

COMMUNITY

Book chronicles city's

by **BERNICE TRICK**
Citizen staff

The College of New Caledonia Press has published a new history book that shows the history of Prince George architecture during the past 50 years.

Reflections on Architects and Architecture in Prince George, 1950 to 2000, contains the story of local retired architect, Trelle Morrow, compiled with photographs by historical geographer Kent Sedgwick.

Kathy Plett, College of New Caledonia librarian, prepared the index of the document which was produced in September and is available for \$14 at CNC Bookstore and Books and Company.

Morrow, a graduate of UBC School of Architecture, established a practice in Prince George in 1956 and worked on many local and northern projects until he retired in 1997.

The book includes photographs of buildings designed by Morrow, his observations about local buildings, and the changing styles in architecture over the years.

"It is fascinating reading," said Plett.

Morrow will tell you the history and stories of buildings like the old pink Professional Centre on Third Avenue that in 1954 "was the singular office building" in Prince George.

You can learn about the city's first Civic Centre that was really an old army building, the de-

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Community Connection

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architectural history

signing of Sacred Heart Cathedral and Morrow's unique design for a number of elementary schools.

"Quinson school has five-sided classrooms" with a hexagonal activity room to build in flexibility, Morrow says.

He designed the Prince George Citizen building at its present location in the mid-1960s using laminated spruce (instead of fir) cut at Eagle Lake Sawmill in Giscome.

"It was a successful experiment", but the idea of spruce laminating never really took off, Morrow said.

He notes a number of good heritage buildings like the former provincial building on Third Av-

enue and the old Legion buildings are sadly gone.

"People have been too ready just to demolish everything and build something new, and that's not necessarily the best answer."

He's frank about what he doesn't think is good architecture like the entrance to the Prince George Public Library, the design of the new medical building at UNBC, and the design of stairs all over the city.

"I'm going to be very blunt about this. Most architects do not know how to design a stair."

The stairs are too steep at UNBC, Lakewood school, city hall, CNC and most houses, too, he said.