

Henry Hicks

CC 26/06/70



The Hon. Henry Davies Hicks, CC, QC, B.Sc., B.C.L., M.A., D.C.L., D.Ed., LL.D., will retire in

August as president of Dalhousie University. He will miss the students ("We were very fortunate, we didn't have the confrontations. Our students were not difficult in the sixties, and they have not been as placid in the seventies"), and he will work harder on his stamp collection and as a member of the Canadian Senate.

The president, senator and former premier (of Nova Scotia) was born in Annapolis, Nova Scotia, in 1915 and began almost immediately to have a brilliant career. He graduated in succession from Mount Allison University, Dalhousie, Exeter College, Oxford (where he acquired the B.Sc., the B.C.L. and the M.A.), St. Ann's College and King's College. He practiced law, served as a captain in World War II, was elected to the Nova Scotia legislature and worked his way up to the top, and then went to Dalhousie, as dean of Arts & Science and became first vice-president, then president. He was named to the Senate in 1972.

Edith Pinet

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Edith Pinet of New Brunswick has been a rural nurse since the 1920s. Fluently bilingual, she delivers babies, soothes the frightened, comforts the afflicted and keeps a small store on the side that carries groceries and tobacco. She has five daughters who are also nurses.

"I just had a grade 4 education, but I learned things at home, and I thought that I would make a little white lie and apply to a nursing school in Quebec. I said I had the equivalent of Grade 13 and I was accepted.

"After I graduated and started out, I was on my own. Today to be a nurse is to be supervised by doctors. Well I was alone, and I always thought that if I gave the best of me, everything would end up all right. And that's how it came about. I was my own boss, but I never stepped on the doctors' toes. I would give I don't know how many injections a day, and I even survived an epidemic of scarlet fever. I used to go from house to house and inoculate all the children — those were days I'll never forget.

"When I started out it was pure poverty. There was no money after 1928 and in the 1930s. You just had to do your best and thank the Lord for all the good things. I travelled by sleigh and by big tractors — whichever way I could go.

"I still see patients. I love people and I especially love the poor because they will tell you more than they would to a doctor. Confinements especially. I guess a woman is a woman. We understand one another better. I let them know that there is nothing to worry about. If it's a bad case, there's always a hospital.

"When I'm not nursing I stay home. I have a very limited social life. I never enjoyed going out anyway, so I like people to come to my home. I'm never alone. There is always a patient dropping in, or a friend.

"You must learn to keep fit and that when you have a little ailment you will get over it. I had a cancer removed in the fall and it didn't bother me at all. I was only off for about one month. I have enjoyed life to the fullest and still do.

"I would tell young people, don't smoke, don't drink and don't overdo sex. If you go into nursing you must be armed with courage and go to the end and do your utmost for the human being that is facing you."

Charles R. Catto

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Reverend Charles R. Catto is executive director of Operation Beaver and its governing body, the Frontiers Foundation. A Presbyterian minister, he served in Zambia, Africa, and with the Cree Indians at God's Lake, Manitoba, before joining Operation Beaver.

Operation Beaver began in 1964, and since then more than 1,100 skilled volunteers, 17 to 70, have helped build new homes in 126 poor communities in Canada (most often with native peoples) and in 22 other nations.