

A Trans-Atlantic Effort - Building the Elsie M. Bartlett Endowment Fund

Tina Alto, Director of Development

This past fall I received an exciting proposition from alumna Jennifer R. McQueen RLS'47, now residing in England. During the May Centennial Reunion, Miss McQueen and fellow Rupert's Land alums discussed the Elsie M. Bartlett scholarship fund. They wondered how they could bolster the fund; beyond the amounts raised by Marianne (Burwood) Hollamby's (RLS'48) book *I Remember it in Colour*, so that it could sustain itself in perpetuity.

The idea - contact surviving Rupert's Land alums as soon as possible! As so they have, with the help of Winnipegger Betty Jo (Ball) Johnson RLS'48, sent letters, updated addresses and hopefully reached as many of their fellow alums as possible.

Elsie M. Bartlett began her relationship with Rupert's Land teaching Senior Math from 1930-35 at which time she was forced to return to England on family matters. A highly respected and loved educator, she returned in 1937, at the request of the Rupert's Land Board of Governors, to assume the position of Principal, which she held until the amalgamation with Riverbend School in 1950.

On September 3rd, 1939, Great Britain declared war on Germany, and a week later Canada followed suit. One of the consequences of war was the evacuation of children out of London because of the nightly German bombing. Many children were sent to Canada for the duration of the war to ensure their safety; several arrived at Rupert's Land College.

They were enrolled at half the tuition, through the kindness of local donors. According to a letter from Principal Bartlett to one father, this arrangement was made "knowing that all parents concerned would do all they could after the war to cover the costs of their children's schooling."

As a personal tribute to Miss Bartlett, Marianne Hollamby, one of several evacuated children, distributed her memoirs freely asking only that a donation be directed to establish the endowment of the Elsie M. Bartlett Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is awarded to a returning student in grade nine. The student receives a \$1,000 towards their tuition.

Through the efforts of Jennifer McQueen, also evacuated, and classmate Betty Jo (Ball) Johnston the race is now on to endow this fund so that it lives in perpetuity as a tribute to an extraordinary lady. To secure an annual scholarship of \$1,000 in perpetuity, a minimum of \$20,000 needs to be endowed. As of February 12, 2003 \$1,802 has been received and we thank all the alumnae who have contributed however we have a considerable way to go. Please consider a donation to build this endowment fund. Please indicate that your donation is to go towards the Elsie M. Bartlett Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Should you be unable to make a contribution at this time please remember - Where there is a Will there is a Way! A Bequest is an attractive way to ensure you have the financial resources you need today and still remember and recognize those who have contributed significantly to your life. Please contact the development office at (204) 784-1614 for detailed information on leaving a legacy.