Bruce diligently pursued an education for himself, disregarding the absence of readily available educational facilities.

He grew up on a farm in southwestern Manitoba in the difficult thirties. He attended a one-room, country school, completing high school through self-taught correspondence courses and provincially established examinations.

To finance his freshman year at the university, he worked one year in a hard rock nickel mine in Sudbury, Ontario. He also worked at various jobs—farming, railway construction, and cooking. Bruce stayed with the mine foreman who recognized his academic gift and eventually "threatened to fire him" if he didn’t continue to pursue his education. Bruce completed a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Saskatchewan in 1946.

Shortly after graduating, Bruce was employed by Canadian International Power Company, Ltd. He eventually served as assistant plant superintendent in Venezuela for fourteen years. In 1949, he was appointed plant superintendent, and in 1962, Bruce and wife, Isobel, and his three children returned to Montreal, Quebec, where he was operations coordinator. He ultimately became vice president of engineering for the Canadian International Power Company. He has been credited with helping to establish a consulting firm, the Hemisphere Management Services Company, for which he was director and vice president.

Bruce was a true westerner who met all manner of people easily. His hard work, practical approach, unassuming manner, and integrity assured his success. He truly enjoyed his engineering profession, and his career afforded him the opportunity to help establish energy resources for developing nations.

The G. Bruce Fairgrieve Engineering Scholarship is awarded annually as an investment in a bright Lake Region State College student who intends to continue an education and career in engineering.