

WINTER 1995/96

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AVC Calendar

Vic Book Sale: Outstanding Results

◆ The Fourth Annual Vic Book Sale, sponsored by The Friends of the Library and the Alumni Secondhand Book Store, netted \$40,300, to be devoted entirely to assisting the Vic libraries. This success is due to the year-long efforts of alumni and friends. Volunteers are needed and welcome; please see page 16 for more information, and the AVC Calendar, page 15.

Teaching Award

◆ Nominations are invited for the 1996 Victoria University Teaching Award. All members of the teaching staffs of Emmanuel College and Victoria College, full- or part-time, are eligible. Nominations may be submitted by students, alumni or members of faculty, and each nomina-

tion must be co-signed by a student, alumnus or faculty member. If you wish to nominate an outstanding teacher, please write to Susan McDonald, Registrar, Northrop Frye Hall 106, Victoria University, 73 Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1K7, or by fax to (416) 585-4459, by January 31, 1996.

The Lillian Massey Building and Club Monaco

◆ In response to questions raised by the sight of construction hoardings at the corner of Bloor and Queen's Park, Dr. Larry Kurtz, Bursar of Victoria University, has released the following information to VIC Report.

In the late 1970s when U of T closed the Faculty of Food Sciences, the Lillian Massey Building reverted to Victoria University, fulfilling Lillian

Massey Treble's original bequest. Victoria then purchased the land under the building from U of T, and now has freehold title to the entire property.

The Ombudsman of Ontario is the major tenant in the building. Until 1992, Ontario's Police Complaints Commission occupied the ground floor of the north wing; when it moved out, the space was put on the market. Club Monaco, a Canadian-based fashion chain with 120 stores—in Canada, the United States, Japan, Korea and Thailand—made an attractive offer for this space plus the basement under it and the swimming pool (disused since the early 1960s) under the building's rear court.

Club Monaco is working closely with Victoria, the Toronto Historical Board and the City of Toronto in securing the approvals needed to renovate this space and open a "flagship" store fronting on Bloor Street this coming spring. Revenue from the lease will help Victoria continue its long and rich tradition of service to students as part of the U of T federation.

Public Lectures 1995-96

◆ The current series of Victoria College Public Lectures, *Freemasonry: Fact and Fiction*, takes place on Tuesday evenings in the Emmanuel lecture hall at 7:00 pm.

On February 27, Professor Wallace McLeod (Vic 5T3) will speak on "The Origins and Nature of Freemasonry"; March 5, Professor Jay Macpherson's subject is "18th-Century Continental Freemasonries: Occultists and Radicals"; on March 12, Professor Barrie Hayne will present "The Nineteenth Century and Beyond".



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Vic Attracts Impressive Students

An estimated increase of 18 percent in first-year enrolment at Victoria has resulted in residences which are full, and no lack of aspiring talent for The Bob.

The quality of the student body remains impressive. For example, 11 winners of the 14 Arbor Awards for U of T admission chose Victoria College.

We attribute this success to the reputation of your *alma mater*, to the increase in scholarships and bursaries we were able to award this year, and to the efforts and initiatives of the staff, who organized events like the open house held in June for student applicants and their parents; about 300 toured the campus, met faculty members and enjoyed a garden party.

This good news has put some wind in our sails. The Board has decided to complete the renovation of the Burwash residences. With work on the Lower Houses now complete, the Upper Houses need to be brought up to contemporary fire and safety standards. With your help, we hope to be able to continue to house our excellent and burgeoning student body well.

— Dr. Roseann Runte



New Sculpture for Vic Campus

◆ In July 1995, the campus outside the south door of Emmanuel College was adorned with a bronze sculpture by Maryon Kantaroff, the gift of Nancy Ruth (formerly Jackman). Pictured above, Paul Fox (Vic 4T4), then chairman of the Board of Regents, Maryon Kantaroff, Nancy Ruth, President Roseann Runte, and Professor Alice Rathé, who chairs the Senate Art Committee. For some weeks in the fall, the sculpture presided serenely over the excavation of the former Emmanuel gymnasium, which has been redeveloped as an electronic classroom.

LIONS, a MUMMY, and a MYSTERY

Tales from our Cobourg years

By Birgitte Nielsen Worrall



GOTO THE CORNER OF UNIVERSITY AND College—no, not in Toronto, but eastward down the lake, in Cobourg. Face north toward the rise of land across the road and the original Victoria University campus. What you will see is the birthplace of Victoria College—a stately three-storey white building in the Greek Revival style, with soaring Doric columns, topped off by an elongated cupola. What you will not see, beyond the pine trees in the empty field to the east, is Faraday Hall, a fanciful creation in grey limestone and red brick, with tall striped chimneys and a square tower with a strange cylinder on top. Faraday Hall was Victoria University's science building and stood on that land for thirty years. Victoria College is now empty and for sale; Faraday Hall was demolished in 1909. But the end is perhaps neither so final nor so sad as it may seem.

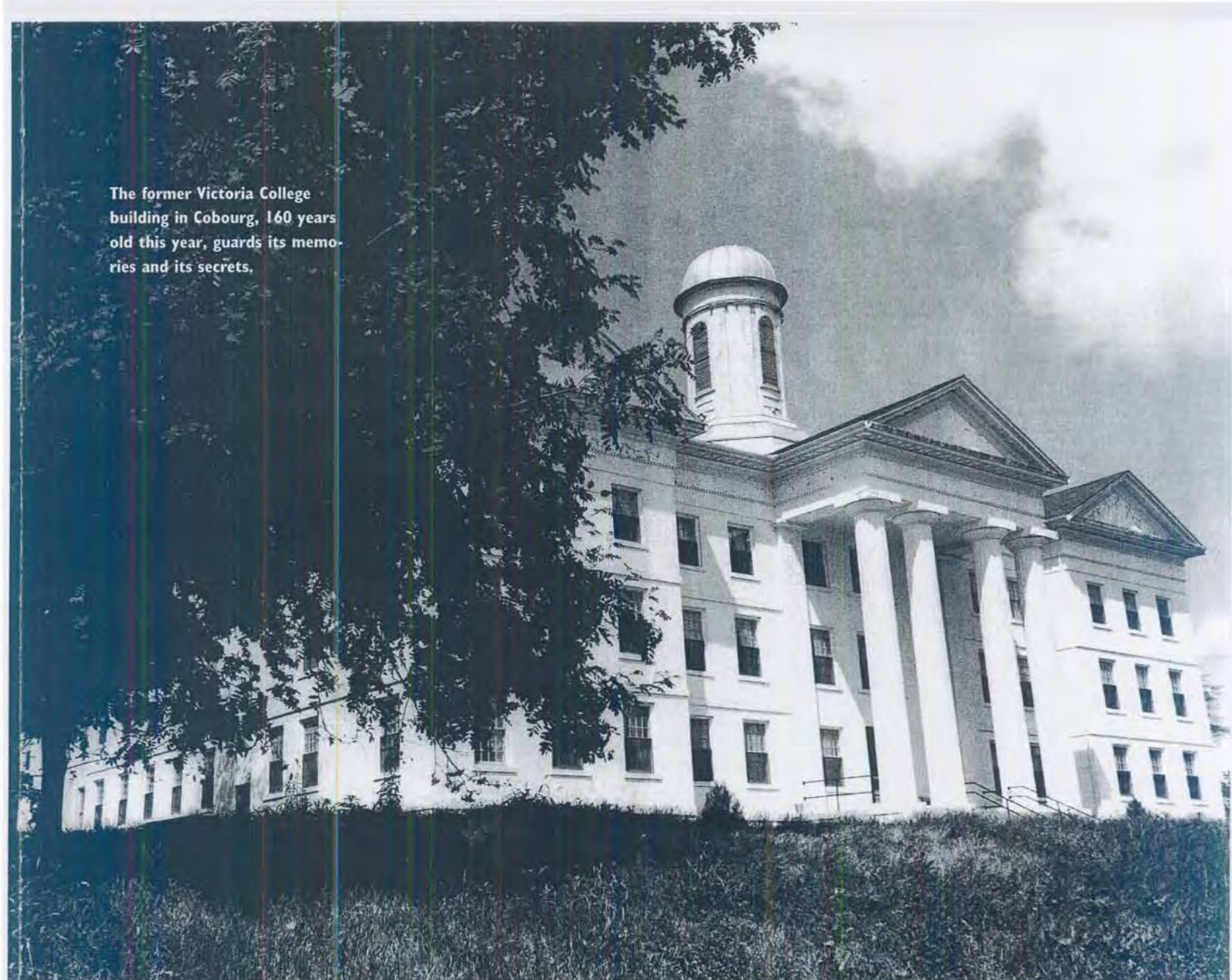
In 1830, the Methodist Conference decided to build a seminary of learning. In 1831, in Hallowell (now Picton), a committee of seven men met in the depths of winter and chose Cobourg as the site over York, Colborne, Belleville, Kingston, and Brockville. A preparatory academy, the school would lead

the movement for democracy in education, with modest fees and without rigid religious study. Choosing the name "Upper Canada Academy" was, no doubt, a poke in the ribs of the Toronto Establishment and its "Upper Canada College". The cornerstone was laid on June 7, 1832, when enough funds had been gathered by popular subscription to proceed with construction. Architect Edward Crane ordered 100 cords of building stone and 300,000 bricks and set his men to work. On June 18, 1836, the doors finally opened to this grand hall built to accommodate 90 boarders and their teachers. From their hill-top home, the lucky students enjoyed a sweeping view down over the busy town and out over Lake Ontario with its steamer traffic. They had most likely arrived by lake steamer themselves, if not on a bone-jarring journey with Cobourg-based Weller's stagecoach line.

Four months later, on October 12, after 19 months of effort in England, Egerton Ryerson finally secured a Royal Charter for the school from King William IV. Significantly, this was the first Royal Charter granted to an institution not aligned with the Church of England.

While both boys and girls attended the Academy, they lived in separate wings of the building and as separately in every

The former Victoria College building in Cobourg, 160 years old this year, guards its memories and its secrets.



respect as their teachers could manage. Girls and boys sat apart in the dining hall and the chapel and were made to march in separate columns to and from church. Classroom instruction was also mainly separate, for boys and girls were offered different curricula. Boys studied Greek and Latin; girls studied French. In each room, two students slept in one bed, and their days began at five a.m.

Egerton Ryerson, farseeing mentor of Upper Canada Academy, had higher plans for the school. He envisioned a university. On August 27, 1841, a provincial statute established Victoria College as a university degree-granting institution—The University of Victoria College—although university-level operations did not begin until October of 1842, with Ryerson as the first principal. Coincidentally, Queen Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent, had given a sum of money towards financing Upper Canada Academy back in 1836, shortly before her daughter ascended the throne.

This new university may have borne the name of a young woman, but young women were now banned from attending. The American trend of co-educational education gave way to the English style of male-oriented universities. Women would be welcomed instead at the Ladies' Seminary in Cobourg, or at

the Cobourg Female Academy, and later, at the Brookhurst Academy established next door to Vic. Gradually, women were allowed to attend lectures, although not to attain full degrees. Mary Crossen was the first woman to take lectures with the men at Vic, earning in 1877 the fine designation Mistress of English Literature, which was not, however, considered the equivalent of a full Arts and Science degree. Mary was smuggled into the lecture room escorted by Chancellor Nelles through a door from his private residence so that she did not (horrors) have to face the stares of the young men in the halls. Not until 1880, when Nellie Greenwood of Cobourg enrolled in the science department, would women students again walk through the corridors of Vic and attend lectures on an equal basis with the men. "Of course, such a rare sight as a lady attending College excited at first great amazement, but as she came and went to and from her classes in a quiet, unobtrusive, and lady-like manner, our surprise gradually passed away, and we grew to respect her more and more." (*Acta Victoriana*, April, 1884.) Nellie graduated with a B.Sc. in 1884 and so became the first female graduate of a Victoria College, Cobourg, course of study. Augusta Stowe had graduated in 1883 from the Faculty of Medicine sponsored by Vic but locat-

Cover Story



William Bartlett sketched "Cobourg" on a trip to Upper Canada in 1838, two years after Upper Canada Academy opened. The resulting engraving (above) appears in *Canadian Scenery*, published in 1842. A May 3, 1836, advertisement from the Cobourg Star laying out fees, living conditions, and staff of the soon-to-be-opened Upper Canada Academy.

UPPER CANADA ACADEMY ADVERTISEMENT COURTESY OF COBOURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

ed in Toronto. Vic sponsored a similar French-speaking Faculty of Medicine, in Montreal, and was also associated with a Faculty of Law in Montreal, L'Institut Canadien de Montréal. In 1873, the College established a Faculty of Theology at the Cobourg campus.

In 1850, the Victoria College Act was proclaimed, laying the ground for the eventual move to Toronto. The Act allowed that the Board of Trustees, if at any time they deemed it expedient, might remove the College from Cobourg to Toronto, Toronto being the hoped-for home of a provincial university of federated colleges. But in the meantime, Victoria College provided a social centrepiece and a definite intellectual *cachet* for Cobourg, with sporting contests to attend (football and alley were most popular), picnics, musicales, debates, and learned speakers such as Alexander Graham Bell. Townspeople could even entertain themselves watching students sweat through their oral exams. So it was not surprising that local politicians, fearing for Cobourg's already floundering economy, fought hard to keep the College in town when, in 1887, after decades of complex discussions, the decision was finally taken, for both financial and philosophical reasons,

to federate with the University of Toronto. Not only did most Cobourg citizens passionately oppose the move, so did the students and alumni of the day. Even a lawsuit by the town could not stand in the way for long.

The actual journey up the lake to the big city did not happen until 1892. It is said that on the eve of the last graduation exercises to be held at Cobourg, disgruntled students found a key to the biology lab and fetched a skeleton. They carried it up onto the roof and tied it by its neck to the tower with a long rope, leaving it to swing for all to see until it fell in pieces to the ground below. Such protest was futile; the University of Victoria College packed its bags and its books and said a fond farewell to Cobourg.

But the Cobourg years live on in Vic traditions. Our college song, "The Old Ontario Strand" (contentious lyrics notwithstanding) stems from Cobourg, as does *Acta Victoriana* which was first published in 1878. The first raucous "Bob" party was held

UPPER CANADA ACADEMY.
SITUATED AT
COBOURG, IN THE NEWCASTLE DISTRICT.
The Committee of Management for this Institution, have found it necessary to fix upon the 18th of June next for the opening of said Academy, instead of the fourth, as formerly advertised in the Christian Guardian.

TERMS.

1. Board, including washing, fuel, lights, pr. ann. £ 22 0 0
2. Tuition—the minor branches of English education, including Reading, Writing, Grammar, Arithmetic, Book-keeping and Geography, per quarter 0 15 0
3. The higher branches of ditto—including Astronomy, Chemistry, Natural and Moral Philosophy, &c. &c.—per quarter 1 3 0
4. Latin, Greek, and Mathematics—per quarter 1 10 0
5. French—per quarter 1 10 0
6. Drawing and Painting 2 0 0
7. Music 0 5 0
8. Use of Piano 0 5 0

It will be expected that each student will furnish two sheets, two pillow-cases and towels, and that payments for Board and Tuition will be made quarterly in advance.

There are to be two students in each room, occupying the same bed; and any students furnishing their room with bed and bedding, shall have £1 each, or £2 between them, deducted from their board, which will make it amount to £21 per annum for each.

The Officers of the institution are as follows:—
1. Principal—Rev. Matthew Ritchey.
2. Professor of Languages and Mathematics—Not yet elected.

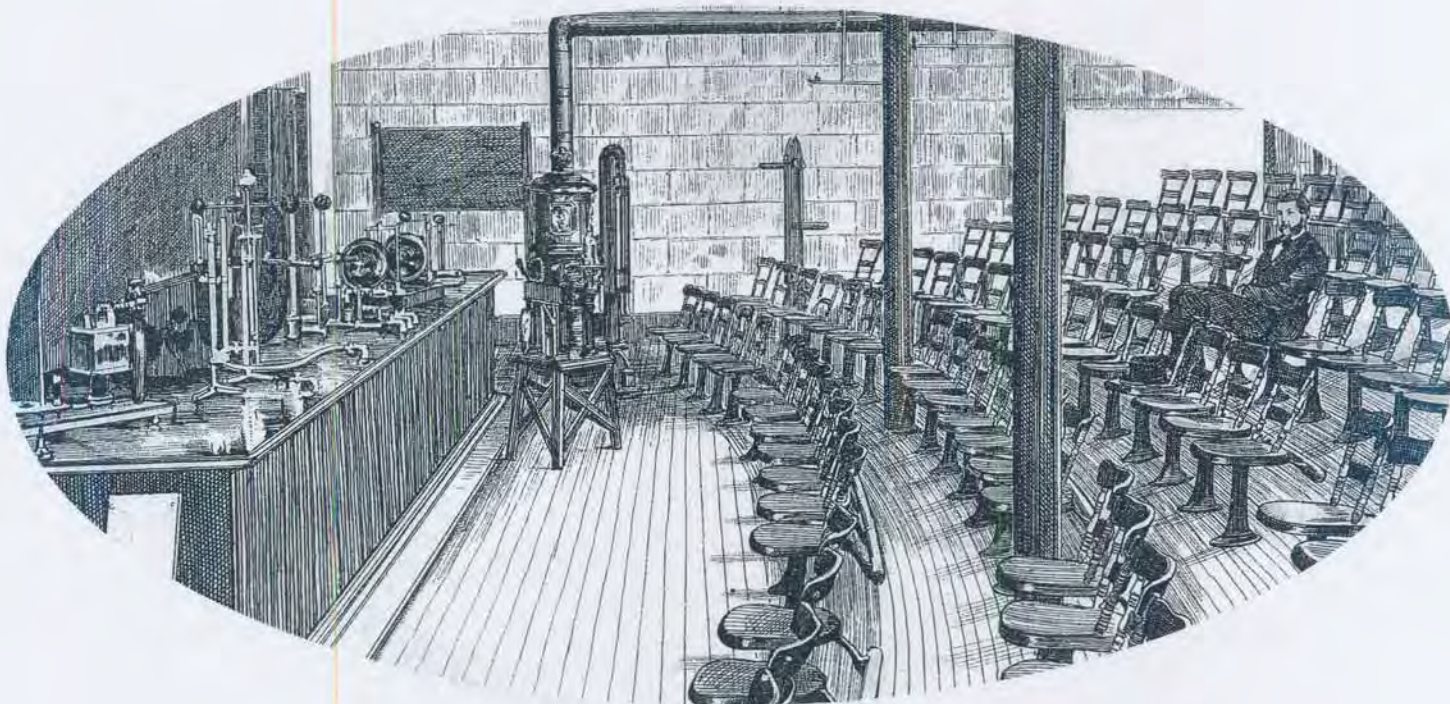
3. English Teacher—Mr. Henry Evans.
4. Preceptor—Mrs. Henry Evans.

5. Steward—Mr. C. Allison.

JOSEPH STINSON,
Secretary Conference Committee.

May 3d, 1836.

Cover Story



A *Canadian Illustrated News* engraving of Professor Haanel seated in Faraday Hall's lecture room and amphitheatre, state-of-the-art for 1878.

geological specimens, an Egyptian collection—including a mummy—contributed by the Rev. Dr. Lachlin Taylor, Indian masks and carvings from western Canada, and a meteorite, "the largest to date ever discovered" according to the *Christian Guardian* of June 12, 1878. "But [it] is now next to the largest as some relic-seeker has decreased its weight." That meteorite is now known as the Iron Creek meteorite and is on loan to the provincial museum in Edmonton where it is at least a little closer to the sacred Indian site where the Rev. Macdougall "discovered" it in 1859. The giant meteorite had been an object of deep veneration for the Indians who called it the Manitou Stone, a man's profile being clearly visible when the stone is viewed at just the right angle.

The mummy has stayed much closer to Vic, I'm happy to report. The entire museum collection moved to Toronto in 1892 and for a time was housed on the third floor of the newly-built Victoria College. Charles Trick Currelly, himself a Vic grad, took great interest in expanding the college collection. Supported by Chancellor Nelles, he received funding from the alumni and the Board of Regents and was out buying



by 1903. A few years later, however, Vic wanted out of the museum business. Currelly's dream of a provincial museum was finally realized when the Royal Ontario Museum opened in 1914. The Victoria Collection moved once more and "our" Egyptian mummy, Vic's oldest resident, is now receiving visitors just across the road. His name is Antjau; he lies in his sarcophagus, the inside lid of which is painted with the sky-goddess Nut who holds her arms over him. Quite a change from the days when he used to tour around in the back of a buckboard as the Rev. Taylor travelled the countryside lecturing.

I am equally pleased to report that parts of Faraday Hall itself have survived. A Gothic window, some three metres tall, from above the entrance of Faraday was rescued from a demolished building on Division Street by the Cobourg Historical Society and is presently resting among other treasures in the Cobourg Archives. The Cobourg Historical Society has recently decided to use an artist's rendering of the graceful window as their symbol. And—if you walk up Division Street from King, you just might find, on the east side, two grinning lion heads. Removed from their perches high on the corners of the Faraday Hall tower and incorporated into the façade of what was once George Thompson's new general store, they are obviously happy to have survived. Look for them.

Birgitte Nielsen Worrall (Vic 770) is a Toronto photographer; she photographed the Vic building in Cobourg, on the front cover and page 4/5, and the lions, above and page 4. (Please also see page 2.)