



# ELAN

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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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## History Amid the Highrises: John McKenzie House Tour

By Tom Eadie

On September 17, 2018, a group of Ex Libris members toured John McKenzie House in North York, home of the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) and its OHS Reference Library.

Located at 34 Parkview Avenue in Willowdale, only a few hundred feet from the highrises lining Yonge Street, John McKenzie House is identified in the society's brochure as "a combination of Edwardian, Arts and Crafts, and Queen Anne Revival" — very fitting for an organization centred on the preservation of Ontario's history. And indeed the OHS has had something to do with the building's continued existence. Built in 1913, by 1988 it had fallen into the hands of developers and was slated for demolition so that the land on which it



John McKenzie House Photo credit: Lynda Moon

stands could be redeveloped as part of the Mel Lastman–North York edifice complex. The combined efforts of the OHS, local citizens, and allied heritage groups, coupled with a fortuitous real estate crash, allowed the society to acquire the house. After five years of renovation the OHS took up residence in a piece of Ontario's history that it had managed to preserve and restore.

The OHS traces its history back to 1888 and the establishment of the Pioneer and Historical Association of Ontario, which within a year was renamed and incorporated by the Government of Ontario as the Ontario Historical Society. Beginning in 1899, it published *Papers and Records*, which became *Ontario History*. Initially dedicated to preserving documents and sources, *Ontario History* evolved into a peer-reviewed scholarly journal publishing research on Ontario's heritage (it's now offered in digital as well as print versions). Issues from 2013 to 2017 are open access from Érudit, while more-recent issues require subscriber login. The society also publishes the Ontario Heritage Directory & Map, listing heritage-related sites and organizations, and annually bestowing honours and awards to individuals and institutions



John McKenzie House Stable Photo credit: Sally Press

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Vivienne James (left) thanks Sarah McCabe.  
Photo credit: Sally Press

preserving and promoting Ontario's heritage. As part of its mission, the OHS provides educational resources such as webinars on diverse subjects ranging from treaty rights to digitization. And it has used its unique power to incorporate other non-profit historical associations to support 350 local historical societies across the province.

Of special interest to Ex Libris members, and the focus of our tour, is the society's library. The collection of approximately 5,000 items has been built from donations, many from the collections of notable scholars. It includes a wide range of books, journals, and ephemera related to Ontario's history, including First Nations history, Black

history, and architectural heritage.

Particular thanks are owed to Sarah McCabe, who manages the library, conducted the tour, and responded to our questions.

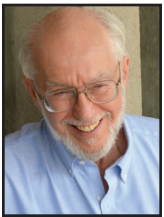
After the tour, some of us enjoyed a very pleasant lunch at the nearby Symposium Cafe.

George Santayana famously observed that "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Perhaps one could say that those who can remember the past should be encouraged to preserve those memories — or support organizations such as the OHS that have dedicated themselves to the task.

<https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca> |

## President's Report

By Tom Eadie



Since this is my first *ELAN* President's Report, I will speak to the current status of Ex Libris, and some objectives we might pursue

over the next two years.

To begin: Ex Libris is a national association of personal members, which — with the demise of the Canadian Library Association — gives us a strong position when speaking on library, archival, and like matters. This position would be enhanced if we had more members outside central Canada. With this in mind, I seized the opportunity to speak to the Partnership meeting of representatives from the provincial and regional library associations of Canada in January, and indicated our interest in working more closely with them to develop joint memberships and to be open to the possibility of joint activities. I will be following up with the various representatives. This issue of *ELAN* includes our new column, "News from the North" (see the article by Julie Ourom, page 16) — a demonstration of our commitment to extend our reach.

Also, to enhance recruitment, I proposed, and the board approved at its January meeting, a gift-membership option: A current member can make

a \$10 tax-deductible donation and, in return, be able to invite someone to join ELA for a one-year free trial membership. The new member will have an opportunity to check us out and, we hope, decide to become a regular member.

We are all aware that the nature of librarianship and libraries, and indeed the entire information universe, has been evolving rapidly. The history of these changes is critical to understanding where we are, and how we got here. To this end, we want to recruit to our membership interested colleagues from outside the traditional 'library and archives' area who have also been involved in this evolution ... publishers and editors, systems-development professionals, and others who are interested in the preservation and dissemination of information.

I would like to draw attention, again, to the signal honour paid to our friend and colleague Jean Weihs. As you know, Jean was named to the Order of Canada. At our November conference, the University of Toronto Faculty of Information hosted a reception in recognition of Jean and her invaluable service to the profession and to Canadian librarianship.

I look forward to seeing more of you at our next Ex Libris Annual Conference and AGM in November and, for those in the Toronto area, at our next library tour (see "Upcoming Events" at right).

I am planning to update the membership on ELA activities via the listserv over the coming months. Please get in touch with me if you have questions, suggestions, or comments.

[teadie@trentu.ca](mailto:teadie@trentu.ca) |

## Upcoming Events

### Ex Libris Spring Library Tour

May 29, 2019

Toronto's Arts & Letters Club  
Archives, 14 Elm Street, Toronto

## HOLD THIS DATE!

### 2019 Ex Libris Association Annual Conference and AGM

Monday, November 4, 2019  
Northern District Branch,  
Toronto Public Library, 2nd Floor  
40 Orchard View Boulevard, Toronto

The theme of the conference is "Wither, whither the future of print and the growth and future of non-print media."

## Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) — the National Voice of Canada's Library Associations

By Shelagh Paterson, reporting on behalf of the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors

The CFLA-FCAB board and special committees report on the following activities:

- signing of the RDA Toolkit Agreement with the American Library Association and Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals,
- continued government-relations support from Impact Public Affairs, which will develop a plan leading up to the 2019 federal election,
- approval of new statements on the Canada–United States–Mexico Agreement copyright extension, eContent in libraries, and use of library space (room rentals, for example),
- submission of a joint brief with the

Canadian Association of Research Libraries to Canadian Heritage on creator remuneration,

- administration of a survey on Voilà, Canada's national union catalogue (an analysis is currently underway and a report is coming soon),
- developing a draft of the first strategic plan, with member input, and
- the CFLA-FCAB National Forum, which will be held in partnership with the Manitoba Library Association at their 2020 conference in Winnipeg. (Dates will be announced shortly and all are welcome!) At the AGM on January 30, 2019, the new board was elected with Alix-

Rae Stefanko continuing as Chair, Todd Kyle (Ontario Library Association) as Vice-Chair, Norene Erickson (Library Association of Alberta) as Secretary (the Treasurer appointment TBD). CFLA-FCAB is also happy to report that the board now has a Northern representative representing Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut library associations. In addition, revisions to the bylaws were approved to clarify the number of members and their nominations to the board.

*Shelagh Paterson was treasurer of the CFLA-FCAB from 2016 to 2017. ■*

## W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors 2020

By Rick Ficek

This is your opportunity to submit applications for the next W. Kaye Lamb Award. This biennial award is a major activity of the Ex Libris Association (ELA) and is co-sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB). It is given in honour of William Kaye Lamb, the first National Librarian of Canada, Dominion Archivist and eminent historian (1904–1999).

This prestigious award, along with a \$500 cash prize, can be won by that Canadian library or archive which best serves its senior population. All types

of libraries — public, school, academic, and special libraries — are encouraged to apply. (Several non-governmental libraries have applied and been seriously considered for this award.)

*Members — Please seek suitable candidates and encourage them to apply. There's still time to submit proposals!*

**Apply at:** [www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=award:application\\_for\\_wk\\_lamb\\_award](http://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=award:application_for_wk_lamb_award)

**Apply by:** September 30, 2019

*For more information, contact Rick Ficek [ficekrichard44@gmail.com](mailto:ficekrichard44@gmail.com) ■*

## Welcome to New ELA Members

*We're proud to welcome the following new ELA members:*

Abiola Ajayi, Markham, ON  
 Diana Calder, Cottam, ON  
 Martin Chandler, St. Catharines, ON  
 Nancy Cole, Toronto  
 Janna Colton, Belleville, ON  
 Virginia DiLauro, Caledon East, ON  
 Mark Harvey, Markham, ON  
 Erin Hoar, Edmonton  
 Kim Huntley, Palgrave, ON  
 Paul Laverdure, Sudbury, ON  
 Celine Marcoux Hamade, Pickering, ON  
 Pam McKenzie, London, ON  
 Farid Miah, Toronto  
 Michael Moir, Toronto  
 Matt Scholtz, Tillsonburg, ON  
 Brittany Pampalone, Wasaga Beach, ON  
 Patricia Symon, Warton, ON

## Correction

Suzette Giles should have been credited as the author of "Libraries Named After Librarians" on the cover of the Fall 2018 issue of *ELAN* (No. 64), "Inside This Issue." We regret this error.

## Hamilton Public Library Lamb Award 2018 (2017)

In last spring's issue of *ELAN* (No. 63), we told you about the applicants for the 2017 W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors — and about the winner, Hamilton Public Library (HPL). We were pleased that a team of staff members from the winning library made a presentation about their great work for seniors at the November 2018 Ex Libris Annual Conference and AGM. We heard from CEO Paul Takala, Manager (Ancaster and Lynden branches) Leslie Muirhead, Adam Van Sickle of Disability Information Services Programming, Director of

Public Services—Branches Dawna Wark, and Elizabeth Blackall, Manager, Information Hamilton Red Book Project.

HPL has a longstanding tradition of promoting library and information services to older adults. The City of Hamilton and the library are committed to being an Age-Friendly City (with characteristics defined by the World Health Organization). By choosing a multi-faceted approach, HPL has the flexibility to maintain long-standing services as well as to partner and collaborate on new initiatives, all under the umbrella of seniors' services. HPL

strives to offer ongoing and exceptional programs and services to the rapidly increasing number of older adults in its community. HPL also partners and collaborates with other community organizations — such as McMaster University, the Hamilton Council on Aging, and the Alzheimer Society — to promote seniors' services. HPL's free programs support social inclusion, lifelong learning, information literacy, digital literacy, and healthy aging — all in safe, accessible spaces.

Learn more at [www.hpl.ca](http://www.hpl.ca) |



A team from Hamilton Public Library, winner of the W. Kaye Lamb Award, at the Ex Libris AGM  
Photo credit: Hamilton Public Library



Presented by the Alzheimer Society, this Sit To Be Fit program gets seniors moving while they make new friends.  
Photo credit: Hamilton Public Library



The library hosts regular meet-ups, so knitters, book club members, and gamers can share their interests and stimulate their minds. Photo credit: Hamilton Public Library

### When You Move

When you move, please remember to send your new address to Ex Libris Association, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, 140 St. George St., Toronto, ON M5S 3G6.

### Ex Libris Biography Project

By Nancy Williamson

The biography database remains at 125 entries. I have no replies on Callie Israel's biography. I am working on the biographies of several people who are still alive.

For more information on the work of this committee, go to [http://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:biographies:biography\\_mainpage](http://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:biographies:biography_mainpage)

For details on how to contribute, please contact me at:

[nancy.williamson@utoronto.ca](mailto:nancy.williamson@utoronto.ca) |

## A Lively Event: The Annual Conference

By Doug Wilford

This year's conference had a packed program with several well-crafted presentations and inspiring talks. It really was a highlight of the Ex Libris Association year, and our two guest speakers were enlightening and informative.

The first speaker, Michael Moir, is University Archivist and Head Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections, York University. His topic was *Affect of Generational Change on the Development of Archives*. After walking us through the earlier years of growth, development, and type of user, Michael addressed the present status of patron-driven demands — in particular from the tech-savvy generation-Y and generation-Z users. As a result, new directions in archival storage and accessibility involve movement toward digitization, and web-based and even social-media archival storage and retrieval. (See the article by Michael Moir in this issue, below.)

Our second speaker, R. Scott James, former City of Toronto Archivist, gave a lively presentation about the city's archives, entitled *An Illustrious Career and Institution*. He took us through his beginnings as the first assistant to the original City of Toronto Archivist, Bob Woadden, and spoke about the ups and downs in the development of the archives. After 17 years in the City

of Toronto Archives, Scott spent 12 years as the managing director of the Toronto Historical Board (now called Heritage Toronto, a charitable arm's-length agency), where he met Queen Elizabeth. After retirement Scott joined Toronto's Arts & Letters Club and became its volunteer archivist in 1997.

Both of these archivists spoke passionately and humorously about the love of their jobs and, in particular, their love of archives.

A staff team from Hamilton Public Library (HPL), the winner of the W. Kaye Lamb Award, told us about their service to seniors. Their interesting presentation made it clear why HPL won the award. (See "*Hamilton Public Library Lamb Award 2018 (2017)*" in this issue, page 4.)

Shelagh Paterson, Executive Director of the Ontario Library Association, brought us up to date on the activities of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques. (See the article by Shelagh Paterson in this issue, page 3.)

Jean Weihs, Member of the Order of Canada, gave a very inspiring and amusing story of her career — Jean was a real ground-breaker. Her talk was followed by a reception held by the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information (iSchool) to honour its special alumna! ■



Michael Moir Photo credit: Josh Henderson



R. Scott James Photo credit: Josh Henderson



From left: Wendy Newman, Nancy Williamson, Kelly Lyons, Jean Weihs, Lynne Howarth, Elizabeth Ridler  
Photo credit: Josh Henderson

## Generational Change and York University Libraries' Research Collections

By Michael Moir, University Archivist and Head Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections York University Libraries

Archives usually project a sense of permanence and stability, yet they are increasingly buffeted by changes in their donor and user communities, as well as the technologies used to record and distribute information. These transformations have significant impact on the work of the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections of York University Libraries. While the mission of supporting research and teaching has

remained constant during a half-century of operations, approaches to collection development have evolved since the program began in the late 1960s.

Perhaps most notable has been the external pressure brought to bear by the Four Horsemen of the Baby Boom: retirement, residential downsizing, financial planning to protect redeemed savings plans from the Canada Revenue Agency, and failing health. As families

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seek to share the legacy of contributions made by this generation, they often turn to academic libraries to accept large book collections and archives that blur the line between personal and professional activities. The same could be said for organizations formed during

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the mid-20th century that contemplate the state of their records as they mature and approach significant anniversaries. Such deliberations led to the donation of archives by the Mariposa Folk Foundation in 2007. Closer to home, the retirement of York's initial cohort of faculty expanded the scope of holdings to include social and natural sciences. The donation of research data brought issues of access to documents involving human participants who were not asked if interviews or questionnaires could be given to a publicly accessible repository, where they will be used for reasons totally unrelated to their original purpose.

These demographic forces reshaped

collection development. Acquisitions have shifted from the archivists' focus on Canadian women, writers, the arts, social and urban reform, and the multicultural imagination, to include the research interests of new faculty such as communications, sexuality, and environmental studies. Greater emphasis is also placed on patron-driven acquisitions that fill gaps in the sources available to support research. Graduate students with York's History Department identify privately held records that offer new perspectives for diasporic studies involving the Portuguese, Greek, and Coptic communities, with a similar approach developed with the Italian



High-density shelving in the vault of the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections  
Photo Credit: Courtesy of York University Libraries



The True Davidson Reading Room on the third floor of Scott Library, York University Libraries (Note the Saarinen pedestal chairs, which have become collectors' items.)  
Photo credit: Michael Moir

Canadian Archives Project. Appraisal decisions are entrusted to historians, who can build cultural and linguistic bridges unavailable to the archivists. York University Libraries, on the other hand, provides the infrastructure necessary to ensure that these sources can be shared with an international community on an enduring basis.

Many of these developments have digital components that seek to free content from the surly bonds of paper, and to meet the growing expectation that if content is not on the Internet it does not exist. Despite these changes, it is reassuring to note the growing number of visits by undergraduate courses to our classroom and the thrill among students when handling original documents instead of Web-based digital surrogates, even if modern cursive writing has become almost as much of a mystery as Latin in a Book of Hours from the 15th century. ■

## Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) Offers Free Access to Online Canadiana Collections

As of January 1, 2019, all Canadiana content included in Early Canadiana Online, Héritage, and Canadiana Online is available at no charge to users. This provides free access to a huge amount of Canadian documentary heritage to researchers throughout the world. According to the CKRN, these collections represent 60 million pages.

“The Early Canadiana Online and Canadiana Online collections are comprised of Canadian monographs, periodicals, government publications, newspapers, and annuals and amount to over 19 million pages. The Héritage collection, developed in partnership with Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and CRKN, includes 900 collections of 41 million pages of archival materials. The Héritage collection includes scans of microfilm taken from some of LAC's most sought-after archival collections.”

— Ralph Manning

## Technology Unmasked: Social Media

By Stan Orlov



Today it is hard to meet someone who doesn't spend some time online. Researchers at Ryerson University's Ted Rogers School of Management found

that 94 percent of adult Canadian Internet users have at least one social-media account, with Facebook being the most popular (84 percent), followed by YouTube (59 percent), LinkedIn (46 percent), Twitter (42 percent), Pinterest (38 percent), Instagram (37 percent), and Snapchat (22 percent). Eighteen- to 34-year-olds are mostly similar in their habits to the 35-plus group, but far outweigh their older counterparts on Instagram and Snapchat. It's no wonder that 96 percent of public libraries — and more than 90 percent of academic, school, and government libraries — use social media to reach patrons. After evaluating the outreach potential and the effort involved in keeping

marketing and communication channels current, libraries have concentrated their efforts as follows: Facebook (99 percent), Twitter (51 percent), Instagram (48 percent), Pinterest (39 percent), YouTube (35 percent), LinkedIn (15 percent), and Snapchat (10 percent).

Keeping communication channels open and buzzing is hard work. Forty percent of libraries have a communication strategy, but only 17 percent say it's current, largely because 71 percent of the libraries don't have the necessary staff resources. Still, in addition to using trusted-and-true print materials and library websites, eight out of 10 libraries post photos, videos, or library information on social media.

Here are a few creative ways libraries engage patrons: infographics on Pinterest, how-to videos on YouTube, links to recommended blogs on Twitter, Bookface and Book Bento photos on Instagram, and organized Snapchat takeovers (letting an outside influencer create a library story that will disappear in 24 hours, but might draw many new followers in that ephemeral "day").

Social media are rapidly evolving, but one thing is constant — libraries will find ways to use them to reach their patrons.

For more information, go to:

- <https://socialmedialab.ca/2018/02/25/state-of-social-media-in-canada/>
- [https://www.oclc.org/content/dam/research/publications/2018/216084\\_2018\\_Public\\_Library\\_Marketing\\_Report.pdf](https://www.oclc.org/content/dam/research/publications/2018/216084_2018_Public_Library_Marketing_Report.pdf)
- <https://www.pewinternet.org/2018/05/31/teens-social-media-technology-2018/>
- <http://forums.techsoup.org/cs/community/b/tsblog/archive/2017/10/12/how-libraries-use-social-media.aspx>

*Stanislav Orlov is Systems Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. Please send your questions and comments to [stan.orlov@msvu.ca](mailto:stan.orlov@msvu.ca).*

### Notice to Members

Help us keep our email listserv current. If you and/or someone you know are/is not receiving our emails, send your new email address to Bob Henderson at [bob.superrover@gmail.com](mailto:bob.superrover@gmail.com).

The names of potential new members may also be sent to Bob Henderson at the same address.

And please submit any outstanding membership dues.

### Why I Became a Librarian

By Sally Press

I grew up in Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Harare, Zimbabwe), where I remember working as a volunteer in my elementary-school library. In high school I took a vocational guidance test, and, because I was good at languages and enjoyed writing, they advised me to train as either a teacher, journalist, or librarian. I was too shy to be a journalist, did not want to be a teacher, and librarianship was a respected profession, so I applied to universities and was accepted at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa (a three-day train journey from home). I studied for a BA in English and French, and completed my studies with a post-graduate Library Science Diploma. In library school I had taken the children's librarianship option, but, when it was time to find a job, I accepted a position in the cataloguing department at the University of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). I was

later transferred to the map library where I was "embedded" within the Geography Department and worked with lecturers and students there until I left for the U.K.

After a year in England, where I could not work as a librarian because I was not chartered, I returned to Cape Town to work in the cataloguing department at UCT. I was responsible for cataloguing, among other subjects, political science books. This was a very sensitive area in South Africa at that time, and I had access to material that most people never saw. It was also while working at UCT that I met my future husband, who had come in to visit a mutual friend — we were introduced at the card catalogue where I was checking authorities! (At that time we still wrote out the catalogue cards by hand, the typists then typed them, and we filed them in the wooden card

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catalogues.) Working as a cataloguer in an academic setting gave me valuable insight into the relationship between information retrieval and the way material is catalogued and classified.

When I was offered a job at the first nuclear power station to be built in South Africa, I accepted it. I spent seven years at Koeberg Nuclear Power Station, developing a library specializing in resources such as International Atomic Energy Agency safety guides, and learning about health, physics, containment buildings, nuclear reactors, and Harrisburg and Chernobyl, among other things.

In 1988 when my husband and I moved to Toronto with our baby daughter, I was lucky enough to get a job at the Ontario Ministry of Energy, probably because of my experience at the nuclear power station. My time there was a succession of maternity-leave contracts, but I met some really great librarians and became familiar with the Ontario Government's library network. After we had our second baby, I took a part-time job at the Canadian Plastics Institute, where I learned about extrusion, blow moulding, injection moulding, and various types of plastics, so that I could help clients in their searches for materials and processes for their products. I also had the opportunity to work with people from the Canada

Institute for Scientific and Technical Information as well as the National Research Council, and did a survey of the information needs of the plastics industry in Canada, which involved interviewing key people in different companies throughout the country.

From there I moved to the Leisure Information Network, where I worked as Information Specialist for the Active Living affiliate of the Canadian Health Network (CHN). This involved health-related organizations throughout Canada working together to offer information on a government-funded website. Working groups included website design. We provided links to articles from member organizations and wrote feature articles and FAQs on health issues of current interest, while also promoting the CHN website at conferences and trade shows throughout Canada. Unfortunately this closed down when the federal government funding was withdrawn.

Following this, I worked on contract at Seneca College for a few months and was then offered a dream job as Information Specialist at an engineering company, where I spent the next few years setting up a library with specialized areas such as landscape architecture, environment, and transportation engineering. I later worked for an Australian geotechnical engineering company.

Other projects I was involved in included updating a cataloguing manual (with a former CHN colleague), and working at the Canada-Ontario Export Forum, which gave me an introduction to the field of exports and to some of the trade agreements in operation. Working with Maggie Weaver, I gave workshops to people interested in exporting from Canada, as well as running the organization consisting of various government and other export-related groups.

So, I became a librarian because I liked research and reading and writing, and this led me into all sorts of interesting areas. It gave me the opportunity to learn about topics I would never have known about, meet a wide and fascinating range of people in academic, technical, and government organizations, and to travel throughout Canada and the U.S. In 1986 I wrote an article about the paperless library, "The future of libraries and librarians," for *Mousaion* (published by the University of South Africa). It is reassuring, given what has come about since then, to see that the strength of the library community — and the ability of librarians to adapt — has allowed us to meet and rise above new challenges. It will be interesting to see what comes next. ■

## Write for *ELAN*

The Newsletter Committee welcomes contributions from our members.

We are seeking articles, news items, and ideas that you think would be of interest to Ex Libris members for publication in *ELAN*. Please submit your articles on items of interest to our members, including your memoirs of early days or important figures in librarianship, library history, your own career, and your current activities in the field.

We especially need contributions to our regular feature, "*Why I Became a Librarian*."

For submission information, see the back page.

## Books of Interest to Members

*ELAN* welcomes news about books by ELA members.

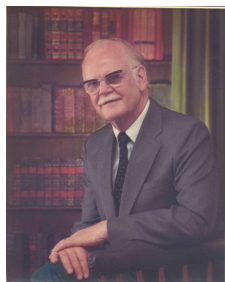
Send a brief description or an advertising brochure to [jean.weihsg@gmail.com](mailto:jean.weihsg@gmail.com).

## Libraries Named after Librarians

By Suzette Giles

*This is the 16th in a series of articles about outstanding librarians and the libraries named after them.*

### London Public Library, Beacock Branch



E. Stanley Beacock  
Photo credit: Ivey Family  
London Room, London  
Public Library

Stanley Beacock will be a familiar name to some members of the Ex Libris Association — Beacock founded the association, served as the first president, and edited the newsletter for

eight years. However members may not be aware that he worked at the London Public Library and Art Museum (LPL&AM) until 1980, on three different occasions.

Ernest Stanley Beacock was born on January 21, 1921, to Lambert and Eva Beacock, in Flos Township, Simcoe County, Ont. Mainly educated locally, he continued to Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., obtaining a degree in 1942. After serving in Italy during World War II, Beacock became a clerk in the circulation department of LPL&AM in 1946.

In 1947, after attending the University of Toronto Library School, Beacock became Chief Librarian of the Lambton County Library, setting up a county hub in Wyoming, Ont., and organizing services throughout the area.

Impressed with the community support for libraries in Ohio, in 1949 he became Chief Librarian of the Kenton Public Library in Kenton, Ohio. He remained in Ohio for 12 years, moving to the larger Troy Public Library in 1953.

In 1961 Beacock was invited to return to LPL&AM as Assistant Director. Municipal boundaries had recently changed and suburban areas were now under the auspices of LPL&AM. Beacock was known for his willingness to meet and listen to staff, and he personally met with each new staff

member. While a new branch was opened in 1963, there were frustrations around funding and responsibilities.

An opportunity for a change occurred in 1966, and Beacock became Director of the newly instituted Midwestern Regional Library Co-operative. The creation of a central processing centre was a priority.

In 1974, however, the Director of LPL&AM resigned and Beacock was selected to replace him. In Beacock's absence, the population of London had increased; there were 10 branches and an expanded central library. A strike



Photo credit: Courtesy of London Public Library

by the professional public librarians — the first such occurrence in Canada — and high staff turnover indicated a workplace with considerable challenges. In a controversial move, the position of Assistant Director was replaced by Manager, Personnel Services, and a non-librarian, with experience in the business sphere, was hired.

Beacock was a strong supporter of staff development as throughout his career he had continued his own studies including a part-time Master of Library Science at the University of Toronto, completed in 1969.

When a report was required to justify a new branch library, rather than hire an outside consultant, Beacock seconded the head of the London Urban Resource Centre. The resulting report was well received, with the city council

providing funding to rebuild the W. O. Carson Branch (see "Libraries Named After Librarians" by Suzette Giles in *ELAN* No. 63/Spring 2018, on page 11) in 1977. Funding restraints led to the opening of two more branches in school portables. In 1980 the art gallery moved to a new location, allowing for a renovation of the central library, and the Northland Branch was rebuilt in 1982.

With increasing operational costs, automation had to be considered. In 1979 the library purchased a Geac 8000 system for circulation and, after a pilot project, there was an extension to all branches, a first for Canadian public libraries.

Beacock retired in 1984. At the reception he was presented with several volumes of articles, photographs, and letters of appreciation that celebrated his career at LPL&AM. In 1985 the Northland branch was renamed in his honour.

Beacock died in London on March 2, 2004. Together with his wife, he left a lasting legacy in the form of bursaries for S.L.I.S. students.

*Thanks to Rick Ficek for suggesting this library.*

*A major source was a guided research paper by Laura Reilly, entitled "Stan, our man, E. Stanley Beacock, half a century of library service to the people," Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS), University of Western Ontario, 2002. Supplied by the FIMS Graduate Library.*

*Thanks to London Public Library, which supplied articles and the photos.*

*Articles in ELA newsletters by and about Stanley Beacock — including "How I Became a Librarian," ELAN No. 26/Fall 1999, on page 5 — can be found using the ELAN index. ■*

## Library Treasures of Britain: The Paddington Library, London

By Guy Robertson



Much is made of the British Library and the Bodleian, and the libraries of Cambridge University have earned the respect of library historians and other

commentators worldwide. But Trevor does not care. He sits in a public area of the Paddington Library in London's Porchester Centre and reads any material he can find on the Battle of Britain.

"I have no shame," he says with a toothless grin. "I love this library and all the stuff about the RAF. It's hardly posh here, and pretty small compared with the big libraries that university people use, but I swear that the Paddington Library gives a geezer like me everything what's needed and no questions asked and no aggro. That's what a library's for, innit?"

Originally called Porchester Hall and constructed between 1923 and 1925, the building was enlarged by 1929 to include the library and Turkish baths. Now dubbed Porchester Centre, it serves as a community resource for the busy Bayswater neighbourhood. Locals drop in for exercise classes, hot yoga sessions, concerts by popular musicians such as Van Morrison and Kylie Minogue, and family swimming hours in a public pool whose vapours permeate every space apart from the library, which smells of the liberally applied cleaning fluid used in countless British public buildings. But what strikes the first-time visitor to the library is its silence. No matter how many patrons occupy the chairs near the stacks, one rarely hears even a whisper. No clicking keyboards, howling infants, or loquacious teenagers disturb the peace. If one listens hard, one might hear Trevor turning a page.

The library interior appears to be of recent refurbishment, but slightly shabby in the way many urban buildings become after heavy use. There are two levels. The ground floor contains a collection of DVDs, substantial crime and fiction collections, and the washrooms. The lower ground floor offers a respectable



Entrance Photo credit: Guy Robertson

collection of non-fiction, including a section on the social sciences. The history shelves hold numerous titles concerning both world wars.

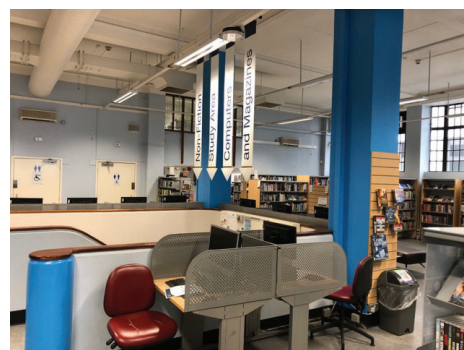
"Most of the old veterans have died off," says a circulation clerk, "but their children and grandchildren visit the library to find information on what their families went through during the wars. There's quite a few books on the Blitz and the evacuation of London's children to places way from the bombing"

Speaking of children, one wonders where they are. The library seems to be for adults only.

"The children's materials are in the Paddington Children's Library at 150 Queensway, a two-minute walk from us," says the clerk. "It's not as busy as we are, but then it's not open as often." Perhaps the children's library would attract more young patrons if it installed near its entrance a sculpture that currently sits in the lobby of Porchester Centre: a version of *The Reading Girl*, carved by the Milanese artist Pietro Magni in 1861. A realistic portrayal of a working-class girl in a humble setting, this statue could inspire children to follow her example. Doubtless she would receive a nickname: perhaps "Hermione" in honour of the popular character in the Harry Potter books. But what is she reading? Patrons are bound to ask.

In fact the book she holds contains patriotic verse by the popular Italian poet and playwright Giovanni Battista Niccolini (1782–1861).

"For the current purposes of our library and its patrons, the kind of literature she's reading is not important," says the clerk.



Main floor Photo credit: Guy Robertson

"She's holding a book, not a mobile phone. She's reading something other than a text message. I think she could set a good example for our local kids, who can't stop staring at screens. Really, there's a place for her at both of the library's locations, since she could inspire adults as well."

One senses that the library and its location have always been works in progress, and that *The Reading Girl* will find a new home — or homes — in the near future.

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/library-opening-hours-and-contact-details#paddington-library>

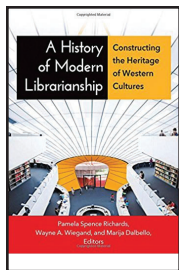


*The Reading Girl* Photo credit: Guy Robertson



## Book Reviews

Edited by Susan Ibbetson



### *A History of Modern Librarianship: Constructing the Heritage of Western Cultures*

Pamela Spence Richards, Wayne A. Wiegand, and Marija Dalbello, eds.  
Libraries Unlimited, 2015.  
ISBN: 978-1610690997. \$98.17

Reviewed by Rudi Denham

**A** *History of Modern Librarianship* is a collection of in-depth and scholarly essays by numerous contributors, who provide greater insight into how libraries impacted the cultural

heritage and identities of Western traditions in Africa, Australia, Canada, Europe, New Zealand, and the U.S.

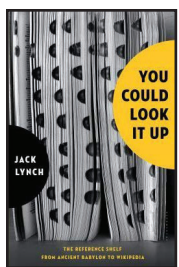
Intended for students and educators in library science, as well as interdisciplinary and international historians and practitioners, each essay includes an extensive bibliography for further research.

Wiegand's essay on the U.S. and Canada provides a fascinating history of Canadian librarianship, including identifying the first travelling library along the coast of British Columbia, where books were distributed free of charge by the Canadian Pacific Railroad. It documents the Canadian shift from following British and European precedents to a closer partnership with the U.S. Though public libraries were committed to supporting the

principles of neutrality and intellectual freedom, they had to operate within their political environments and limit selections and services to those demanded by their funders and users.

Although my interest and focus was on public libraries, a detailed table of contents provides the ability to focus on areas of interest geographically, by type of library, or by historical trend.

The primary editor, Pamela Spence Richards, died some years before the manuscript was complete. Wiegand and Dalbello reimagined the project, contacted some of the original contributors, and commissioned new ones to assist in the creation of the current edition, with proceeds donated to a scholarship in her name. ■



### *You Could Look It Up: The Reference Shelf from Ancient Babylon to Wikipedia*

By Jack Lynch  
Bloomsbury, 2016.  
ISBN: 978-0802777522. \$35.83

Reviewed by Peter F. McNally

**A**fter a career spent primarily as a library educator — teaching reference service and bibliography — reading this book brought back happy memories of being a reference librarian, but also invited uncertainty about the future of reference service and sources.

Jack Lynch, professor of English, Rutgers University, and author of books

on Dr. Johnson and lexicography, has written in his introduction: “both a history and a love letter to the great dictionaries, encyclopedias, and atlases. It is also ... something of a eulogy: we may be approaching the end of the era of the reference book.”

Fifty titles are discussed, each being “interesting ... first of their kind ... the biggest ... most learned ... most controversial ... most influential ... most eccentric or quixotic.” They are analyzed in pairs, “two more or less contemporary works on related subjects ... set ... in their historical context.”

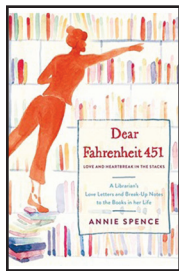
Organized chronologically, the first entry is the “Code of Hammurabi” (1754 BC) and the last is Schott’s *Original Miscellany* (2002 AD). Some entries are obvious — Diderot’s *Encyclopédie* (1751–1771) and *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1768–1771) — others less so — *Harris’s List of Covent Garden Ladies* (1761), a guide to London

prostitutes. Insightful analysis is provided throughout. Along with analysis, titles receive bibliographical descriptions, including size provided in different ways, such as weight! An epilogue discusses Wikipedia with acknowledgement of its value and strengths, but also indicates its failings — presentism, monopoly, and authority. Short chapters, placed between longer chapters studying the titles, provide general insights on reference publishing and service. An unsettling revelation was that a third edition of *The Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature* is now considered financially unviable, electronically or in print.

Lynch writes with humour and insight. The book is illustrated, footnoted, and indexed; it also contains a glossary of terms. It complements *Cuneiform to Computer: A History of Reference Sources* (1998) by B. Katz. Recommended for all reference librarians, past and present. ■

*Continued on page 12*

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*Dear Fahrenheit 451: Love and Heartbreak in the Stacks: A Librarian's Love Letters and Breakup Notes to the Books in Her Life*

By Annie Spence  
Flatiron Books, 2017.  
ISBN: 978-1250106490. \$17.70

Reviewed by Julia Schneider

Dear Dear,  
I didn't expect to like you. "Love Letters and Breakup Notes" to the books in your life? Really?

But you won me over. To paraphrase your fourth-grade book review, the one about *Anastasia Krupnik*: "You're smart and funny and I like your lists." You make

me smile. I'm really glad you're a librarian; I can't imagine you as anything else.

In fact you are both smart and hilarious. You entertain me. Sometimes I can't decide whether you're more interested in recommending books or providing reasons not to read them (as with Judy Blume's *Forever*, which you convinced me I was too mature to "get into"), and that is fine. You've even made me enjoy books, like *Color Me Beautiful*, more in retrospect, because your insights are so personal. Do you think I should put you on my shelf next to Nancy Pearl's action figure and book reviews, or would you feel more comfortable with Erma Bombeck and her short perceptive essays about all kinds of things? I'd appreciate your comments, though I can't say I see you as a classification expert.

In my view, your funniest line came in the midst of your failed attempt to get rid of *Scenes for Student Actors*: "I hate weeding the thespians." Your

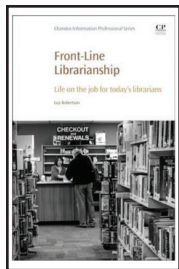
most puzzling review: that of *The Giving Tree*. Your most moving: the one of *The Fledgling*, which convinced me I had to read the book, and I did. Thank you. Now I understand why you called your son Walden; by the way, my gecko's name is Georgie.

You have left me with lists of books to go to, and others to avoid, and that is great. In the meantime, if I'm ever out of books to read, I can always reread yours. One question, though, that bothers me: why all the expletives? Your writing doesn't need them and, frankly, every time I saw one I thought of how my sixth-grade students would react. Maybe I've adopted their prudish attitudes? But we don't want to turn off anyone from reading, do we?

Anyway, Annie, thank you for your book. I think of us as friends.

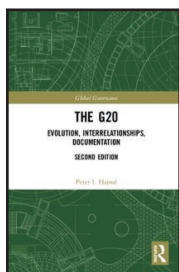
Sincerely,  
Julia ■

## Books by Members



*Front-Line Librarianship: Life on the Job for Today's Librarians*

By Guy Robertson  
Chandos, 2018.  
Paperback ISBN: 978-0081027295;  
eBook ISBN: 978-0081027783



*The G20: Evolution, Interrelationships, Documentation 2nd Edition*

By Peter I. Hajnal  
Routledge, 2019.  
Hardback ISBN: 978-1138577503;  
eBook ISBN: 978-1351266802

## Humour in the Library

By Matt Scholtz

The week started with a crisis at the library. It all began when a staff member said, "Matt, we have a problem." (In the same tone as "Houston, we have a problem.")

A fellow in town had won a boat on Roll Up the Rim at Tim Hortons. He had come in with the legal form that he needed to claim his prize and wanted a copy. Staff put it through the automatic feeder, but failed to notice that he had stapled the winning tab to the form. The form came out. The tab did not. We looked in all the usual places, but these places are meant to retrieve large sheets of paper, not little Tim Hortons tabs! There's a fair bit of heat in there, we worried. Did that winning tab get fried?

When I called the copier people to explain the problem, their initial reaction was to laugh uproariously — which was no help to me in my stressed-out state. They promised to send a technician shortly, but I found it difficult to wait. So I took a flashlight and really poked into the bowels of that copier, and there was that darn little red-and-yellow tab. I have never been so glad to see a Tim Hortons cup — or at least part of one! Fortunately, I had a pair of long-reach tweezers. Gingerly, but with a trembling hand, I probed the copier rollers, latched on to the tab, and pulled it out to the cheers of staff.

I guess that will be the closest I ever get to a winning Roll Up the Rim. And people think nothing exciting ever happens in a library?

## Twenty-Five Years in Yukon Public Libraries

By Julie Ourom

Whitehorse is big enough, but not too big. It's easy to get to know people here, and the wilderness on my doorstep is a year-round delight. I moved here in 1990, looking for a new challenge in a place where I could make a difference: it was a good choice.

There is fascinating history here — who can resist tales of the region's Klondike gold rush? — but that's not the whole picture. The Indigenous people at the heart of this place, here since time before time, are joined by people like me from "outside."

For me, Yukon's entrenchment of Indigenous rights was a strong attraction. Eleven of the 14 Yukon First Nations are self-governing, with the power to make and enact laws in respect of their lands, resources, governance, and programs. Working in a government setting in a small jurisdiction also appealed to me.

Public libraries are a legislated responsibility of the Yukon government. Most Yukoners live in the capital, Whitehorse, where the central library offers direct service to the territory and supports 14 community libraries. To manage these libraries, we travelled year-round, primarily by road (Old Crow, Yukon's most northerly community, is above the Arctic Circle and only has air or river access). Each government car had its unique challenges, and we certainly had adventures — being locked out one morning with the engine running in -40 degrees in Dawson City, sliding off a remote road one winter (our injuries were minor, but the car was a writeoff), and more than one flat tire. There were sunny days, snowy days, starry



Summer Yukon library visit in Teslin, 2002 Photo credit: Julie Ourom

skies, northern lights, meteor showers, sunrises, and sunsets. I saw black bears and grizzlies, bison, moose, and lynx.

In the fall, the animals moved over the land to their winter homes. In the spring, the sky was full of birds flying north. In the summer we met more traffic, while we could easily drive half a day without seeing another soul in the winter. Sometimes we took a minivan to workshops in far-flung communities. Dogsleds carried us across the famous Lake Laberge to a National Book Festival featuring Arthur Black, while we took a boat to an archival event at Fort Selkirk. Yukon's community libraries provide an important public service to their small populations, and travel kept us in touch. Author readings, film shows, children's activities, and other events drew people inside.

As a middle-sized fish in a small

pond, I also had the opportunity to represent Yukon for many years on national committees, collaborating with many great people to achieve incredible outcomes.

One usually knows when it's time to retire. Before I set a date, I saw the new Whitehorse Public Library through from start to finish. This library shares space with the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, built by the Yukon's largest First Nation, on the Whitehorse waterfront. I will always feel happy when I step through the doors. I became a librarian because I believed that libraries make a difference in people's lives — and nothing in my career diminished this faith.

Five years past retirement, Whitehorse remains my home, although I also spend time in Vancouver to enjoy the best of both worlds. ■

## British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



In 2018, patrons of the **Vancouver Public Library (VPL)** borrowed more than 9.3 million items, and the number of e-books and e-audiobooks

on loan increased substantially. Concerned about the rising costs of electronic items, VPL recently joined the growing number of Canadian libraries that encourage multinational publishers, such as Macmillan and Penguin Random House, to improve (i.e., lower) their pricing. The publishers' reaction so far has been described by one VPL librarian as "tentative," but it is hoped that e-book prices will not increase so much and

so quickly in future. VPL has been very pleased with its Indigenous Storyteller in Residence Program, established in 2008 as a way to connect Indigenous communities with non-Indigenous people. The 2019 Indigenous Storyteller in Residence is Joseph A. Dandurand, a member of the Kwantlen First Nation located on the Fraser River and Director of the Kwantlen Cultural Centre. Well-known for his plays and poetry, Dandurand

*Continued on page 14*

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studied theatre and directing at the University of Ottawa. Mawenzi House has just released his newest collection of poems, *SH:LAM (The Doctor)*.

Recently the **University of Victoria Libraries** was delighted to receive from Professor Emeritus Werner Israel a collection of books from his personal library, including a first edition (1973) of *The Large Scale Structure of Space-Time* by Stephen Hawking and G. F. R. Ellis. In processing the book, a library staff member discovered a signed letter dated February 6, 1981, from Hawking to his friend and colleague Israel. During their careers, they shared an interest in black holes and collaborated on titles concerning general relativity and gravitation. In February the **Library Research Commons, Simon Fraser University**, hosted a workshop led by Mahendra Mahey, Manager of the British Library (BL) Labs. In his introductory lecture, Mahey described a number of the BL's digital collections and discussed the challenges he has faced since he arrived at the library six years ago. He emphasized that over the years the collections have grown in size and popularity, and there remain an enormous number of items to convert to digital formats. During the workshop, participants explored various data sets and hunted for interesting patterns in digitized texts. Not to be outdone in the search for digital fun, the **University of British Columbia (UBC) Rare Books and Special Collections** department has joined the **New York Academy of Medicine Library** and other institutions in offering access to a series of digital colouring books, a new tool to attract patrons and inspire curiosity about works such as the Kelmscott Chaucer and a UBC Library publication entitled *Mythical Creatures*, which contains drawings of monsters including a charming unicorn and a selection of dragons. Librarians note that digitizing the Kelmscott Chaucer was difficult owing to the book's tight binding and small gutters. Rather than using the usual bound-book scanner, which might have damaged the binding, the digitization team recorded the contents with a scanner-cum-digital-camera that captured the elaborate details of the layout.

## Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



The **Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan** announced on November 22, 2018, that it would centralize operations at one Regina site, by cabinet order;

four locations will be closed including one located on the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon. Arthur Silver Morton, Head of the Department of History and Librarian at the University of Saskatchewan, was largely responsible for the creation of the archives in 1937, originally called the Historical Public Records Office, with Morton as Keeper of the Public Records. The consolidated Regina office is scheduled to open in August 2019. Provincial Archivist Linda McIntyre said they plan to digitize more records for broader accessibility.

*Saskatchewan History*, begun in 1948, announced that the winter 2017 magazine issue would be its last, citing declining subscriptions and funding. It was published by the **Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan**, which has digitized all of their 182 back issues (1948–2017). These are available as free PDF downloads.

The **Edmonton Public Library** held a one-day seminar for staff and local colleagues entitled *Intellectual Freedom in the 21st Century*, with panelists James Turk, Toni Samek, and Gail de Vos, moderated by Alvin M. Schrader, on September 11, 2018. A unique event in Canadian public librarianship, the seminar explored issues and concerns involving current social movements affecting how we approach intellectual freedom in libraries and the impact of social media on intellectual freedom. Attendees were challenged to think about how library professionals can ensure they recognize when personal and professional core values are in conflict.

The **Calgary Public Library** opened its new 240,000-square-foot **Central Library** on November 1, 2018, with astronaut Chris Hadfield dedicating the building. The long-anticipated, new \$245-million facility opened last November and was \$10 million under budget, according to Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi.

The **Calgary Public Library** plans to open an **Indigenous Languages Resource Centre**, dedicated to preserving Indigenous languages. A first for Calgary, the centre is supported by a \$1-million investment from the Province of Alberta, aligning with the United Nations declaration of 2019 as the Year of Indigenous Languages. The new centre will offer elder guidance, storytelling, and language learning.

The **Winnipeg Public Library** launched the makerspace ideaMILL/MILLidées in July 2018 at its **Millennium Library**. It includes resources such as 3-D printers, sewing machines, a craft lab, high-end computers, digitization, video and photo equipment, and sound booths. A Mobile Maker Labs is also being developed to bring crafts, engineering, robotics, electronics, digital conversion, and stop-motion animation to all 20 branch libraries. **Winnipeg Public Library** is a leader in the Manitoba maker community.

The **University of Manitoba Libraries** has digitized 90 years of the *Winnipeg Tribune* (1890–1980), one of Western Canada's oldest newspapers.

## Ontario News

By Vivienne James



The **Jack Rabinovitch Reading Room** is scheduled to open at the **Toronto Reference Library** in the fall of 2019, funded by the Toronto Public Library

Foundation and generous donors. A fitting tribute to Rabinovitch's legacy, it will provide a permanent home for his sizeable collection of books, and a beautiful, welcoming, and inspiring space on the fourth floor where everyone can be exposed to Canadian literature. Rabinovitch created the Scotiabank Giller Prize in 1994 to honour Doris Giller, his late wife, and to recognize excellence in Canadian fiction. **Toronto Reference Library** welcomes back award-winning Moriyama & Teshima Architects to work on this project with the library and Rabinovitch's daughters. Architect Raymond Moriyama was hired to design the library 40 years

ago. Watch for lively and informative programming, residencies, talks, panels, and a variety of special events.

Throughout 2019, the **McMaster University Library**, together with partners in the Faculties of Science and Engineering and the **Health Sciences Library**, will be highlighting archival collections and resources, with special programming celebrating the ways in which it supports research, teaching, and learning related to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). In March, Science and Storytelling featured undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, staff, faculty, and the Hamilton community sharing personal stories about how science has shaped their lives. The library's special collections contain rare texts by some of the greatest scientific and engineering minds of the past 600 years, including Leonardo da Vinci and Sir Isaac Newton.

The Jamaican-Canadian community recently honoured **McMaster Library** for its commitment to preserving the legacy and archives of one of Jamaica's most important and beloved icons — Louise Bennett-Coverley.

**Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL)**, home to one of the 15 coolest libraries in Canada — according to *Chatelaine* magazine — is this year's recipient of the Ontario Library Association's Joyce Cunningham Award. Also known as the Public Library Board of the Year Award, it is presented to a public library board that has demonstrated a high level of collaboration and innovation to produce outstanding results. **VPL** also celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, and the opening of the new children's area and LEARN IT! Lab at **Bathurst Clark Resource Library**. Congratulations!

Ottawa is inviting its citizens to participate in the design of the new **Ottawa Public Library and Library and Archives Canada** joint facility to be built on Albert Street. Workshops are available for those interested.

Taking shape at the **University of Toronto's Robarts Library** is a major expansion, designed by Diamond Schmitt Architects and being constructed by Harbridge + Cross Limited, thanks to a gift from Drs. Russell and Katherine Morrison.

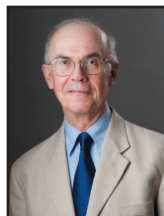
The five-storey **Robarts Common** will add 1,200 new work/study spaces with natural light to the library, the final step in the revitalization and expansion.

## Quebec News

By Pierre Guilmette and Peter F. McNally



Montreal's Inspector General reported that the contractor for the \$20.35-million upgrade of the **Pierrefonds Public Library** engaged in fraudulent practices.



The contractor denies the charges and is fighting a recommendation that it be prohibited from receiving city contracts for five years.

**McGill University** has announced major building projects: a \$115-million transformation of the **McLennan-Redpath Library Complex**; construction of a \$25-million storage facility; and a \$38-million structural repair of the **Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Engineering**. Restoration was also announced for the **Osler Library of the History of Medicine**, damaged by fire, smoke, and water last summer. On May 1, 2019, McGill libraries will convert entirely to the WorldShare library management system.

A symposium on the history of women librarians in Quebec was held in November 2018 at Montreal's **Grande Bibliothèque**. While we often remember well-known male librarians like Aegedius Fauteux (1876–1941), Léo-Paul Desrosiers (1896–1967) or Georges Cartier (1929–1994), we are less familiar with the role played by women librarians. The symposium evoked the work and influence of some of the women who made careers in the library sector: Éva Circé-Côté (1871–1949), Mary Sollace Saxe (1868–1942), Marie-Claire Daveluy (1880–1968), Hélène Grenier (1900–1992), Céline Robitaille-Cartier (1930–2017), Hélène Charbonneau, Paule Rolland-Thomas, and Louise Guillemette-Labory. This one-day symposium was made possible

thanks to the initiative of Marie D. Martel, professor of librarianship at the Université de Montréal. A more detailed description of this symposium, "Pour une histoire des femmes bibliothécaires au Québec" ("For a History of Women Librarians in Quebec"), can be found in *Le Devoir*, November 23, 2018, on pages A1 and A2.

Richard Dufour, a librarian at Laval University, wrote a history of the **Laval University Library**, *Bibliothèque de l'Université Laval: 165 ans d'histoire, 1852–2017* (Presses de l'Université Laval, 2018). It traces the evolution of the university library from the beginning, and is based on an extensive literature search. The author recalls the modest beginnings of the institution at the Séminaire de Québec, the construction of the building on the Sainte-Foy campus, the recruitment of a large and qualified staff, and the introduction of new technologies in the second half of the 20th century. The library also underwent an administrative evolution during its development. This book has many illustrations. As a librarian at Laval, Dufour had access to the university archives. This book is an important contribution to the history of libraries in Quebec.

## Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



**Mount Allison University's Library and Archives** is the newest member of Novanet, the consortium of university and college libraries formerly

across Nova Scotia, but now also including New Brunswick. Library staff members are currently in the midst of a data migration to join the shared online system. Plans to upgrade the entire library system for the collective's members of Nova Scotia's and New Brunswick's post-secondary institutions, from Ex Libris Aleph to Alma, are on track for implementation in 2021.

In 2017 the village of Port Elgin, on the shores of the Northumberland Strait in New Brunswick, lost its public library due to mould in its aging building. Thanks to a government grant and fundraising campaign there are plans to relocate the library in the Port Elgin Regional

School, which also has a health clinic. An old classroom will be redesigned with accessible washrooms and a new, separate entrance will be installed. So far residents and cottagers from Port Elgin and environs have donated \$10,000 to the new **Port Elgin Public Library**. Visit the village's website at [villageofportelgin.com](http://villageofportelgin.com) for more information.

The University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) relaunched [islandvoices.ca](http://islandvoices.ca), adding new oral-history interviews from the Benevolent Irish Society, while [islandnewspapers.ca](http://islandnewspapers.ca) has welcomed its first French-language publication, *La Petite Souvenance*, along with the *Prince Edward Island Natural History Society Newsletter*. Grant funding will ensure that the *Examiner* (1847–1900) and *L'Impartial* (1893–1915) are accessible by August 2019. UPEI's upcoming 50th anniversary will see the 50 Years, 50 Voices project share audio and video vignettes highlighting memories of UPEI.

During November, a new perks program called Get Carded ran as a partnership between the **Prince Edward Island Public Library Service** and the Eastern PEI Chamber of Commerce. By showing their library cards, shoppers received a discount or special offer at participating businesses. This enticing concept will carry into the future!

The **Bibliothèque Louis-R.-Comeau, l'Université Sainte-Anne (UStA)**, held its grand reopening in November 2018 after several months of renovations. The Government of Canada and UStA shared costs to modernize the building's design and technology and improve energy efficiency for the first time since 1977. UStA is the only French-language post-secondary institution in Nova Scotia offering university-level courses and French-immersion programs.

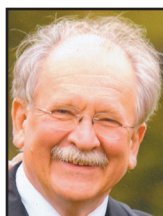
Librarians from the **Nova Scotia Health Authority Library Services** and **Dalhousie University Libraries** have partnered to collect and curate trusted resources to help navigate the complexities of the access and use of cannabis now that it's legal in Canada. Visit [dal.ca/libguides.com/cannabis](http://dal.ca/libguides.com/cannabis) for access to the new guide.

Here's a whimsical story from the staff of the **W. W. Lewis Memorial Library** in Louisbourg, N.S., who helped bring

Diana Gabaldon's time-travel romance series *Outlander* to the Louisbourg Playhouse. Celtic history runs deep in the province and the Highlands culture portrayed in the popular TV series based on the books is said to be fairly accurate, according to Cape Breton historians. The playhouse event offered history presentations that included a Macleod of Dunvegan heirloom clan flag (said to have magical powers) and a sword dancer in blue tartan. The evening closed with a fashion show depicting styles from 18th-century Scotland with plenty of scones, oatcakes, and tea for all. Sláinte!

## Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



The last six months in the **Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries** world have been interesting if not exactly edge-of-your-seat exciting. The provincial government's response

to its consultants' report on the public library service was to hand the report to the library's board for its information. The board responded by amending its strategic plan to include an additional \$1.7 million in its request for 2019–2020 funding, in order to carry out an initial tranche of the report's recommendations. Such an increase will bring the nominal budget back to the 2013 level and fund minimum opening hours in a number of branches. It will also increase the number of professionally qualified librarians.

At the time of writing, the province is involved in pre-budget consultations, in order to decide how to spin what it has already decided to do. The Newfoundland and Labrador Library Association is ramping up its advocacy efforts, in order to augment the non-existent efforts of the board.

In the periphery, some of the branches are taking matters into their own hands. **St. John's Public Library** has instituted a musical-instrument lending library with support from Alan Doyle, front man for Great Big Sea, and Sun Life Financial. It is also sponsoring

NLREADS, bringing local authors to the attention of the reading public.

While not quite a traditional library, **St. John's Public Library** now has a tool library, established by City Councillor Ian Froude.

In other news, **Memorial University Libraries** has recovered from a crash of its Digital Archives Initiative and all 80 terabytes of content are again available to the public. Note to Physical Plant: next time you schedule a power outage, tell the library so it can take the system off-line and postpone the software upgrade.

## News from the North

By Julie Ourom



By way of introduction, here's some context for this new column.

Canada's North — Nunavut, Northwest Territories, and Yukon — comprises 40 percent of Canada's land mass

yet has less than four percent of the population. Indigenous peoples make up 70 percent of the population in Nunavut, 48 percent in the Northwest Territories, and 19 percent in Yukon.

Public libraries are a legislated responsibility across all three, with government providing services — including collections, automated systems, programs, training, and support — to a network of libraries in communities throughout each territory. Local libraries meet a wide range of needs — and are often one of few accessible public spaces in a small community. People use libraries for the same reasons as elsewhere in Canada. Internet access, e-books, and children's programs are all popular.

Canada's newest jurisdiction, Nunavut was created in a split from the Northwest Territories in 1999. The largest region, with 21 percent of Canada's land mass, it has the smallest population. Although there are local roads, there is no highway access from Nunavut to other parts of Canada. Of the almost 40,000 people who live in Nunavut, 20 percent live in the capital, Iqaluit. Rankin Inlet and Arviat are the largest of many smaller

communities. Eleven community libraries are spread across Nunavut's three regions, Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Qikiqtani. Inuktit Language Month, Uqausirmut Quviasutiqarniq, is celebrated in February. This year recordings were produced with elders and educators, to help preserve the traditional Inuit method of teaching culture and history to children through Inuktit songs and chants. Materials in different formats and language resource packages were placed in libraries. *If you have news and information about library matters in Canada's North, please send it to me at [crocuscats@gmail.com](mailto:crocuscats@gmail.com).*

## News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools

Compiled by Judy Dunn



### University of British Columbia Library, Archival and Information Studies

By Guy Robertson  
Archival and

Information Studies

pleased to recognize the achievements of alumna **Elizabeth Denham** (Master of Archival Studies, 1984), who has received a CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) from Queen Elizabeth, for services in safeguarding information. Formerly British Columbia's Information and Privacy Commissioner, she was appointed the U.K.'s Information Commissioner in 2016. This year's Visiting Dodson Professor is **Brenda Chawner**, a senior lecturer in information management at the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. She arrived there to complete her PhD, having earned a BA and an MLS at the University of Alberta. Currently she is interested in continuing education for mid-career professionals. She notes that, unlike other professions, which demand ongoing and post-graduate certification, the information professions do not. Professor Chawner's other research project involves collecting case studies in information policies, which can be used as teaching aids. She will work at the University of British

Columbia until mid-December, 2019.

### University of Alberta, School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS)

By Toni Samek

In the fall of 2018: Professor Emeritus **Dr. Alvin M. Schrader** was honoured by Canadian Urban Libraries Council/ Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada with a motion to recognize his contributions to the profession and the value of intellectual freedom. The American Library Association Emerging Leaders program of 2019 includes **Lorisia MacLeod** (MLIS 2018), with sponsorship from the American Indian Library Association. **Dr. Ali Shiri** and individual interdisciplinary doctoral student **Sharon Farnel** co-presented a paper, Community-Driven Knowledge Organization for Cultural Heritage Digital Libraries, at the Association for Information Science and Technology's Special Interest Group on Classification Research workshop, where they received a best paper award. Chair **Toni Samek** was invited to join the Golden Key International Honour Society in honorary membership in recognition of her academic and career achievements in library and information studies. In February 2019, the province's Ministry of Advanced Education approved the University of Alberta's proposal to change the load of the MLIS (course-based program) to 39 credits, effective July 1, 2019. A twin proposal is in process for the thesis-based MLIS.

### Western University, Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS)

By Becky Blue

In January 2019, FIMS welcomed **Lisa Henderson** as the fourth Dean of FIMS, following **Thomas Carmichael**, whose term ended in 2018. Dean Henderson comes to FIMS from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she was a professor of Communication and faculty affiliate in American Studies. She has roots in Southwestern Ontario so this is a homecoming of sorts for her. One of the things that Henderson says drew her to FIMS was the opportunity for makers and thinkers to collaborate. "In practical terms, people aren't separate. Makers, artists, and producers are asking about knowledge production, how we know

things, how do we figure things out, they are asking theoretical questions; meanwhile, people with PhDs are asking questions about research expression, how do we do it outside of books and articles?" Welcome Dean Henderson.

### University of Toronto, Faculty of Information (iSchool)

By Ann Brocklehurst

The Faculty of Information received its biggest gift ever (\$2.45 million) from the Silicon Valley philanthropist, **Reid Hoffman**, to establish a chair to study how the new era of artificial intelligence (AI) will affect human lives. After an open competition, **Professor Brian Cantwell Smith**, former Dean of the faculty, was named to the chair, which will operate for five years through the spring semester of 2024. Beginning in the fall of 2019, the faculty will offer a new Master of Information concentration in Human-Centred Data Science. While University of Toronto's other data-science programs focus on providing computational and statistical education, this one will integrate a human-centred and societal focus. **Professor Heather MacNeil** has been appointed to a five-year term as Associate Dean, Research, succeeding **Professor Leslie Shade**. The search for a new dean to replace **Professor Wendy Duff**, whose term is up this year, is actively underway.

### University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies (ÉSIS)

By Hélène Carrier

ÉSIS will mark its 10th anniversary in September 2019, and we are inviting our community to celebrate on October 3rd, 2019. We will also be conducting a special survey on ÉSIS alumni career progression. ÉSIS students can now take advantage of studying abroad for one semester during their MIS program, under an exchange agreement signed between the University of Ottawa and the University of Aberystwyth (Wales, U.K.), Library and Information Studies. **Professor Lynne Bowker** has been appointed Concordia University Library's researcher-in-residence for 2019. Her research project will focus on machine translation literacy in the context of scholarly communication. Dr. Bowker has

also been awarded the Association for Information Science and Technology's 2018 Bob Williams History Fund Research Grant Award for her work, *Revealing One of Information Science and Technology's "Hidden Figures": How Helmut Felber brought information science principles to bear on the development of early term banks.* **Interim School Director Hélène Carrier** has been appointed Vice-President of the OLA Association des bibliothèques de l'Ontario (ABO-Franco).

### McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

A research team overseen by **Professor Benjamin Fung**, Canada Research Chair, is creating the world's first artificial intelligence-powered search engine for assembly code, to improve cybersecurity worldwide. **Professor Max Evans** has developed The Knowledge Café to bring master's students face to face with knowledge-industry professionals. It is like any casual 'speed-dating' event, identifying untapped learning needs that range from industry-specific insight to professional skills such as emotional and social competencies that are crucial to success. **Professor Elaine Ménard** retired in August 2018.

### Université de Montreal, École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information (EBSI)

By Isabelle Bourgey and Martin Bélanger

**Director, Professor Clément Arsenault**, has accepted the position of Executive Associate Dean and Faculty Secretary for the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. **Professor Lyne Da Sylva** was appointed Interim Director from July 1, 2018 until May 31, 2019. The selection process is running its course and the new director will be appointed shortly, to start June 1, 2019.

Data management is increasingly a focus of faculty research interests. Two such projects have received funding from the Canada Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in 2018/2019. These are *Entities and Identities in the Semantic Web's Linked Open Data: a semiotic study of the impacts on Library and Information Science contexts* (**Professor Lyne Da Sylva**) and *Research Data Management Ecosystem: a study of the document processes, and the roles and responsibilities of institutional stakeholders* (**Professors Lyne Da Sylva and Dominique Maurel**).

### Dalhousie University, School of Information Management SIM

By Sandra Toze

SIM has had a busy year, starting with our SIM Associated Alumni Outstanding Alumni and Welcome event. **Dr. Fiona Black** (MLIS 1993) was honoured as this year's award winner. Congratulations to **Laura Little** (MLIS Candidate 2019), who was awarded the 2018 Stephanie Downs Memorial Award, and **Rachel Fry** (MLIS Candidate 2019), who was chosen as the 2018 recipient of the Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Award. The Dalhousie-Horrocks Leadership Lecture and Award presentation was held February 28, 2019, with **Camille Callison**, Learning and Organizational Development Librarian, University of Manitoba giving our lecture, *Furthering Reconciliation by Honouring Indigenous Voices and Embedding Indigenous Protocols into Cultural Memory Institution Praxis*. Our MLIS students hosted the 13th-annual Information Without Borders conference on the theme, *Accessing Information*. SIM is excited to be celebrating our 50th anniversary this year. Please stay tuned to our website for announcements.

## Milestones

Compiled by Wendy Newman



### Obituaries

**Pamela Avis-Pollock** died on January 17, 2019, at age 65, in Parry Sound, Ont. She began her career as a librarian at the Ontario Medical Association in Toronto. She later worked for the West Parry Sound School Board as their librarian.

**Beryl Marjorie Balcom** died on January 7, 2019, at age 89, in Sydney, N.S. She was a children's librarian at the Dartmouth Regional Library during the 1960s and 1970s.

**David Banks** died on December 5, 2018, at age 89, in Ottawa. He headed derived cataloguing in a 25-year career at the National Library of Canada.

**James Billington**, retired Librarian

of Congress, died on November 20, 2018, at age 89, in Washington.

**Kenneth (Wayne) Bullock** died on December 14, 2018, at age 74, in Raymond, Alta. He spent his professional career working for the Calgary Board of Education as a librarian.

**Alec Deer** died on January 12, 2019, at age 74, in Montreal. He created a classification system for Indigenous Canadian materials, which is used at UBC's Xwi7xwa Library.

**Claire Elizabeth Gilbert** died on January 26, 2019, at age 43, in Victoria. She was an archivist and librarian at the BC Archives.

**Alexandra Hartmann** died on October 1, 2018, in Uxbridge, Ont. She was CEO of Uxbridge Public Library. She had worked earlier in Newfoundland and Labrador and in Saskatchewan.

### Bertha Geraldine

**Higgins** died on November 27, 2018, at age 83, in Halifax. She was a librarian with the Government of Nova Scotia for more than 31 years, serving as Provincial Librarian for several years.

**Una Joan Magee** died on August 6, 2018, at age 90, in Windsor, Ont. She worked as Children's Librarian at Willistead Public Library and later as Head of the Reference Department at the University of Windsor Library.

**Lloyd Melanson** died on December 24, 2018, at age 74, in Halifax. He worked in the library at the Atlantic School of Theology.

**Charles Alfred Osborne** died on January 18, 2019, at age 71, in Ottawa.

Charles was a longtime employee of Library and Archives Canada.

**Pat Parnell** died on October 12, 2018, at age 74, in Saskatoon. She was Librarian Emerita, University of Saskatchewan.

**Hans Schulte-Albert** died on January 28, 2017, at age 85, in London, Ont. He was a member of the faculty at Western University from 1972 until his retirement in the early 1990s.

**Janette Hunter White** died on November 27, 2018, at age 97, in Hamilton, Ont. She worked at the Toronto Public Library and the Education Centre Library and was a founding member of the Western University School of Library and Information Science faculty, where she taught and served in the administration until her retirement.

### Retirements

**Leanne Clendenning**, Executive Director, Ontario Library Service – North, retired on January 31, 2019.

**Cathy Grant**, CEO, Pickering Public Library, retired in December 2018.

**Madeleine Lefebvre** retired from Ryerson University, where she had served as Chief Librarian from 2007 to 2017, in January 2019. She is now Chief Librarian Emerita.

**Shann Leighton**, CEO, Grand Valley Public Library, retired in February 2019.

**Sonia L'Heureux**, the first female Chief Librarian of the Library of Parliament, retired in June 2018.

**Gail Nichol**, University of Toronto Libraries, retired in June 2018, having served in various capacities, most recently in Collection Development and the Gerstein Science Information Centre.

**Jill Nicholson**, CEO, Lincoln Public Library, retired in December 2018.

**Brian Owen**, Associate Dean of Libraries at Simon Fraser University and Managing Director of the Public Knowledge Project retired in December 2018.

**Ian Ross**, CEO, Whitby Public Library, retired in July 2018.

**Lilita Stripnieks**, CEO, St. Catharines Public Library, retired in December 2018.

**Rita Turtle**, CEO, Quinte West Public Library, retired in December 2018.

**Rita Vine**, Head, Faculty and Student Engagement, University of Toronto Libraries, retired in December 2018.

### Awards

Four Canadians were among those named in *Library Journal's* 2019 Movers and Shakers list: **Fangmin Wang**, Head, Library Information Technology Services, Ryerson University (Innovator); **Sabina Iseli-Otto**, Public Services Librarian, National Network for Equitable Library Service (Innovator); **Jenn Carson**, Library Director, L. P. Fisher Public Library, Woodstock, N.B. (Advocate); and **Anton Chupp**, Manager, IT Interfaces, Calgary Public Library (Digital Developer). **Donna Bourne-Tyson**, University Librarian, Dalhousie University, and current President of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, was awarded the Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship.

**Cathy Grant** was given the 2019 W. J. Robertson Medallion: Public Librarian of the Year by the Ontario Library Boards' Association.

**Catherine Ross**, former Dean of the Faculty of Information and Media Studies, Western University, has been named a Fellow of The Royal Society of Canada for major contributions to her field of study and to Canadian public life.

**Leslie Weir**, University Librarian, University of Ottawa, was honoured by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries in November 2018 with its Award for Distinguished Service to Research Librarianship.

**Yvonne Patch**, of the Hamilton Public Library and the Ontario Library Association (OLA) Mentoring Committee, was awarded the OLA Larry Moore Distinguished Service Award.

**Tanis Fink**, Director, Seneca College Libraries, was given the Ontario College and University Association Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2019 Super Conference.

**Susan Downs**, CEO, Innisfil IdeaLAB & Library, was given the Ontario Public Library Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

### Appointments

**P. J. Carefoote** was appointed the Department Head of Rare Books and

Special Collections at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, as of July 2018.

**Shelley Hawrychuk** was appointed Chief Librarian at the University of Toronto Mississauga Library for a five-year term, beginning March 1, 2018.

**Rhonda Jessup** was appointed CEO, Whitby Public Library, in December 2018.

**Don Nettleton** was appointed Chief Librarian, Okanagan Regional Library, effective May 2018, succeeding Stephanie Hall.

**Victoria Owen**, formerly Chief Librarian at the University of Toronto Scarborough, was appointed Information Policy Scholar-Practitioner at the Faculty of Information.

**Erin Succimarri** was appointed CEO, Innisfil IdeaLAB and Library, in January 2019.

**Tanya Sinclair** was appointed Chief Engagement Officer, Pickering Public Library, effective January 2019.

**Ken Su**, formerly CEO of Welland Public Library, was appointed CEO of St. Catharines Public Library, effective January 2019.

**Martha Whitehead**, University Librarian and Vice Provost, Queen's University Librarian, Vice-President for the Harvard Library, and the Roy E. Larsen Librarian for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, effective June 2019.

**Tara Wong** has been appointed CEO, Oakville Public Library, as of November 2018.

Ex Libris Association congratulates

**Robert Blackburn**, retired Chief Librarian, University of Toronto — and distinguished contributor to *ELAN* — on his 100th birthday, February, 3, 2019.

## Ex Libris 2019 Board



From left: Tom Eadie (President), Jean Weihs (Recording Secretary), Elizabeth Ridler (Past President), Rick Ficek, Vivienne James, Wendy Newman, Bob Henderson (Treasurer and Membership Secretary)

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 Elizabeth Ridler, Past President  
 Bob Henderson, Treasurer and  
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