

Marie Hammond Callaghan

Dr. Marie Hammond Callaghan passed away on November 19, 2015, after a long, courageous battle with breast cancer. A noted feminist scholar and activist, Marie was associate professor in Women's and Gender Studies and History at Mt. Allison University. She came to Mt. Allison in 2002 to teach as the only full-time faculty member in the Women's and Gender Studies program, but she was also a graduate of Mt. Allison (BA, 1985, BEd, 1986). She subsequently completed a Masters in Education at the University of Toronto (1990), and her PhD in Women's Studies at the National University of Dublin (2004).

A dedicated feminist, Marie worked as Provincial Representative for the Nova Scotia Voice of Women on VOW's National Board, and she co-ordinated and assisted with a variety of regional and national VOW events throughout the 1990s. She was also VOW's liaison with other women's organizations, working to achieve VOW's objectives in educating and organizing for a variety of issues including gender and racial equality, peace, and social justice.

Women's peace activism continued to be one of Marie's greatest passions, and, beginning with her doctoral thesis, her scholarly research and writing was centered on women's peace movements in Ireland and Canada, especially during the Cold War Era. She was also a gifted teacher who believed that teaching could be, among many things, a form of activism; and, indeed, she inspired many of her students to become feminist activists themselves.

Women's and Gender Studies was a fledgling program when Marie took up her position in 2002. Nevertheless, under her dedicated and tireless guidance the program has become an essential constituent of the Arts and Social Sciences at Mt. Allison. Further, her gifted organization of many events and public lectures has established an important tradition of gender and activism-focused public events at the university.

Dearly loved and valued by her family, her friends, her colleagues and her students, Marie was central in the life of her community. We will long grieve her death and our loss of this wonderful woman.

Dr. Elaine Naylor is Associate Professor at the History Department, Mount Allison University.



CANADIAN VOICE OF WOMEN FOR PEACE

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A Giant in Maritime History: E.R. “Ernie” Forbes

The Maritime Provinces lost one of the region’s most influential and distinguished historians last week, with the death of E. R. (Ernie) Forbes, professor emeritus at the University of New Brunswick.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Forbes became widely recognized as Canada’s leading interpreter of the twentieth-century history of the Maritime Provinces. His books, articles, essays and lectures challenged prevailing stereotypes about the history of the Maritimes and introduced Canadians to the special qualities of the regional identity.

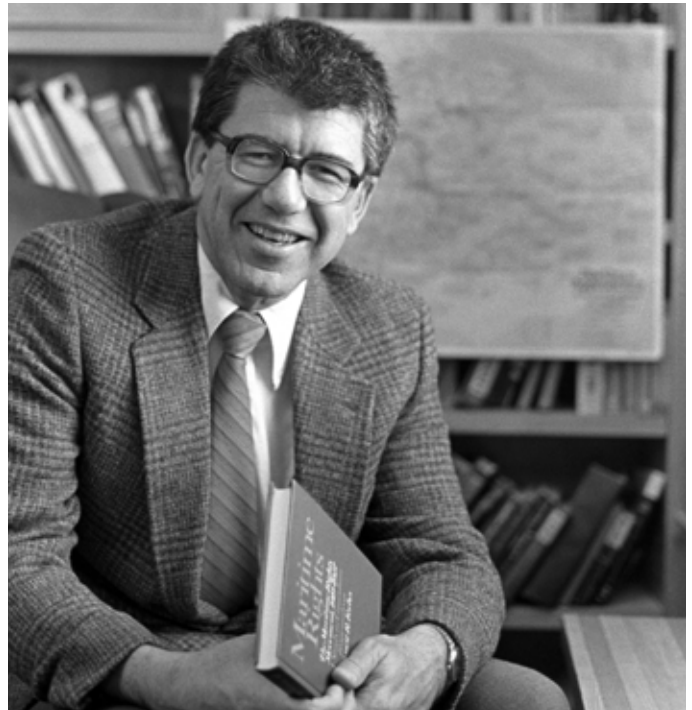
His prize-winning book, *The Maritime Rights Movement, 1919-1927: A Study in Canadian Regionalism*, is considered a model study of regionalism within the Canadian community. His explanation of regional protest showed how Maritimers helped put regional disparity on the Canadian agenda, not in calls for separatism but in the quest for a fuller and more cooperative federalism. The same idea is found in all of his writing, and it forced Canadian historians to make more room for Atlantic Canada in the national narrative.

One of his longtime friends recalls that when Ernie first delivered his paper on the Maritime regional stereotype to a public audience, he received the nearest thing to a standing ovation ever seen at the Atlantic Canada Studies Conference. That study is a centrepiece in one of his other books, *Challenging the Regional Stereotype: Essays on the 20th-Century Maritimes*. The chapters cover many parts of the region’s political and social history, including early feminism, churches and social reform, temperance and rum-running, freight rates, federal-provincial relations and constitutional reform.

By the 1990s, E.R. Forbes was one of the most quoted scholars in Canadian history. His articles were frequently reprinted, and anyone working in the field of Canadian history, whatever their specialty, was expected to be familiar with his work. Graduate students cited him in their dissertations, and public servants and politicians read him to understand their own challenges.

Ernie was a remarkable scholar in his own right, but he always saw himself as part of a team who were creating an informed public knowledge of the region’s neglected modern history. Much of that work was focused around the activities of the journal of regional history, *Acadiensis*, where he was a mainstay on the editorial board for more than thirty years.

As the leader of a network of scholars at several universities, Ernie was instrumental in producing the first modern general history of the Atlantic provinces, co-edited with Del Muijs of Carleton University and published in 1993 under the title *The Atlantic Provinces in Confederation*. It became a standard text in history courses, the kind that students of Ernie’s age never had the opportunity to take when they were in school.



Several generations of Ernie’s students have appreciated the close and caring attention he gave them. He taught at all levels, from general interest and introductory courses in Canadian history to specialized ones on the Atlantic region at the senior and graduate levels. He supervised more than thirty graduate dissertations at the University of New Brunswick and influenced many more well beyond.

No one who worked with Ernie Forbes failed to appreciate the dedication and discipline he brought to his work. But colleagues and students also knew his determination to maintain a healthy balance between his professional work and the family life that he shared with Irene and their children, James and Sarah. He gave special attention to this theme in lively personal style in *The Education of an Innocent: An Autobiography by E.R. “Ernie” Forbes*, published in 2012.

His was a modest life, lived in the enjoyment of work, family and the outdoors, and in service to his community, church, region and country. Those of us who worked alongside him were privileged to know him, and are greatly saddened to learn the outcome of his long battle with Parkinson’s.

Born in Bayfield, N.B. in 1940, Dr. Forbes grew up in a succession of rural settings and small towns in the Maritimes and the Gaspé before going on to study at Mount Allison, Dalhousie and Queen’s universities. After teaching at the University of Victoria for several years, he joined the Department of History at the University of New Brunswick in 1974 and retired in 2000. He was named professor emeritus in 2001.

David Frank has taught Canadian history at the University of New Brunswick for more than thirty years. He is a former editor of Acadiensis: Journal of the History of the Atlantic Region.