

Frances Morrison

b. Sept. 28, 1918, Saskatoon, SK; d. Aug. 14, 2011, Saskatoon, SK

Education:

Bachelor of Home Economics 1938 (University of Saskatchewan)
BLS 1947 (University of Toronto)

Positions:

1943-1947 Library Assistant, Children's Department, Saskatoon Public Library
1948-1951 Reference, Librarian, Saskatoon Public Library
1951-1961 Assistant Chief Librarian, Saskatoon Public Library
1961-1980 Chief Librarian, Saskatoon Public Library

Associations/Committees:

Saskatchewan Library Association, President, 1951-52
Canadian Library Association (Vice President)
Saskatchewan Arts Board (Chair)
Meewasin Valley Authority; Saskatchewan Business and Professional Women's Club; YWCA Saskatoon;
Saskatoon Heritage Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation

Accomplishments:

Expansion of the Saskatoon Public Library Services. A new main library building for Saskatoon (Named the Frances Morrison Library) opened in 1966.
Created the Saskatoon Library's Audiovisual Department; Fine Arts Dept. and Local History Room.

Comments:

Frances rose from a beginning non-professional library position to the position of Chief Librarian. She was the first woman to head a Saskatoon civic department . She was married to Rev. Harvey Morrison and the couple had one son. After the death of her husband in 1943, she was a single mother looking to make a living for herself and her son. She returned to University to obtain her degree in Library Science. She treated her staff at the Saskatoon Public Library like family and had a strong ability to delegate. She had actually been manager of the library long before her appointment as chief librarian. She was always aware of community needs and expanded the Saskatoon Public Library for the community embracing new technologies and needs.

Honours:

1977 Queen’s Silver Jubilee Medal

1980 Naming of the Saskatoon main library the Frances Morrison Library

1981 Canadian Library Association Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award

1989 YWCA Woman of the Year Award, Community Service Category

1993 Canada 125 Medal for exemplary volunteer service to the Province of Saskatchewan

1999 Saskatchewan Order of Merit

University of Saskatchewan College of Arts and Sciences cited her among 100 graduates of Influence

Frances Morrison Award of merit is awarded by the Saskatchewan Library Association to individuals who had provided outstanding service to libraries in the province.

Sources:

Ewing Weise, Chris. “She turned the Saskatchewan library into a regional force.” The Globe and Mail, August 29, 2011, p.10.

Giles, Suzette (2012). “Libraries named after librarians.” ELAN no.53 (FALL): 11-12.

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