna Henry M.A. (Mrs. Herbert  
Booth)

Dr. E.H.R. Denovan M.D. C.M.

Mrs. Leone L. Hayward B.L.

Mrs. Elizabeth E. Lawry A.B.

Dr. Annie Cleland M.D.

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HONORARY MEMBERS

<u>Member</u>	<u>Date of Election</u>	
Dr. Alice Ravenhill - - - - -	March 4, 1911	*
Mrs. Margaret Jenkins - - - - -	November 24, 1913	*
Mrs. Mary Riter Hamilton - -	February 23, 1915	*
Mrs. Phoebe Traquair - - - - -	February 23, 1915	*
Miss Maria Lawson - - - - -	February 23, 1915	*
Miss Helen Stewart - - - - -	February 1916	
Mrs. J.I. Durand - - - - -	December 1924	
Mrs. R.F. Green - - - - -	October 21, 1931	*
Miss Audrey Alexander Brown -	December 16, 1932	
Miss Margaret Clay - - - - -	November 13, 1935	
Miss Emily Carr - - - - -	April 16, 1937	*
Senator Nancy Hodges - - - - -	January 20, 1944	
Dr. Laura Holland - - - - -	January 23, 1946	*
Miss Marion James - - - - -	May 17, 1947	

LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. H.E. Young M.A.

Mrs. Arthur R. Walsh A.B.

\* deceased

## THE LAMP IS LIT

### An Account of the First Fifty Years

In the summer of 1908 sixteen women met together and organised the Victoria University Women's Club. Their action was the outcome of a visit to the city of Mrs. J.W. deB Farris, the enthusiastic president of the Vancouver Club, which had been founded one year earlier.

The Victoria Club was the third to be formed in Canada. The aims of the new organization were three-fold:

- (1) To promote culture, encourage research work and stimulate intellectual achievement among its members.
- (2) To enable university women to co-operate in the cause of advancing education and any other work decided on by the Club.
- (3) To render financial aid to deserving undergraduates.

It was decided to hold regular monthly meetings of a cultural nature and to hold public lectures and other attractions to raise money for educational work.

In 1908 the women of this province had few legal rights. The Club's first participation in public affairs was carried out in co-operation with the Council of Women and other organizations of the province, which were agitating for better laws for women and children. The Club continued to work for this objective until changes were brought about which made British Columbia's laws the best in Canada.

In the early years of the Club, our members sponsored several public lectures for the purpose of stimulating public interest in the new provincial university and as the university grew and developed, they kept in close touch with the movement of events.

In 1912 the first Convocation took place. The

formalities were held in the South Park School in Victoria and all the Victoria University Club members were invited to take part. When the session was over, the Club entertained the visiting women members of Convocation (about thirty), at an outdoor luncheon. One of our members wrote later, "The visitors seemed pleased with the attention, and we were all very excited and happy."

The Victoria University Women's Club was the first organization to approach the B.C. Government regarding the presentation of a scholarship to the university. A letter from the Minister of Education (Hon. H.E. Young), to the secretary of the Club, dated January 13th, 1913, states,

"The Government feel very gratified indeed to know that the University Women's Club of Victoria should be the first in British Columbia to recognize the obligation of the public to the university; and we hope that your example will be followed by other bodies, and by many of our monied men."

Mrs. A.T. Watt, a member of the Victoria Club, was honored by election to the University Senate. The Victoria Club voted to support the candidate of the Vancouver Club, who was also elected.

In 1914 the First World War brought great changes in the interests and activities of Club members. The topic of addresses at the meetings which had usually been concerned with literature or the arts, now stressed political and social matters, such as "Education and Militarism", Industrialism and Socialism". As the seriousness of the war increased, it was decided to hold work meetings, in addition to the regular meetings, to sew for the Red Cross and discuss current events. Minutes for meetings of this period contain references to the Prisoner of War Fund, the Patriotic Aid Society, the Khaki Club, etc., phrases which remind us of the tragic events and devoted service of those times.

Our first Annual Scholarship, offered to the woman student standing highest in the First Year at Victoria



College, was awarded to Miss Patricia Hamilton Smith in 1917, and has been presented every succeeding year. At first it was \$50.00 but as the cost of living and college fees increased, the Club has raised the amount of the award. It is now \$200.00. In 1957, a new \$100.00 scholarship was established, for a Victoria College woman student entering the teaching profession. It is named the Rosalind W. Young Scholarship, in honour of Mrs. H.E. Young, first President of our Society, who is still with us.

In 1931 the first loan was issued from a Loan Fund which had been set up to help undergraduate students complete their university education. With great effort the Club built up this Fund to \$650.00. During the depression years the money was out on loan continually. Recent borrowings have been more spasmodic but all money borrowed has been repaid in full. In 1952 the Loan Fund was increased by \$100.00 through the generous gift of a past president, Mrs. Evelyn MacLaurin.

The Victoria University Women's Club joined the Canadian Federation of University Women at its inception in 1919. This greatly enhanced the prestige and usefulness of the local group and broadened its interests. Our Club now shared in the task of providing travelling scholarships for women graduates and in planning and conducting the business of the Federation. Later when the C.F.U.W. joined the International Federation of University Women, our Club became part of a world organization.

As the responsibilities of the Club grew, so did the expenses. Beside the cost of running the local organization, and providing money for the Victoria College Scholarship, Federation dues had to be met and a sum set aside for travelling expenses to Federation meetings. Consequently through the years, much careful effort and planning have had to be devoted to money-raising activities. The record of money-raising events over a fifty year period provides an interesting sidelight on changing tastes and social conditions.

In the early years of the Club's history, the

public lecture was a valuable source of revenue. At that time there was no Art Gallery, no University Extension Department or adult education of any kind, and Victoria citizens were glad to pay to hear a good lecturer.

Afternoon teas have always been a popular means of raising money for the Club. Until recently, these could be held in one of the larger private homes, with individual members contributing the refreshments. Now the size of the Club makes it necessary for such functions to be held in a hotel lounge, but the friendly atmosphere and informality of the earlier teas still prevail.

During the "twenties" when bridge was very popular, the Club raised a considerable amount of money through bridge parties. In 1924 a large party was held in the Chamber of Commerce Hall, each member being asked to provide players for two tables of bridge or mah jong.

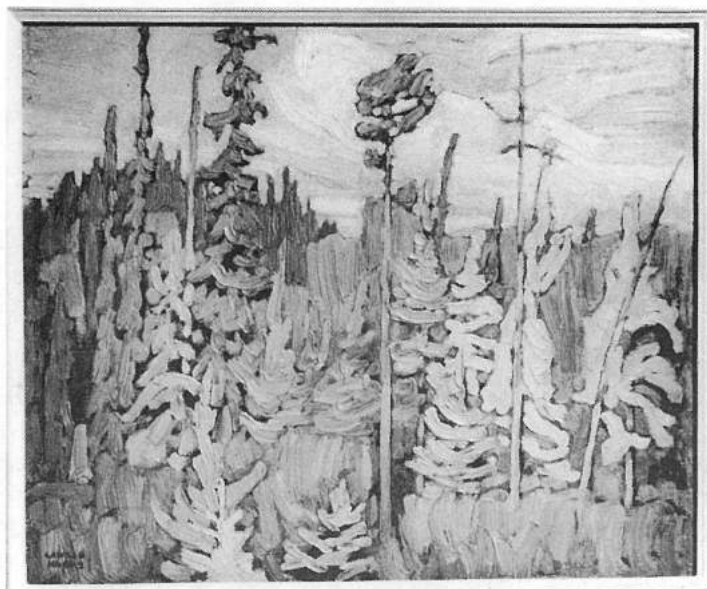
In the late "twenties" and early "thirties" money contributed to the Scholarship and Loan Funds came largely through the proceeds of dances. These were held in the Empress Hotel Ballroom. The "University Women's Club Ball" came to be known as one of the most important events of the social season.

The most unusual money-making scheme ever undertaken by the Club was in 1926 when we chartered the S.S. "Princess Mary" for an excursion to San Juan Island. This included a tour of points of historical interest on the island, a barbecue supper at Roche Harbour and an address by the president of the Victoria Branch of the B.C. Historical Association.

In recent years the Club has sponsored performances of plays produced by the Victoria Theatre Guild. In this way we assist a clever group of amateur players and at the same time add a substantial amount to the Scholarship Fund.

(please turn to page 10)





**"ALGOMA SKETCH"**  
—by **LAWREN HARRIS**

**PRESENTED TO VICTORIA COLLEGE**

**October 17, 1958**

**to commemorate the 50th Anniversary  
of**

**THE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB  
of Victoria, B. C.**

**Mrs. H. E. Young**  
*First President.*  
**1908**



**Mrs. C. D. Stockdill**  
*President*  
**1958**

Careful financing has been a consistent policy of the Club and we have always been content with modest expenditures for local needs. Perhaps we have skimmed a little but if we have added a few cupfuls of diced veal to the chicken salad, it has been done to make more dollars available to "deserving undergraduates".

From its inception the Club took a great interest in the suffrage movement and when the vote was first given to Canadian women in 1917, they accepted their new responsibilities with enthusiasm and thankfulness. In the years which have followed, we have striven to make women more conscious of the value and power of the vote and have tried to persuade suitable women to run for public office. In these endeavours, on several occasions we have co-operated with the Business and Professional Women's Club. Our most notable success in this direction has been the seeking out and endorsing women as candidates for the School Board.

The Club supports the policy of equal pay for equal work. In this province there was great discrepancy in the pay of men and women till the Second World War. It is gratifying that the principle of equal pay for work done is now generally accepted by public bodies and industry.

At the C.F.U.W. Conference held in Vancouver in 1928, the Study Group was advocated as a valuable supplement to regular meetings. At that time, our club did not think it was large enough to support such a scheme and no action was taken. After the outbreak of the Second World War a few of our members formed their own little group "The Tuesday Night Discussion Club", and met in one another's homes to study the political and social problems of the times. This discussion club functioned for several years. In 1942 it was recognized as an official University Women's Club activity. It was now clear that the Club was ready to accept the study group idea, and in 1943, when the season opened in September, members were offered a choice of seven groups. The programme proved an outstanding success. The study group is now an integral part of the Club's activities. This year (1958-59) we have 10 groups with 90 participants.

The Club is now too large for members to become intimately acquainted with one another through the monthly meetings and the study group provides a means for them to come together in small groups in the friendly atmosphere of a private home.

The Second Great War broke out in the autumn of 1939. As there were many opportunities for the members to do war work outside the Club, it was not considered desirable to make any marked change in our regular programme, especially as a number of the younger married women in the Club were taking on full-time jobs in the professions and industry.

Early in the war a considerable number of out-of-town servicemen were stationed in the Victoria area, but for many months there were no special facilities for the entertainment of these men in their off-duty hours.

The Y.W.C.A. was the first Victoria organization to realize the seriousness of the situation, and arranged a number of informal dances where servicemen could meet "Y" girls. However this did not begin to meet the need. In 1940 the University Women's Club appointed a committee to register the names of persons willing to invite servicemen to their homes and the Home Hospitality Bureau developed from these efforts. At first this was under the direction of the Y.W.C.A. In April 1941, the University Women's Club took it over, and though later it became a committee of the Auxiliary Services, certain members of the Club remained as workers for the duration of the War. Through its effort 12,000 invitations to private homes were issued to servicemen.

A need had long been felt for closer co-ordination between university women's clubs within the National Federation and when Regional Conferences were proposed, our Club accepted the idea with enthusiasm.

The first Regional Conference in B.C. was held in Vancouver in 1943. The following year the Victoria Club acted as host. One-day Regional Conferences have

now become a regular annual practice of British Columbia clubs.

In November 1947, thirty-seven representatives of Pacific Coast University Women's Clubs gathered in Victoria to celebrate International Day and discuss common problems of the post-war era.

After the war, the need for greater international understanding was felt by all thoughtful persons. The University Women's Club can claim credit for several imaginative gestures to increase understanding between people of different traditions and racial backgrounds.

In 1945 the Club decided to contribute the first art scholarship as a Memorial to the B.C. Indians killed in the war. The money was raised through a dramatic presentation of B.C. Indian stories and legends given by Mr. Anthony Walsh in the Victoria High School Auditorium. Native Indians from nearby reserves, were invited as special guests. About 300 came, some traveling a long distance on foot. The scholarship was awarded to Miss Judith Morgan, a young Indian girl from the Skeena district, some of whose paintings were later bought by the Provincial Government.

There was no art gallery in Victoria in 1946. Taking advantage of the presence in Victoria that year of Miss Chang k'un-i, a pupil of the distinguished Chinese artist Kau Weng, and Mr. Lau Wing Sin, owner of the Kau Weng collection, the Club made arrangements for holding a week-long exhibit of the paintings of Chang k'un-i and Kau Weng in the Empress Hotel, the proceeds to be used for International European Relief. A number of other Victoria organizations joined in the scheme and were assigned certain evenings in which to receive their own members. Through the co-operation of the Inspector of Schools, many school children visited the show with their teachers. This event realized a large sum for the European Relief Fund.

Hearing that Dr. Norman MacKenzie, the President of the University of British Columbia would be in

Victoria in November 1946, the Club approached Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Woodward, suggesting that they should invite a group of interested persons to Government House to discuss the International Exchange of University Students, explaining that our Club felt that it would be particularly appropriate to have graduate students from Chinese Universities attend U.B.C.

His Honor and Mrs. Woodward graciously acted upon our suggestion and the reception was held at Government House. Guests included Dr. Norman MacKenzie and other prominent educational officials, representative Victoria Chinese citizens and members of the University Women's Club. Dr. MacKenzie expressed himself completely in favor of the plan for the exchange of students but felt that it should not be limited to one province but applied to the whole country. He urged the University Women's Club to press the matter through the C.F.U.W. and promised to discuss the scheme with the Senate of the University of British Columbia. Two weeks later he wrote to our Club, that the Senate had granted four scholarships to graduates of foreign countries, two in China and two in Chili.

There are now many foreign students at the University of British Columbia. Each year a tour is arranged for those who wish to come to Victoria to observe the Provincial Legislative Assembly in session. With the assistance of the Rotary Club, members of the University Women's Club billet and entertain these young people during their stay.

A Royal Commission is at present making a survey of British Columbia's educational system. Hearings will be held in Victoria next January and our Club is preparing a brief for presentation at that time. The preparation of this brief may well be the beginning of a new type of work for our Club. Educational Research is a subject which has been almost totally neglected in this country and recent world events have made the situation very serious. University Women's Clubs, with their members all professionally trained, are uniquely suited for voluntary work in this field.



The original membership of the Victoria Club was 16. By 1918 it had grown to 25. In the post-war year, 1922, the size of the Club almost doubled, reaching a total of 40 members. After the Second World War there was again an uptrend in membership; in 1948...77 women belonged to the Club. This year, 1958, the list of members has reached 175, the highest point in the Club's history.

In this brief account of the first fifty years of the Victoria University Women's Club, a multitude of small matters and a few of the more important accomplishments of the Club have had to be omitted. It is hoped, however, that what has been told will indicate our continuing loyalty to the aims of our founders. Our activities have changed with the changing years. Perhaps at times, we have dragged our feet, perhaps stumbled, but always

"Altissima Spectamus"

- Ellen Hart

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The Club will be forever grateful to Miss Nan Eaton, Miss Muriel Aylard, Miss Ellen Hart, and Miss Patricia Hamilton Smith for compiling such a comprehensive and beautifully bound book on the Charter Members.

MEMBERS OF LONG STANDING

Mrs. H.E. Young - - - - -	1908
Miss Mary W. Hamilton - - -	1914
Miss Patricia Hamilton Smith	1920
Mrs. Hazel Hodson - - - - -	1921
Miss Nan Eaton - - - - -	1922
Mrs. E. MacQueen - - - - -	1922
Miss Muriel Aylard - - - - -	1924
Dr. Irene Clearihue - - - - -	1924
Miss Ellen Hart - - - - -	1925
Miss Ella Cameron - - - - -	1927
Mrs. A.W. McCurdy - - - - -	1931

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PAST PRESIDENTS

1908-09-10	Mrs. H.E. Young
1911	Mrs. A.T. Watt
1912-13	Miss Jeanette Cann
1914-15	Dr. Helen E.R. Ryan
1916	Miss Grace Burns
1917-18	Mrs. Edward Smith
1919	Miss Bertha Winn
1920-21	Mrs. J.W. deB Farris
1922-23	Miss Kathryn R. Bradshaw
1924	Miss Mary Hamilton
1925	Mrs. J.F.C. Hyndman
1926	Mrs. E.C. Hart
1927-28	Mrs. W.E.H. Godson
1929	Miss Jeanette Cann
1930	Mrs. P.M. Barr
1931-32	Miss A.W. (Nan) Eaton
1933-34	Miss Isobel Thomas
1935-36	Dr. Olga Jardine
1937-38	Mrs. H.L. Smith
1939-40	Mrs. Hazel Hodson
1941-42	Miss Patricia Hamilton Smith
1943-44	Miss Ellen Hart
1945	Mrs. D.L. MacLaurin
1946-47	Mrs. J.L.W. Price
1948-49	Mrs. K.O. Wright
1950-51	Mrs. J.F.K. English
1952	Mrs. T.B. Williams
1953-54	Mrs. A.J. Butterfield
1955-56	Mrs. M.F. Smith

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Mrs. J.L. Andrews	Miss Marie Riddell
Mrs. H. Bottrell	Mrs. M.F. Smith
Mrs. Olga Bowes	Mrs. C.D. Stockdill
Mrs. C.B. Conway	Miss Ethelyn Wallace
Mrs. W.G. Dempsey	Mrs. K.O. Wright

