

# UNB President Anderson to get \$92,000 mansion



Photo by Danielle Thibeault

This is the President's mansion - 58 Waterloo Row - that the Board of Governors voted to purchase last Thursday. The university and the President maintain that Sommerville House, donated by Lord Beaverbrook, was exchanged for this one, and so no money was lost. Saint John Mayor Bob Lockhart, however, calls the purchase "extravagant" in light of the university's present financial status.

## Anderson says house 'suitable'

CHRIST CHURCH, BARBADOS - President John Anderson, in Barbados for a holiday before taking up his new duties, says he's glad the word is out on his new house. "There's no reason why it shouldn't be made public," he told The BRUNSWICKAN in a tele-

phone interview.

He said the deal would cost the university nothing. Sommerville House, given by Lord Beaverbrook as the official residence of the President, would have required extensive renovations, said Ander-

son. "The Bird house, as I like to call it, is all ready."

The New Brunswick Development Corporation is in Sommerville House right now, he said, and they couldn't get out in the near future, so we made the trade.

Anderson said he'll be moving in May 1, although he begins work here on March 1. There are still people in it - "one of them will be writing their examinations" - and so he won't be moving in until then.

"No money changed hands - there's half a dozen of one and six of the other. I understand that the appraised values of Sommerville House and 58 Waterloo Row are almost identical."

He said that he has been to Fredericton to see the house, and finds it "most suitable indeed. It's the sort of house a university the size of UNB would expect the President to live in."



Photo by Danielle Thibeault

Sommerville House sold

By EDISON STEWART  
Editor In Chief

The University of New Brunswick has purchased a \$92,000 residence for incoming President John M. Anderson, The BRUNSWICKAN has learned.

Fifty-eight Waterloo Row - a former residence of a Supreme Court Justice, Premier Robichaud, and Lieutenant Governor Wallace Bird - has an assessed value of \$55,169.

The purchase of the house was approved last Thursday at a Board of Governors meeting in Saint John. As far as we can determine the motion to purchase was passed with only one nay vote - that of Saint John Mayor Robert Lockhart. He charged the purchase was "extravagant."

The money for the purchase came from the sale of Sommerville House, also on Waterloo Row. Sommerville House was the Fredericton residence of Lord Beaverbrook, until he decided to give it to the university. Its purpose - the official residence of the President.

But it has had several duties. It was the residence of the UNB Law School until it moved to Ludlow Hall. Then it was rented out to the provincial government. Thursday, the Board decided to sell Sommerville to the government for \$92,000. It now houses the New Brunswick Development Corporation.

The BRUNSWICKAN polled several members of the Board of Governors this week but only one - Mayor Lockhart - expressed disappointment with the Board's action. Lockhart told this newspaper Wednesday that he considers this to be "an excessive amount when the university is in financial difficulty. If we had a limitless supply of funds and everything was hunky-dory, well that would be a different situation."

He refused to comment on what any other Board member said at the meeting. I can only speak for myself, he said, "everything else is private."

Gordon Fairweather, MP for Fundy-Royal and a member of the Board, said in an Ottawa interview that while he didn't make last week's meeting, "I would have made the same decision had I been there."

"Why is it New Brunswickers are always miserly for those who serve the province?" he asked. "It's a fairly sad commentary on the priorities of social issues facing New Brunswick."

"What, after all, is an acceptable house? \$40,000? \$50,000?"

He said he couldn't get "excited" about it. "The President's entitled to living accommodation. One of the conditions of getting a president, presumably, is living accommodation."

Student Governor Ken De Freitas wouldn't comment much on the purchase. He did say, however, that he seconded the motion to buy the house.

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