

A. Vibert Douglas

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National Council of Jewish ^{44.}
Women Women of the Century 1867-1967

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WOMEN OF THE CENTURY

1867-1967



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Under the distinguished patronage of

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LESTER B. PEARSON, P.C., M.P., O.B.E.,
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THIS PUBLICATION IS PRESENTED BY
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF CANADA
TO COMMEMORATE
THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CONFEDERATION OF CANADA
1867 - 1967

Published June 1967

Printed in Ottawa, Canada by The Runge Press Limited

WOMEN OF THE CENTURY — 1867-1967

Publication written by Gordon Pape

Award Medal Designed and Executed by Dora de Pedery-Hunt

President, National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Mrs. A. Hollenberg

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To commemorate Canada's first hundred years of Confederation "Women of the Century 1867-1967" honours eleven living Canadian women — one from each province and one from the Canadian North.

The selection of each of these distinguished Canadian women is the culmination of the combined efforts of our Honorary Advisors and Provincial Committee Members. We are most grateful to these public-spirited individuals for giving so generously of their time and talent.

Although only the highlights in the careers of our "Women of the Century" are documented in this booklet, it is immediately evident that each Centennial Award recipient has contributed to humanity with distinction.

"Each cherishes and preserves those values which protect the dignity, understanding and equal rights of every human being.

Each has acquired excellence and influence in human affairs—qualities which, in their validity will withstand the test of time.

Each has benefitted significantly those who came within her purview."

The National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, an organization comprised of volunteers dedicated to education and service, takes great pride in the realization that each of the eleven outstanding Canadian women to whom we award our Centennial medal holds dear our principles of goodwill, justice and freedom.

*Mrs. Norman A. Loeb, Chairman
"Women of the Century, 1867-1967"*



Mrs. Lucien Lamoureux

The Women of the Century Awards are being presented by Mrs. Lucien Lamoureux, wife of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Mrs. Lamoureux, the former Claire Couture, was born in Hull, Quebec, daughter of a French-speaking father, Achile Couture, and an English-speaking mother, Edyth Battison. She has been fluently bilingual since she was a child.

Educated at the Hull Normal School and Ottawa Sacred Heart Convent, she then entered the University of Ottawa School of Drama and was associated with theatre groups in Ottawa and Hull.

In 1945 she married Lucien Lamoureux, then a young Ottawa lawyer. Later, Mr. Lamoureux became Member of Parliament for Stormont, and in 1966 was named Speaker. In the relatively short time he has held the post, he has earned the reputation of being one of the most tactful, witty, and knowledgeable Speakers in the history of the House of Commons.

Mrs. Lamoureux has been active in several cultural societies and charitable associations in Cornwall and Ottawa, particularly the Ligue de la Jeunesse Feminine and the National Federation of French-Canadian Women.



Mrs. Agnes Semmler

CANADIAN NORTH

Living in the North offers a unique kind of challenge. Survival itself becomes a major accomplishment; successfully raising a family is an achievement of the highest order; finding time for community work and for nursing the sick requires an almost superhuman effort.

All these things Mrs. Agnes Semmler has done, sometimes in the face of overwhelming odds.

A true child of the North, born at Old Crow near the Yukon-Alaska border, she met and married her husband at Coppermine on the coast of the Arctic Ocean and together they opened a small trading post at Cape Krusenstern, 60 miles to the north-east.

Life was anything but easy. She gave birth to two of her three children without any medical aid at all; two others died at birth. When illness struck, she nursed her family "with a medical book in one hand and a Bible in the other". When flu epidemics raged through the local Eskimo population, the Semmlers filled the void left by the lack of any doctor, "and we never lost a soul". Her work with the Eskimos won her trust and respect throughout the region; they came from as far away as Coppermine, some on crutches, to seek her help.

The years went by and the Semmlers eventually left Cape Krusenstern, moving first to Aklavik and then to Inuvik where they opened a new store.

With her three children and an adopted son now grown up, Mrs. Semmler became active in community work in Inuvik, helping to organize the Home and School Association, the Community Association, the Catholic Women's League, and the Women's Institute, and assisting in the formation of a Y.W.C.A. building program.

But despite this work, the triumph of her life, she feels, has been her family.

"My achievement has been raising a family up to adulthood, often in times of difficulty, stress, and isolation, and in seeing them aspire and go on to realize their aspirations," she says.

"My children learned the ways, and respect for the ways, of our native peoples. They learned to hunt, trap, and fish. We learned to live together, to love one another, and to respect the right of others to be different."



Mrs. Frank MacKenzie Ross

BRITISH COLUMBIA

There seems to be very little that Phyllis Gregory Ross has not accomplished during her life. In fact, it would require a full-length book to discuss in detail all her many and varied careers.

Born and educated in Rossland, British Columbia, she graduated with first-class honors in economics and political science from the University of British Columbia. She then did graduate work at Bryn Mawr College, the London School of Economics, and the University of Marburg.

Following completion of her studies, she married Leonard Hugh Turner and took up residence in England. They had two children; a daughter, Brenda, and a son, John, who today is Registrar-General in the Federal cabinet.

But Leonard Turner died only four years after the marriage. She returned to Canada and in January, 1934, joined the staff of the newly-organized Canadian Tariff Board in Ottawa.

When war was declared in 1939, she went to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board as economic adviser, and in 1941 she was appointed Oils and Fats Administrator, the only woman to hold such a position during the war.

In 1945 she married Frank MacKenzie Ross, who later became Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia from 1955 to 1960.

Mrs. Ross has held a wide number of posts in educational and charitable organizations, including the following: director of the Vancouver Symphony Society; director of the Playhouse Theatre Company; vice-president of the Canadian Centenary Council; honorary vice-president of the B.C. and Yukon division, Canadian Red Cross Society; president of the B.C. division, Canadian Cancer Society; president of the University Women's Club of Ottawa; and member of the first Board of Governors of Carleton University, Ottawa.

She was a member of the Senate and the Board of Governors of the University of British Columbia, and was named chancellor of the university, the first woman in Canada to hold such an office.

Mrs. Ross has been the recipient of honorary degrees from three universities and her many awards include the Commander of the Order of the British Empire; Dame of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem; Dame of Magistral Grace of the Sovereign Order of Malta; Cardinal Newman Award; Human Relations Award, Canadian Council of Christians and Jews; and the National Award of the Canadian Cancer Society.



Ruth Gorman

ALBERTA

For over 25 years, Dr. Ruth Gorman has been one of the leading figures in the struggle of Western Indians to protect their traditional rights.

Her father, Col. M. B. Peacock, K.C., had long been a champion of the rights of Indians in Alberta. When he died, his daughter, by then a lawyer herself, took up the cause, serving as unpaid legal advisor to Indian leaders, meeting with them to discuss problems, and helping to bring about reforms in areas where Indians had been deprived of civil rights or equal opportunity.

Perhaps her most outstanding work was conducting a five-year legal battle on behalf of the Indians after the government attempted to use ancient script agreements signed after the Riel rebellion to throw Indians off their reserves without compensation. Following successful completion of the case, she appeared before committees of the House of Commons and the Senate in Ottawa and persuaded the government to bring in legislation which paved the way for Indians to obtain the right to vote.

In recognition of her many years of devotion to their cause, the Stoney Indians made her a princess with the name Mountain White Eagle Girl, while the Crees made her a queen mother with the name Morning Star.

But her contributions to Alberta life have covered a variety of other fields besides her work with the Indians. She helped to organize and was the first president of the Calgary Society for Crippled Persons, which now operates the large Calgary Rehabilitation Centre. For over 25 years she has been legal advisor to Calgary's Council of Women, and in that capacity played a leading role in obtaining many badly-needed city reforms.

In 1965, without any previous experience in journalism, she launched into the precarious field of magazines with a publication called "My Golden West", devoted to Alberta life. The magazine was an instant success, and now has a circulation of 30,000. Furthermore, it set a new high standard for western publications; an article by Dr. Gorman was chosen to receive a Canadian Women's Press Club award for feature writing in Alberta.

She has been named Calgary's Woman of the Year and in 1961 the Junior Chamber of Commerce selected her as Citizen of the Year.



Hilda Neatby

SASKATCHEWAN

University professor, lecturer, editor, and author, Dr. Hilda Neatby has devoted her entire adult life to stimulating — and sometimes startling — the minds of Canadians.

Her book "So Little for the Mind", a biting critique of Saskatchewan's education system, became a nation-wide best-seller when it was published in 1953. She followed it one year later with another book on education, "A Temperate Dispute", and the two works provoked a widespread reappraisal of the aims and purposes of schooling.

Dr. Neatby has also shown a special interest in French Canada in her published works. She completed "The Administration of Justice Under the Quebec Act" in 1937 and last autumn published her most recent book, "Quebec, The Age of Revolution 1760-1791", a volume in the Canadian Centenary series that took her two years to research and write.

Her work has extended to a variety of other fields as well. From 1949 to 1951 she served as a member of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters, and Sciences; the commission headed by Vincent Massey. She was editor of Saskatchewan History from 1948 to 1951, Armstrong lecturer at Victoria College, University of Toronto in 1954, member and lecturer at the Quebec "Canada's Tomorrow" conference of November, 1953, and a frequent contributor to such publications as Dalhousie Review, Canadian Historical Review, and Queen's Quarterly.

Dr. Neatby was born in England but went to Saskatchewan with her family as a child. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1924. Following a year of study at the Sorbonne in Paris, she returned to Saskatoon to become an instructor in French at the University of Saskatchewan.

From 1931 to 1933 she was a teaching assistant at the University of Minnesota and obtained her doctorate there in 1934. She returned to the University of Saskatchewan in 1934 and has been associated with the school ever since except for a brief period in 1944-45 when she was a special lecturer in history at the University of Toronto. She is now head of the History Department at the University of Saskatchewan.



Irene Ayako Uchida

MANITOBA

Generations of unborn children will be able to live more useful, happy lives thanks to the research being carried on by Dr. Irene Uchida and her staff at the Winnipeg Children's Hospital.

Dr. Uchida's research into the multiple facets of mental retardation has centred around achieving a better understanding of the development and possible causes of birth defects and mental deficiency. She has been especially concerned with the genetic nature of certain inherited disorders of childhood, and has done extensive work on the chromosomal analysis of physical and mental disturbances in children. Studies such as these will lead to a more complete understanding of the genetic disturbances underlying many birth defects and, hopefully, to a foundation upon which may develop means of prevention and treatment.

Dr. Uchida was born in Vancouver. She was evacuated to the interior of British Columbia during the Second World War, where she acted as principal of an elementary school hurriedly set up for evacuated Japanese children. In 1951 she received a doctorate in human genetics from the University of Toronto and then joined the research staff of the Hospital for Sick Children. She remained there until 1959, when she went to the Department of Medical Genetics at the University of Wisconsin on a Rockefeller Fellowship. She went to Winnipeg in 1960 and was given the job of setting up a Department of Medical Genetics at the Children's Hospital.

Her publications include studies of chromosomal abnormalities in numerous diseases, the effects of environmental radiation on the occurrence of birth defects, and the use of palm and fingerprint analysis in the diagnosis of inherited diseases of childhood.

She is internationally known in her field, and is president-elect of the American Society of Human Genetics.



Alice Vibert Douglas

ONTARIO

One of Canada's leading astro-physicists, Dr. Alice Vibert Douglas has been a leading figure in the international scientific community for almost four decades.

Born in Montreal, Dr. Douglas received her B.A. M.Sc., and Ph.D. from McGill University before going to England where she studied at Cambridge under Rutherford and Eddington.

During the First World War she did statistical work in the War Office and the Ministry of National Service in London and in recognition of her contribution she was awarded the Order of the British Empire by King George V on Jan. 1, 1918.

Following the war, she returned to Canada where in 1923 she became a lecturer in physics and astrophysics at McGill. She held the post until 1939, when she was named Dean of Women at Queen's University, Kingston. In 1942, she became a Professor of Astronomy at Queen's, a post she held until 1963.

During the Second World War she served Canada as a member of the Canadian Youth Commission and as a member of the Government Advisory Committee on Reconstruction, her special field being the post-war problems of women.

She was president of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada from 1943-45, and delegate to seven general assemblies of the International Astronomical Union.

She was also a founding member of the first women's branch of the Canadian Institute for International Affairs, president of the International Federation of University Women from 1947-50, and a member of the I.F.U.W. committee for the award of research fellowships from 1937-55 and 1964-65.

In 1954, she served as a delegate from Canada to the UNESCO conference in Montevideo.

In 1956 she wrote a biography of Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington, O.M., the world-renowned British astronomer.

She is also the author of a large number of scientific papers, and has written articles for the Hibbert Journal, Atlantic Monthly, Discovery, and several university quarterlies.

McGill University awarded her an honorary degree in 1960, and she received an honorary D.Sc. from the University of Queensland in 1965.



Madame Thérèse F. Casgrain

QUEBEC

A fiery activist, Thérèse Casgrain has devoted her life to championing causes for women's rights, peace, and civil liberties. In the late 1920's she emerged as one of the strongest opponents of the second-class status to which women had long been relegated in Quebec society. Her League for Women's Rights, organized in 1928, became one of the most outspoken advocates of reform in the province, and during her 12 years as its president Madame Casgrain successfully fought to obtain the franchise for women in provincial elections and to win for women the right to be admitted to the bar.

During the war she was asked by the Federal Government to organize the Consumer Branch of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. But after the fighting was over she returned to her major field of interest: providing women with a more effective voice in Canadian society. To this end, she became co-organizer and national president of the Voice of Women in 1948 — a movement best known for promoting various peace and humanitarian causes. More recently, she organized the Federation of Quebec Women, which obtained its charter in 1966.

Madame Casgrain was born in Montreal, the daughter of Sir Rodolphe and Lady Forget. She married Pierre Casgrain who later became Speaker of the House of Commons and then Secretary of State in the King administration.

Now a grandmother — she has four children and 17 grandchildren — she still remains active in public life. She is president of the Civil Liberties Union, a member of the Quebec Government's Advisory Council on the Administration of Justice, and President of the Quebec Committee for Medical Aid to Viet Nam.

In 1966, Madame Casgrain was awarded the Order of the British Empire.



Nina Fried Cohen

NOVA SCOTIA

The life story of Nina Fried Cohen is one of service — service to her country, service to her community, service to her people. Her work in a wide range of fields has benefitted thousands of people; to some, it has meant the difference between life and death.

During the Second World War she worked actively on behalf of the Red Cross in five servicemen's hospitals in the Sydney area. She was responsible for the opening of a Red Cross Recreation Centre in Sydney, the only one on Cape Breton Island. With the consent of doctors, she took home hundreds of patients and nursed them back to health during advanced convalescence when a home environment was necessary for recovery. The experience taught her lessons about life she has never forgotten — and earned for her the Canadian Red Cross Society's Medal of Merit and a personal commendation from an Admiral of the U.S. Fleet for her work in caring for survivors of torpedoings off Cape Breton.

Since the war she has been a tireless worker on behalf of the Jewish people, both in Canada and Israel. She is deputy governor of Hebrew University, a member of the executive of the World Women's International Zionist Organization, national chairman of the Zionist Organization of Canada's Centennial Travel Contest, honorary president of the Hadassah-Wizo Organization of Canada, National Chairman of Foundations for Hadassah, and National Tourism Chairman of the Zionist Organization of Canada.

Her most imaginative work, however, has been as the inspirational and organizational force behind the Cape Breton Miners Museum, which will open in Sydney on July 31. A million-dollar Centennial project, the Miners Museum is a dramatic monument to Cape Breton's coal industry in which visitors will be able to walk through a prehistoric rain forest to see the first processes of coal formation, descend 65 feet below ground into a working mine, and see the last steam locomotive ever to haul coal in Cape Breton. She hopes eventually to surround the museum with a handicrafts village which will provide new jobs for miners who have been crippled in their work, or who are on pension.

She is also responsible for the founding of the Miners Folk Society and the chorus group Men of the Deep which is made up of 40 miners and is dedicated to the preservation of the traditional songs of the region.

She has received the Certificate of Public Distinction from the City of Saskatoon, was Woman of the Year in 1964, and was granted an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Mount Allison University.



Louise Manny

NEW BRUNSWICK

More than any other single person, Dr. Louise Manny is responsible for the preservation and perpetuation of the history and folklore of eastern New Brunswick. Her work as a folklorist and historian, her energy in preserving many historical landmarks, and her imagination in launching the annual Miramichi Folk Song Festival have preserved for future generations glimpses of a past that might otherwise have been lost.

Originally from Maine, Dr. Manny came to Canada as a child. After graduation from McGill University, she became secretary to a spoolwood business in Newcastle and there became interested in the history and folklore of the Miramichi area — a project that was to become her life's work.

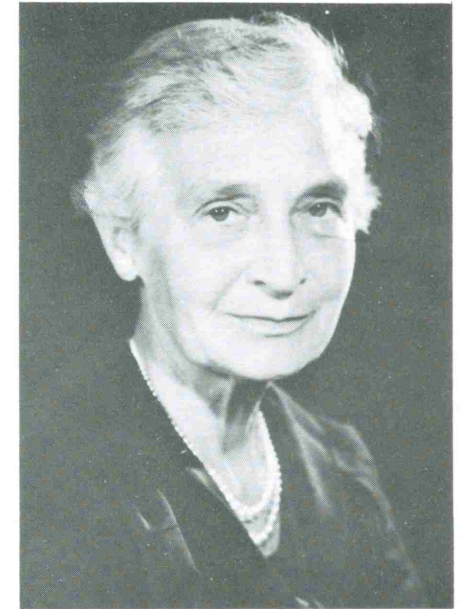
Soon she was writing a weekly column, "Scenes from an Earlier Day", for local newspapers. Before long she was doing broadcasts for radio on the same theme. Then her Miramichi folksong programs started, and have been on the air for almost 20 years. All this time her collection of early newspapers and documents on Miramichi history was reaching truly formidable proportions.

After the Second World War, Lord Beaverbrook undertook to restore the site of a 16th century Acadian mission in his home town and asked Dr. Manny to supervise the work. Later, he established a library in his boyhood home, Newcastle's old Presbyterian manse. Dr. Manny supervised the conversion, and was later appointed librarian. Another project she began about this time was the collection of old New Brunswick folksongs, collecting on tape the songs of the old lumbering days — the old ballads and "Come all ye" songs which record the history and legend of the Miramichi.

In 1958 she conceived the idea of the Miramichi Folk Song Festival, which now attracts interest throughout Canada and the United States.

Her published works include scores of newspaper and magazine articles, several works on ships and shipbuilding in New Brunswick, papers for the New Brunswick Historical Society collections, and, with James Reginald Wilson, a book entitled "Songs of the Miramichi".

Last August, Dr. Manny received a plaque from the American Association for State and Local History for her work as a folklorist and historical chronologer. The presentation was made in Newcastle by New Brunswick Lieutenant-Governor John B. McNair — fittingly enough, during the Folk Song Festival she started.



Mona G. Wilson

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

From the early 1920's until her recent retirement, Mona G. Wilson played a dominant role in the field of public health in Prince Edward Island. For 32 years she served as her province's director of public health nursing, and her work with the Red Cross led in 1963 to the presentation to her of a Florence Nightingale medal for service.

A graduate of the School of Nursing at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and of the University of Toronto's Public Health Nursing course, Miss Wilson served in France with the U.S. Army Nurse Corps during the First World War. From 1919-1922, she did hospital and public health work for the American Red Cross in Siberia, Albania, and Montenegro.

She went to Prince Edward Island in 1923 as chief Canadian Red Cross nurse at a time when the province suffered from a high infant mortality rate, a high tuberculosis death rate, and higher than normal incidence of smallpox. With no public health service in existence, she played a major role in the establishment and extension of the Red Cross infant and child welfare program.

In 1931, the province established a Department of Health and Miss Wilson was appointed director of public health nursing. In this role, she was the moving force in the organization of a wide variety of public health services including camps for crippled children, dental clinics, public health clinics, maternal classes, child health conferences, etc. When the Second World War broke out the Red Cross borrowed her back, first as assistant commissioner of the Canadian Red Cross Society in Newfoundland and then as a member of the Canadian Red Cross Overseas Headquarters in London.

At the end of 1946 she resumed her work as director of public health nursing in Prince Edward Island, and remained in that position until her retirement in 1961.

In 1935 Miss Wilson received the Order of the British Empire in recognition of her public service and in 1946 she was named an Officer of the Order as a tribute to her work in Newfoundland which was "in the forefront of the Battle of the Atlantic".

In 1963 she was presented with the Florence Nightingale medal, the only international award for nursing.



Mrs. Albert B. Perlin

NEWFOUNDLAND

Almost single-handedly, Elizabeth Vera Perlin has brought new hope to retarded children in Newfoundland. Stepping into what until then had been an aching void, she organized the first experimental classes for the retarded in a United Church Orphanage basement in St. John's in 1954. So overwhelming was the response that a second class had to be opened the following year, and the Newfoundland Association for the Help of Retarded Children was formed, of which she has been president since 1958.

The introduction of those special classes only served to point up to Newfoundlanders the widespread need that had to be met. Despite the scarcity of funds, Mrs. Perlin's Association was able to set up a full-scale school with five classes in 1959 in an old building purchased with the help of public contributions. By that time, the province had been made so aware of the problem through Mrs. Perlin's work in promoting the cause that when the Queen visited Newfoundland in 1959 the government's gift to her was an annual grant of \$10,000 for the work.

The following year Premier Smallwood offered to pay the cost of equipping a classroom and operating it for a year in any community where the Association could form a branch. Accepting the challenge, Mrs. Perlin travelled to all parts of the province and set up local branches and classrooms in five communities. Within the past two years, two more towns acquired classrooms.

Finally in 1966, Mrs. Perlin achieved her long-time ambition of having a specially built, functional school for the mentally retarded in St. John's. Built out of Association funds at a cost of \$150,000, the Elizabeth Vera Perlin School for Trainable Retardates was opened just one year ago by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province.

Mrs. Perlin's interests have also extended to other areas of education and welfare, however.

In 1940 she was co-organizer of the first Home and School Association in Newfoundland. She was chairman for three years of the first regional council of the Newfoundland Home and School Association. For five years she served as a member of the Government's Advisory Committee on Education. She was Newfoundland's representative at the Vanier Conference on the Family. She is a member of the Advisory Council of the Maritime Welfare Conference, the Newfoundland Rehabilitation Council, and the Canadian Welfare Advisory Council.