

HARRIET LILA IRVING

JULY 12, 1899 - MAY 5, 1976

Known for her love of her family, and her many acts of kindness and caring for her community and always her interest in young people Harriet Irving was the natural namesake for the University of New Brunswick's fine new library when its cornerstone was laid in 1966.

Harriet Irving was a native New Brunswicker, born in Galloway, Kent County. In 1919, she went to work in the Irving store in Bouctouche, where she met Kenneth Colin (K.C.) Irving, the young entrepreneur who was to become one of Canada's most successful businessmen. They married in 1927 and moved to Saint John where they raised their three sons, James, Arthur and John.

Harriet Irving was asked by Lord Beaverbrook to serve as a founding member of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery's first board of governors who were responsible for developing both the building and its collection. Lord Beaverbrook, who was also chancellor of the University of New Brunswick, K.C. Irving, a long-time member of the UNB board of governors, and Harriet Irving all shared a strong commitment to this university's future success. In the 1960s, K.C. Irving was national chair of the UNB Development Programme, a major fundraising campaign that sought contributions for a number of new buildings, including the library that would ultimately bear his wife's name.

At the official opening of the Harriet Irving Library at UNB on October 11, 1967, Colin B. Mackay, President & Vice Chancellor, said:

"I believe everyone who knows Mrs. Irving has come to recognize her sterling qualities of sincerity, and strength of character and quiet good humour. She has a concern for the young people of Canada and for all of youth in this difficult and dynamic age in which we all live. In welcoming her to the University of New



Brunswick this afternoon I do want her to know how very much we have appreciated and have been encouraged by this evident interest of hers in our library development."

Harriett Irving was an exemplary citizen of this province and a passionate supporter of its people, its institutions and its culture.