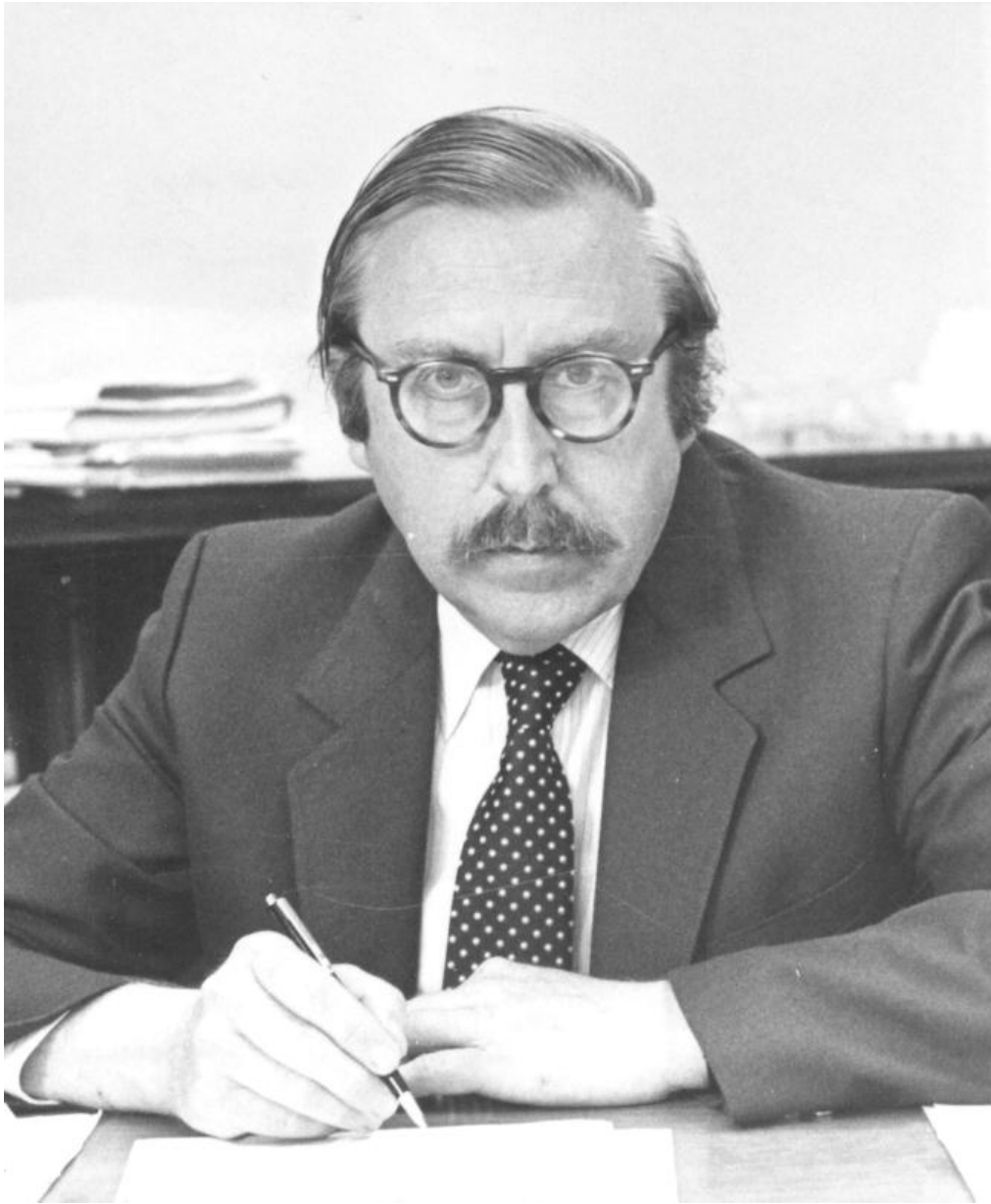


JOHN L. HOLMES, FRSC

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**Brian E. Conway**  
**1927-2005**



Brian Conway, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Chemistry, died July 9, 2005, at 78. A world-renowned electrochemist, Brian enjoyed a distinguished, 50-year career at the University of Ottawa. He is survived by his wife Nina and his son Adrian.

Brian was a quintessential Englishman. His sense of humour was sharp, he had a quick eye for the absurd and always had a fascinating story at the ready. His wisdom, unflappable demeanour, skill in committee and art of persuasion were legendary, and were especially useful when the Department's excellence was threatened. Brian was justly proud of the Department he did so much to build and develop. He is sorely missed, but is remembered with great respect and affection.

Brian obtained his PhD from Imperial College in 1949 and worked as a research associate at the University of London from 1949-1954. He joined the University of Pennsylvania in 1954 as an assistant professor.

In 1956, Brian was lured to the University of Ottawa's two-year-old Department of Chemistry as an associate professor. He was promoted to the rank of full professor in 1962, a year after obtaining his DSc from the University of London.

Professor Conway was chairman of the Department from 1966-1969 and 1975-1980. During his second term, he guided the formation of the first Departmental Council with proper student representation. Over the same period, the Departmental Teaching Personnel Committee was established to champion promotions and merit increases within the University administration. Student evaluations for laboratory courses took meaningful shape for the first time, and merit increases for the professoriate were continued.

The Ottawa-Carleton Graduate School for Chemistry was also created through Brian's oversight. The entire Department was involved and informed about progress during the negotiations. The strength of the final result is a tribute to Brian's determination that the School espouse excellence in all aspects.

The outside world was changing too, as the National Research Council relinquished its hold as the Canadian research granting body. In 1980, Gordon McNabb, the first president of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), visited the University. Following discussions with McNabb, Brian prepared a brief for the Canadian Council of University Chemistry Chairs, which influenced the way NSERC first operated. As a result of his suggestions, NSERC adopted new initiatives, such as having small groups of Chemistry Committee members evaluate, through personal interviews, all those receiving minor equipment grants. NSERC Committee members also visited many other Canadian chemistry departments, gaining a personal sense of the health of the discipline across Canada. The value of these individual assessments was immense.

Professor Conway was a Killam Senior Research Fellow from 1983-1985 and the NSERC-Alcan Professor of Electrochemistry from 1987-1992. He wrote more than 400 refereed publications and four books. His most prestigious honours include Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (1968), the Chemical Institute of Canada Medal (1975), the American Chemical Society Kendall

*HOLMES: Brian E. Conway*

Award in Surface Chemistry (1984), the Electrochemical Society Henry Linford Medal (1984), the Olin Palladium Medal and Award of the Electrochemical Society (1989), the Galvani Medal of the Italian Chemical Society (1991), and Fellow of the Electrochemical Society of America (1995).

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*(Author's title given as of the time of writing)*