

# EXHIBITIONS OF THE FRC

By Dr. Ingrid Mida

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**One way collections come to life is through exhibitions.** The public exhibition of garments from the Ryerson Fashion Research Collection has occurred only three times in its thirty-two year history.

In June 1987, there was an exhibition of 1960s garments called "Youthquake: Canadian Fashion in the 1960s" for two weeks in the Olive Baker Lounge on campus. In a Toronto Star article called "Exhibit Features '60s gear" by Fashion writer Nancy Hastings she interviewed Professor Kathy Cleaver who put the exhibit together with student Jacques Buteau. Kathy was quoted as saying she **"felt it was important to look back on the beginnings of this Canadian fashion consciousness" and that she had "recovered vintage garments from designers' storerooms and fashionable closets"**.

In October 1989, there was an exhibition of early 20th century garments called "Every hour an Occasion, Women's Dress 1900-1910" curated by Kathy Cleaver and Alan Suddon and designed by Robert Ott for display in the Olive Baker Lounge on campus.

In November 2007, the School of Fashion celebrated its 40-year anniversary with an exhibition at the Design Exchange in Toronto called **"From Home Ec to High Tech: 60 Years of Fashion Education at Ryerson"**. This display traced the evolution of the School of Fashion from its inception in 1948 and was researched and designed by students and supervised by Dr. Alison Matthews David.

**This project has been sponsored by a grant from the Learning & Teaching Office of Ryerson University.**

# Exhibit features '60s gear

By Nancy Hastings  
Star fashion writer

Hey, baby, what's happening?  
At Ryerson, the '60s style revolution is revisited in Youthquake: Canadian Fashion In The '60s, a costume retrospective that puts fashion's era of innocence and rebellion into perspective. The exhibit is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays until June 29 at Ryerson's South Hub, in the Olive Baker Lounge (entrance off Victoria and Gerrard Streets).

The term "youthquake" was coined in the '60s by American Vogue editor Diana Vreeland to describe the impact of such fashionably influential young movers and shakers as Edie Sedgwick.

Kathy Cleaver, a professor of textiles from Ryerson's food, nutrition, consumer and family studies department, put the exhibit together with the aid of student Jacques Buteau.

With what she calls the current flowering of Canadian fashion design, Cleaver says she "felt it was important to look back on the beginnings of this 'Canadian' fashion consciousness."

She's recovered vintage garments from designers' storerooms and fashionable closets — "John Warden's mother sent me a whole suitcase of things" says Cleaver — and displayed them on mannequins. On videotape, there is a series of '60s images from the lens of former model, photographer, art director and fashion editor Beverley Rockett.

Among the show participants are Marilyn Brooks, Claire Haddad, Maggy Reeves, Elen Henderson, John Warden, Michel Robichaud, Winston Kong, David E. Rea, Ruth Dukas, Everett Staples for Jean Pierce, Leo Chevalier, Bernie Taylor and Jac-An Juniors.

Offering her '60s reminiscences, fashion publicist Mary Stephenson recalled John Warden's revolutionary Russian-ethnic "Alexander Pushkin" collection for Croyden of Montreal.

Ironically, 20 years later, a Pushkin collection appears in the windows of Le Chateau.

The display of '60s fashions makes it clear many styles are back two decades later, including hip hugger skirts and pants, mini skirts, long suede boots, net stockings, denim, psychedelic prints, asymmetric Sassoon haircuts and long, dead-straight hair.



**Style revolution:** Photo/illustration designed by Eric Querci of the Ryerson Media Centre captures spirit of '60s fashion display at Ryerson until June 29