



ELAN

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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Carnegie Libraries: Lecture and Tour

By Barbara Kaye



On March 14, 2024, a cool and cloudy spring day, a group of enthusiastic ELA members gathered for lunch at a Yorkville restaurant, The Pilot, for a pleasant meal and some great conversation.

After lunch, we walked over to the Toronto Reference Library where Fiona Smith gave a fascinating talk and slide presentation (including recently digitized images of vintage postcards from its Special Collections) on the 111 Carnegie libraries in Ontario. She spoke of the Scottish-American businessman Andrew Carnegie who described the library as a “never-failing spring in the desert,” and outlined his philanthropic work. His grants enabled the building of more than 2,500 public libraries worldwide, including 124 in Canada alone. The Victoria College Library at U of T was the lone Carnegie-funded academic library in Toronto.

Most Carnegie libraries opened in the early 1900s, with the first three Ontario libraries in Chatham, Stratford, and Windsor. Typically designed in the beaux-arts architectural style, Carnegie libraries were generally located downtown, often near town halls and fire halls. During the First World War, building was severely constrained by labour and material shortages. By mid-20th-century, times were more prosperous, but, by then, many libraries were too small to serve growing populations. Sadly, many Carnegie libraries were demolished in the 1960s and 1970s to make way for larger, more modern buildings. Some do remain, either as libraries or cultural centres.

Thanking Fiona, Bob Henderson presented a gift of three personal Carnegie Library postcards that TPL did not have in its collection.

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After that informative presentation, we walked across Yonge Street to visit TPL's **Yorkville Branch**, opened in 1907. The oldest TPL branch, it is also an official heritage site. We were greeted by Branch Head Zoe Johnston who discussed the origins of this library and showed us the changes made over the years. Tall windows let in light at the front where the children's section used to be. This section now occupies a larger space near the back and serves the many young families who have moved into the area recently. The library also houses a large LGBTQ+ collection. There are some challenges: the front-entrance steps limit accessibility (there is an accessible entrance at the side), the building is small (despite ample seating space and an addition made in 1978), and its small programming room has to serve multiple purposes but is unsuited to larger gatherings or events.

Thanks to Vivienne James and Todd Kyle for making all the arrangements for another successful tour offering a wonderful opportunity to be energized and to meet again with our ELA friends!

Barbara Kaye retired in 2009 after a 33-year career in federal government libraries. ■

President's Report

By Deb Thomas



For ELA, its board, and committees 2023 was a busy year.

- We welcomed two new board members: David Harvie and Julia Schneider.
- Our Indigenous Student Bursary was awarded to William Fayant (see the Bursary Committee report on the last page in this issue).
- In October we hosted a webinar on Indigenous Data, Knowledge, and Cultural Sovereignty and Canadian Libraries, with Kayla Lar-Son, Indigenous Programs and Services librarian for UBC's X̱wi7x̱wa Library (see the article by Julia Schneider in this issue, page 10) and a second webinar accompanied

the November AGM, with CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee member Dick Ellis on Intellectual Freedom in Public Libraries (see the article by **Julia Schneider in this issue, page 5**).

- We offered two tours: Toronto Pubic Library's Wychwood Branch, in April, and a virtual tour of Edmonton Public Library's Stanley L. Milner Central Library, in May (see the article by Gladys Watson in *ELAN* No. 74/Fall 2023, page 14).
- We held our AGM on November 6, at which we reviewed our constitution and approved changes. We also heard executive and committee reports.

Continuing activities include Frances Davidson Arnott's leadership in providing this information-packed newsletter twice a year, the administration of our web and Facebook pages by Lorne Bruce and Donna Burton (who is coping ably with the limitations placed by Facebook on linking to Canadian news), and Christina Wilson's shepherding of the W. Kaye Lamb Award. This award was presented to representatives of Innisfil ideaLAB & Library at the OLA Super Conference (see the article by Christina Wilson in this issue, page 4). Christina Wilson, Lorne Bruce, and David Harvie of the Archives & Community Webs Committee, continue to work on archiving our digital files, including *ELAN's* electronic copies. Special thanks to Bob Henderson for his solid management of our finances and our membership records, and our thoroughly competent secretary, Cynthea Penman, for her minute-taking skills. We are a chatty bunch and it's no mean feat to get all the relevant points accurately recorded. And finally, thanks to continuing past president, Tom Eadie, for always lending an ear when I need to sound out an idea or work through a problem.

And in 2024:

A few constitutional changes were put to the membership for approval, at a special meeting on March 5. We presented the year-end financial report for 2023 at this meeting and reviewed our current committee structure.

Go to our website for a list of **board members**.

Deb Thomas recently retired from a 40-plus year career in libraries, 30 years of which were in public management. ■

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome these new ELA members:

Allyson Aritcheta, Toronto
 Dianne Bell, Kamloops, BC
 Haley Brant, Tyendinaga, ON
 Emma Brommer, St. Marys, ON
 Cathy Burke, Mississauga, ON
 Moriah Campbell, Toronto
 CFLA-FCAB, North Bay, ON
 CVS Midwest Tape, Toronto
 William Fayant, Regina
 Charles Gordon-Allen, Toronto
 Susan M. Hart, Victoria
 Casey Hoeve, Hamilton, ON
 James Hope Howard, Air Ronge, SK
 Melanie Kindrachuk, Stratford, ON
 Fiona Kovacaj, Toronto
 Madeleine Lefebvre, Sidney, BC
 Hedwig Mallory, Richmond Hill, ON
 Mike McCaffrey, Hamilton, ON
 Quipu Group, Denver, CO
 Beth Ross, Goderich, ON
 Carmen Konigsreuther Socknat,
 Toronto
 Catherine Spence, Toronto
 Miriam Ticoll, Toronto
 Sarah Van Sickle, Vaughan, ON

Corrections

Starting with *ELAN* No. 71/Spring 2022, any corrections have been/will be made to the digital issues on our website.

Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB)

By Todd Kyle



The new CFLA-FCAB board of directors was confirmed at its recent AGM as follows: Andrea Cecchetto (Ontario representative, appointed as chair),

Laura Winton (Alberta, vice-chair), Mary-Jo Romaniuk (CARL, treasurer), Mélanie Raymond (Francophone Associations, secretary), Ann Smith (Atlantic), Tracey Therrien (British Columbia), Monika Machacek (CULC), Lorisia MacLeod (Indigenous Ancestry), Nora Hehemann (Northern Territories), and Emily Jaeger-McEnroe (Quebec). The position of prairie-provinces representative is presently unfilled. The new Climate Action Committee has been formed with Lita Barrie as chair and Shevaun Ruby as vice-chair. A work plan is in development and may feature a survey of members' priorities.

CFLA-FCAB and its Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) continue to be concerned with threats to the freedom to read in Canadian libraries (see the CFLA-FCAB IFC report, below). The board drafted a letter urging the federal government to take a firm stance against censorship in schools and public libraries by invoking Section 2(b) of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which says "Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms: [...] (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication." The letter was sent to related federal ministers, such as the Minister of Heritage, and members were provided with a letter template to send their own similar message.

CFLA-FCAB is partnering with the Centre for Free Expression to cooperate on a single, joint database of challenges to Canadian library materials, programs, displays, and room rentals (see CFLA-FCAB IFC report, below). CFLA-FCAB will maintain an historical archive of

anonymous challenges for research purposes.

CFLA awarded its Intellectual Freedom Award to Dr. James Turk, the director of the Centre for Free Expression at Toronto Metropolitan University. Dr. Turk was presented with the award at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference in January 2024. CFLA also presented the 2023 W. Kaye Lamb Award for Innovative Services to Seniors to Innisfil ideaLAB and Library for its program to distribute activity kits to combat social isolation (see the article by Christina Wilson in this issue, page 4).

Finally, CFLA has released its new Strategic Plan 2023–2027 and presented it at the OLA Super Conference.

ELA is a CFLA-FCAB member.

Todd Kyle is CEO, Brampton Public Library. He was 2021 CFLA-FCAB chair. ■

CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC)

By Dick Ellis

For this committee 2024 has been an active year. In the last few months, several of the projects underway at the time of the annual report have come to fruition.

Dr. James Turk, director of the Centre for Free Expression (CFE) at Toronto Metropolitan University has received the first **CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Award** for his lifetime concern with intellectual freedom issues and the recent creation of a strong library sector in the CFE.

In January a memo of understanding was signed between **CFLA-FCAB and the CFE** concerning the future Canadian

Library Challenges Database, presently hosted by the CFE. The agreement paves the way for the addition of data from CFLA-FCAB's Challenges Survey to the joint database of challenges to Canadian library materials, programs, displays, and room rentals. Provision was made for handling data submitted to the Challenges Survey under the policy of not identifying libraries that reported incidents. CFLA-FCAB will maintain an historical archive of anonymous challenges for research purposes.

The recent agreement between l'Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec (ABPQ) and CFLA-FCAB

will be honoured, and Quebec data will be added to the database accordingly.

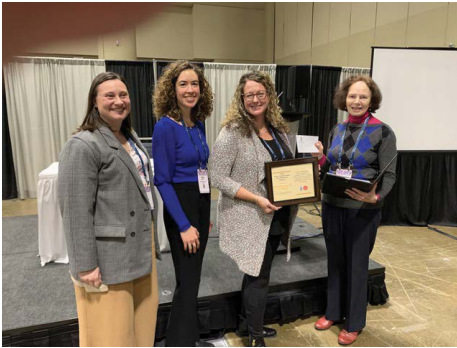
The entry of Challenges Survey data, going back to 2006, is expected to take place over the summer.

In February Wendy Wright, director of Smithers PL, B.C., stepped down as IFC chair, and Mike Nyby of W. Ross Macdonald School for the Blind, vice-chair, stepped into the role. The new vice-chair is Marc Saunders, director of the Port Moody PL, B.C.

Dick Ellis is Librarian Emeritus at Memorial University. ■

2023 W. Kaye Lamb Award: Introducing Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, Recipient for Innovative Services to Seniors

By Christina Wilson, chair,
W. Kaye Lamb Award Committee



Accepting the award are, from left, Kathryn Schoutsen, Director of Community Development and Advocacy; Jocelyn Martin, Library Programming and Outreach; Erin Scuccimarri, CEO, Innisfil ideaLAB & Library; and Christina Wilson, ELA, W. Kaye Lamb Awards Committee Chair
Photo credit: Tom Eadie

Innisfil ideaLAB & Library won the 2023 W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors for its Kits and Community: Activity Kits for Older Adults program.

Innisfil ideaLAB & Library's mission statement reads, "Libraries are powerful places that can transform communities by connecting people with one another and the broader community through technology, information, and art." The Activity Kits for Older Adults program epitomizes its efforts to be "... a dynamic, innovative community hub providing opportunities for learning, discovery, gathering, and fun for all."

Through this successful program, the library provides kits to seniors to encourage social participation, shared experiences, and continuous co-learning. Kits that change monthly include various items, so the contents, curated by library staff, are in keeping with community need and interest. The kits may include seasonal crafting supplies, materials such as hand-held exercise equipment

that supports a more active lifestyle, or even self-care supplies. The crafting kits include pre-made crafts designed to bring the library's program into the home. All supplies are included, and each kit contains all the necessary laser-cut, vinyl-cut or electronics pieces, created by library staff. Also included in each kit is community information to connect seniors with important accessible and available community resources.

HackLAB Kits for Seniors are available free through the library's website. The library seeks donations and grant partnerships to support the project over coming years and keep the kits free of charge for Innisfil's seniors.



Seniors work on an activity in the library
Photo credit: Innisfil ideaLAB & Library



Seniors meet at a home to work
Photo credit: Innisfil ideaLAB & Library

By tapping into seniors' shared interests, the program keeps participants active and engaged in their community. Its good reception is evidenced by its uptake — since the program began in 2020, 8,974 kits have been used to complete individual projects by Innisfil's seniors. The photographs show participants using the kits to work together socially, rebuilding their connections as they complete a task.

According to Innisfil ideaLAB & Library's CEO Erin Scuccimarri, "We have heard from the seniors' community how grateful people are for the monthly

kits, and the demand for the kits is consistently high. These efforts have ensured that our customers have been able to remain connected and engaged while creating new friendships."

The 2023 W. Kaye Lamb Committee includes ELA members: Donna Burton, ELA board; Todd Kyle; Christina Wilson, ELA board; and CFLA-FCAB board member Ann Smith. The committee acknowledges the assistance of Michael/ Michelle Rogowski, office co-ordinator, CFLA-FCAB.

*Named for Canada's first National Librarian, the **W. Kaye Lamb Award** — co-sponsored by ELA and CFLA-FCAB — recognizes outstanding innovative and excellent library service to seniors. Open to any Canadian library — private, public, governmental, special or postsecondary — it is awarded biennially when merited. Recipients receive an award plaque and a \$500 cash prize. The next intake for this national award is October 5, 2025.*

— Visit the [ELA website](#) for details of the application process.

For more information, contact me at:
chriswilson@shaw.ca.

Christina Wilson, recently retired as CEO, Red Deer PL, has worked for public libraries in Ontario and Alberta. ■



ELA booth at the OLA Super Conference
Photo credit: Christina Wilson

Is the Sky Falling?

By Julia Schneider

Richard Ellis's presentation of the challenges facing intellectual freedom in today's libraries — *Is the Sky Falling?* — left attendees with the sense not only that it is, but that the ground is also shaking. Insightful, challenging, and disturbing, Richard's talk that followed the virtual AGM on November 6, 2023, compared traditional challenges with those multiplying now.

The differences are fundamental, he said. In the less-contentious, more-grounded past, individuals brought complaints to the library and these complaints were usually dealt with there, through reference to collections policies, statements of intellectual freedom, and professional practice.

This is no longer the case. In recent years, complaints have tended to come to the library by way of school boards and municipal councils, having been formulated by groups with political agendas informed by conspiracy theories, conservative values, and a deep distrust of the very tenets of intellectual freedom. These groups condemn teaching about

sex in the classroom and its depiction in books, and deplore drag performances as kid-grooming. Education on all such matters, they say, belongs at home.

This presents a major problem for librarians, who are bound to respect all public opinion. Librarians across the profession, Richard said, tend to avoid conflict, so challenges that are unresponsive to statements included in the statement of human rights, and which treat intellectual freedom as an oppressive theory of the neo-liberal state, are difficult to answer. Librarians are put into a problematic situation of having to acknowledge the rights of groups that themselves refuse to respect the rights of other citizens based on differences.

This being a relatively new phenomenon, librarians are struggling to find a way to deal with it. Richard spoke of demographic factors that affect the threat — and that these factors are not something the profession can control. Librarians can, however, stand firm in their professional beliefs — even when the ground may seem to be crumbling

underfoot.

Some intellectual-freedom strategies Richard suggested are to:

- engage everyone,
- build collections comprehensively,
- reject exclusion,
- cultivate the curious library patrons,
- forego parades, as they only incite stand-offs, and
- have faith.

Judging by the questions and comments, Richard's presentation left participants grateful for its level-headed and wide-ranging sense of the challenges they face and for its affirmation of the value of standing firm for intellectual freedom.

To see the full PowerPoint presentation, visit the [ELA website](#).

Julia Schneider (B.Ed. Queen's; MLS Western, '75; MA Waterloo; B Journalism, King's College) has worked in school and prison libraries, and classrooms around the world. She is an ELA board member. ■

ELA Biography Project Update

By Lorne D. Bruce

During 2023 we began adding living biographies to the [ELA biography project](#) on the website. There are now almost 150 biographies — the largest existing collection of biographic information on Canadian librarians, archivists, and people associated with these libraries and archives. In the past year, individuals' portraits and images were added to some biographies.

As an additional feature, the website's [in memoriam](#) section is beginning to fill with tributes (almost 20 in the past three years) to recently deceased ELA members, with the option for members to post statements about their former friends.

I would like to thank Trudy Bodak for all her work over the years. Trudy

has edited and contributed biographies (such as the recent bio of Margaret Cockshutt) and kept the website current. We are always getting suggestions and contributions from members. Last year Bernard Katz contributed biographies of two university librarians: Flora Francis and Florence Patridge. Rick Ficek, who wrote the Richard Moses biography, and Barbara Clubb, who added the Jean Weihs biography, are committee members currently contributing their time to this ELA project. To keep our momentum going, I invite other ELA members to contribute to the project. We have some listings of potential biographies that people could tackle — public librarians, such as Penny McKee and Stanley Beacock, or prominent people, such as Jean-Pierre Wallot, the

National Archivist, or Liana Van Der Bellen and Janette White.

As ELA members, you may be able to help us with these biographies or know of someone who could help. Can you help add these or other important librarians in our history? If you can help in any way, please contact me at lbruce@uoguelph.ca.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:canadian-librarians-biographies> and <https://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:memories-and-tributes>.

Lorne D. Bruce was a librarian at the University of Guelph, retiring in 2012. He previously worked in two public libraries. ■

Robarts Commons Tour

By Sally Press



Photo credits: Frances Davidson-Arnott (above), Sally Press (at right)

On a chilly Monday morning, November 13, 2023, ELA members gathered at the University of Toronto Robarts Library Commons, on the corner of Harbord and Huron streets. Vivienne James, who organized the tour, was waiting to welcome us. There were eight participants (including two husbands) and all of us had memories of the old Robarts Library. Our guide, **Jesse Carliner**, introduced himself and then asked us to introduce ourselves. We did, describing our years of library experience in different areas. We sat on wooden auditorium-style benches, with lots of light filtering in from the windows on all sides, while Jesse outlined of our tour for the morning, starting in the Commons area. In 2008, he explained, U of T Libraries began an expansion. Phase 1 lasted from 2008 to 2012. Phase 2 of the Revitalization Plan added the

Commons, which has no collections, but provides enough study space to accommodate up to 1,800 students on a peak day (an additional 1,200 study spaces and an extra 50,000 square feet). This addition's benefactors were Drs. Russell and Katherine Morrison, and it opened in 2022. During peak exam times, the Commons is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Jesse took us through the Commons, where we saw students at work in open areas, study carrels, and meeting rooms. He pointed out the furniture that can be rearranged as needed for different groups to work together (and sometimes use for their own purposes).

He explained how the Commons is linked to the main Robarts Library through bridges on the second through fourth floors, and we walked across the bridge to the fourth floor to look around the Reading Room, which has been transformed. The new design is based on

elegance and inclusivity, and the views are spectacular. Wood and acoustic metal panels dampen sound, and wood and natural furnishings provide a warm ambiance. (No sign, though, of books or card catalogues!)

We then descended to the first floor to see the 50th-anniversary exhibit, which included some very interesting reminders of past issues and grievances, as well as the history of the library and its chief librarians.



Following the tour, some of us made our way to the Hart House Gallery Grill for a very pleasant lunch and conversation. Many thanks to Vivienne for arranging this tour.

For more information about Robarts Library at 50, go to: <https://features.library.utoronto.ca/robarts50/news/index.html>.

Sally Press retired to Kingston, Ont., in 2018, after working in academic, special, and government libraries in Southern Africa and Ontario from 1976 to 2017. ■

Upcoming Events

Webinar: In May Guy Robertson presents Disaster Planner Considers the Future for Libraries. This webinar will include a discussion of recent ransomware attacks such as that suffered by Toronto Public Library. Details will be announced on the listserv and on our website.

2025 Ex Libris AGM: Date TBA. More details will be announced on the listserv, in the next issue of *ELAN* and on our website.

Tours: Watch our Listserv for information about our next ELA Tour.

ELAN in Electronic Format

For members who wish to receive future *ELAN* issues in an electronic format, please contact Bob Henderson at bob.exlibris@gmail.com.

Techology Unmasked! Cyberattacks

By Stan Orlov



In 1988, one year before the WWW was created, Harvard graduate Robert Morris, launched a cyber worm that infected and froze thousands of computers around the world. He did it for fun, but the economic impact constituted millions of dollars. Since then, cyberattacks have become a daily occurrence and their effects keep getting more serious. Every organization with computers connected to the Internet can become a victim — even the RCMP! Regrettably, public libraries are no exception. In the U.S. and Canada, over the past five years, a few dozen public library systems of all sizes, including those of Boston, Washington, and London, Ont, were attacked (see “Ontario News” in this issue, page 16). The biggest effect, by far, was recently felt by our own Toronto PL (TPL) and, in Britain, by the British Library.

Libraries are at a higher risk than other institutions because they extensively use many technological layers such as electronic catalogues, public WiFi, and public computer terminals.

Also, their IT budgets often can't compare to those of other institutions. Once the criminals infiltrate a computer network, they shut down the servers, steal employee and patron private information, and encrypt computer files, rendering the system inoperable. Then a ransom, often hundreds of thousands of dollars, is requested.

The RCMP urges victims of ransomware attacks **not to pay the ransom**. This advice applies to everyone, from individuals to businesses of all sizes. The RCMP also refers to the **nomoreransom.org site**, backed by Europol, that states: “Ransomware is malware that locks your computer and mobile devices or encrypts your electronic files. When this happens, you can't get to the data unless you pay a ransom. However, this is not guaranteed and you should never pay! ... The general advice is not to pay the ransom. By sending your money to cybercriminals you'll only confirm that ransomware works, and there's no guarantee you'll get the decryption key you need in return.” Also, The Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (the Cyber Centre), which is part of the Communications Security Establishment, has a section on “**Risks of**

paying the ransom.”

The British Library and TPL refused to pay and suffered the consequences, unable to fully function for months and having to watch sensitive information appear on the dark web.

Security experts say the lesson from the recent cyberattacks is to educate employees and deploy proper tools and practices. This includes providing awareness training two or three times a year, regularly updating mission-critical software, implementing multi-factor authentication (MFA), and using anti-virus software. Hopefully, such high-profile incidents will promote better security measures in other libraries and leave less chance for hackers to succeed in attacking public libraries. These resources are very useful:

Ransomware Attacks at Libraries: How They Happen, What to Do and Ransomware Prevention: Safeguarding Your Digital World.

Please send your questions and comments to stan.orlov@msvu.ca.

Stanislav Orlov is Systems Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. ■

Automating a Local History Index: The Beach and East Toronto Historical Society

By Barbara Myrvold and Katherine Vice

Libraries, local history societies, and other community organizations may have print indexes and finding aids created over the years that still have value. Free and widely available online tools offer possibilities to automate such records. **The Beach and East Toronto Historical Society** recently automated its Local History Index. This provides information found in Toronto's libraries and archives about people, organizations, places, and events related to the society's **catchment area**.

The print index was created over three summers in the 1980s by 11 university students hired by the society using funds granted by the federal government.



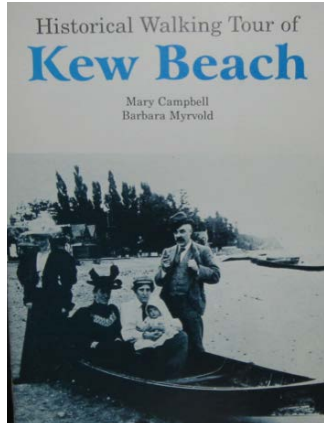
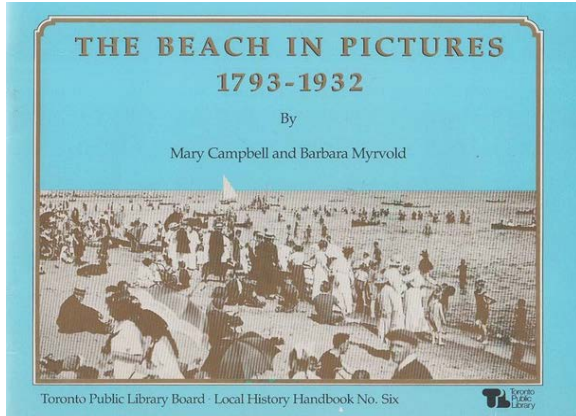
Card catalogue

Supervised by volunteers Mary Campbell and Barbara Myrvold, the students indexed materials from a dozen Toronto repositories, manually recorded on 3-by-5-inch catalogue cards, organized alphabetically by subject, and filed in a card catalogue housed in the society's archives.

Mary and Barbara used this index as the main information source to prepare two local histories, *The Beach in Pictures* (1988) and *Historical Walking Tour of Kew Beach* (1995), published by the Toronto Public Library. Housed in a private residence, however, the index was accessible only by telephone or appointment to a small number of researchers.

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From left: Irena, Barbara and Kathy hold cards

In 2019 the society's directors budgeted \$4,000 to increase public access to the index, by automating and adding the estimated 13,600 handwritten cards to the society's website. A project team led by Barbara, Irena Lewycka, and Katherine Vice, with some technical assistance from Donna McLeod (all local residents and professional librarians), spent a year verifying and standardizing 2,250 subject authority cards (half of which were personal names), developing electronic

documents to store the authority file and index entries, creating an electronic form for inputting data, producing an instructional manual for data entry, and testing the tools with the society's directors, to prepare for automation. Using genealogical databases such as Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org, personal names in the authority file were enhanced to include birth and death dates and, wherever possible, provide full names, especially for married women.

Barbara Myrvold enjoyed a long career in public libraries and archives, retiring from the Toronto Public Library in 2020 as senior services specialist, Local History. Active in Toronto's Beach community for many years, she was named Beach Citizen of the Year in 2021.

Katherine Vice is a retired librarian whose career spanned work with the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library and Scarborough PL, and a decade as an Urban Affairs librarian with the Toronto Reference Library. ■

How and Why I Became a Librarian

By David Harvie

Unlike many who have preceded me in this column, I had no desire to be a librarian growing up. Nor was I an avid reader in my childhood. There were too many adventures to be had elsewhere. It wasn't until I was in high school that I started to read. I was always intrigued by myths and legends, so it wasn't surprising that I started to read J. R. R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. From there I garnered a taste for epic fantasy and science fiction. This led me in university to study the history, literature, and art of classical Greece and Rome. With an eye toward graduate studies, I understood that ancient Greek was proving too difficult, and I was forced to realize my limitations. As I faced a somewhat uncertain future, someone dared me to apply to library school. To my surprise I was accepted by the Faculty of Library Science, University of Toronto.

All through university, I was a

member of the Naval Reserves, which provided me with employment during the summer and throughout the year. As a medical assistant, I was trained to work in sick bays, medical clinics, and hospital wards. I was deployed to military bases all across Canada and a few ships. The experiences I encountered — some funny, some tragic — taught me many things. As a medic I was able to develop and hone my diagnostic skills, which became easily transferable to computers and programming. It seems that I was an idiot savant when it came to computers and was mostly self-taught.

My interests in computers led me to the information side of library school, and I was the class's computer nerd. Upon graduation in the early 1990s, there were few jobs in libraries. I was able to return to the navy and found myself as the librarian at the Canadian Forces Medical Services

School, CFB Borden. The school had just moved into a brand-new building and library, and had purchased library automation software, without anyone able to understand how it operated. I catalogued and barcoded the entire collection.

I was then hired on for a maternity leave position at the Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) as their first web editor, having taught myself HTML coding. I was involved in the SOLScape project, connecting more than 200 southern Ontario libraries to the Internet through dial-up modems. After staff downsizing, I became the manager of Systems, with responsibilities for the internal computer network, interlibrary loan server and ILLO Helpdesk. After five years at SOLS, I moved to Stratford Public Library to become its systems librarian. I was given the project to build a wide area network connecting all the public libraries in Perth County to the

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...continued from page 8

library's DYNIX library automation system. After 12 years at Stratford, I spent two years at Brantford Public Library as the Systems and Technical Services librarian, before deciding to take on the challenge of becoming the CEO at Kawartha Lakes Public Library. After conducting a service review and realignment, I left and moved to Georgina Public Library to become its CEO. And then I met this woman. We married in 2019, and I was able to find work closer to her at the Woodstock Public Library, where I ended my career.

If there has been anything that I have learned during my 28 years in the public library sector, it is this: We are at war. It's not a war waged with armies, navies or air forces. The battle we fight is not against ideologies, economic systems, or other nations. As librarians we fight against ignorance, illiteracy, intolerance, chaos, and despair. Our libraries are the manifestations of intellectual freedom and the human spirit. Each new idea enriches and ennobles us. Each idea lost or censored diminishes us. We help our patrons seek the perfection of their minds, the fulfilment of their lives, the redemption of their souls, and the realization of their dreams. Our libraries must always tell of the past, converse with the present, and speak to the future. They help us to be human.

I never thought that I would be a librarian, it just sort of happened. I can only imagine that the gods do indeed have a perverse sense of humour. I can still hear the laughter.

David Harvie is a member of the ELA board. ■

When You Move

When you move, please remember to send your new address to Bob Henderson
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Markham, ON L3P 1H8,
or
bob.exlibris@gmail.com.

My Career at the National Library of Canada, 1972–1993

By Elizabeth (Betty) Deavy

I was fortunate to be hired by the National Library of Canada at an exciting time in its history, when it was under the leadership of National Librarian Dr. Guy Sylvestre who had a vision and the right connections to find resources and attract expert staff. In a new building with growing collections and services in both the library and archives, I had a wonderful network of people with whom to work and from whom to learn. I was also very fortunate to be hired by Fran Rose, Head of the Canadian Official Publications Section. However, she left two months later for a position in Victoria, leaving me to discover independently not only the Canadian Official Publications collection but the rest of the library, including newspapers, foreign and international official publications, reference and location services, and the Public Archives records and manuscripts. I also appreciated the Conservation Section's skilled conservators who restored and preserved old and damaged materials.

Because information was often buried within documents — such as annual reports, sessional papers, and royal commissions — and because official publications were not accessible via the usual cataloguing and indexing tools, the other reference librarians were generally “afraid” of getting a question about government documents when sitting at the Reference Desk. I soon developed a rich network of library and archives staff who I could help, as I developed my expertise, and who, in turn, helped me find obscure documents. This network extended outward throughout the federal departmental libraries, across the country, and beyond. One of the ways to maintain and develop that network was to attend conferences. My first was the Canadian Library Association Conference, at Mount Allison University in 1973. Others followed, including many of the Canadian Association of Law Librarians conferences, where I maintained contact with law librarians from Victoria to St. John's.



Betty at work, 1993

While I found my work content fascinating and I took great satisfaction from helping clients find the information they required, I cannot emphasize enough that it is the people I worked with who made my career so memorable for me — people like Dorothy Ryder (reference), Joyce Banks (rare books), Barbara Wilson and Jim Whalen (archives), John Holmes (conservation) and, in other departments, Jean McNiven (Indian and Northern Affairs, including Forestry) and Ciuneas Boyle (Fisheries and Oceans), to name only a few. To this day, I treasure the friendships I made. At my 90th birthday in 2018, I counted 19 library friends at my party.

This is a brief version of a longer article on the [ELA website](#). ■

Indigenous Data, Knowledge, and Cultural Sovereignty

By Julia Schneider

Indigenous data, knowledge, and culture have existed for millennia on Turtle Island, but it is only recently that an Indigenous library made its appearance. It was not until 1970 that the Xwi7xwa Library, part of UBC's library system since 2005, opened. It is housed in the Kekuli, an Indigenous complex with long house and museum that was built in 1993.

Kayla Lar-Son, the library's Indigenous Program and Services librarian, gifted ELA members with an overview of the library, its collections, and significance — and how they differ from libraries attendees were used to, in an October 24, 2023 [webinar](#).



Kayla Lar-Son

She explained that Xwi7xwa continues to discover and deal with the immense and fundamental differences between traditional Western libraries and the



Kekuli. Photo credit: Julia Schneider

emergent Indigenous model sought.

Western libraries, she said, presuppose a hierarchy of values symptomatic of colonialism, where man is at the top; by contrast, Indigenous culture and libraries have a more nature-based approach. This is experiential, holistic, and narrative/oral, and there are more factors, influences, and associations considered. In this alternate universe, the question of who should act as stewards of knowledge — and how — is of great importance: kin and class, gender, age specifics, geographical considerations, and seasonal associations all need to be considered. The library's holdings are not just objects, they are full of significance in many ways that need to be honoured.

Accordingly, not just anyone can steward them. While Western libraries employ objective researchers, the Indigenous library seeks those who understand the significance of what

they are working with. One of these was McGill graduate Brian Deer. In the 1970s he found the classification system he had been taught was unsuitable for Indigenous libraries, so developed his own system; this is used at Xwi7xwa (see [Weihs, Jean, "A Tribute to Brian Deer," in Technicalities, Vol. 29, No. 3, May/June 2019, pp11–12](#)). Kayla said much "heart learning," unlearning, and relearning continues to go on at her library to this day. To give one recent example, she cited the decision that a catalogue of children put up for adoption in the Sixties Scoop did not fit the criteria for library inclusion.

Near the webinar's end, one participant spoke of the experience at a 1986 Indigenous session in Yellowknife that made a great impression on her. When she admired an object and wondered about its availability, she was told it would be given to her as long as its meaning was transmitted with it. The library at UBC seems a telling indication of what still needs to be done before the reconciliation of traditional Western and Indigenous values can take place but also of the growing awareness of the complexities involved.

Julia Schneider (B.Ed. Queen's; MLS Western, '75; MA Waterloo; B Journalism, King's College) has worked in school and prison libraries, and classrooms around the world. She is an ELA board member. ■

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Treasures of British Libraries: The National Poetry Library (NPL), Southbank Centre, London

By Guy Robertson

Earth has not anything to show more fair than London's South Bank on a sunny spring morning, as people stroll along the Queen's Walk from the Golden Jubilee Bridges to Waterloo Bridge. Many literary souls stop at the Southbank Centre — a huge modern pile — to visit the National Poetry Library (NPL).



Its interior resembles that of a medium-size public library branch. Its patrons look like everybody and nobody, and are best described as the General Public, although they make less noise than one expects to hear in a branch, and they concentrate with dedicated attention on whatever they read. Often one sees their lips move, as their eyes absorb printed material, and they appear to read the same pages again and again.

Meanwhile staff members glide through the stacks, making sure that Pope and Plath and Wordsworth find their proper places on the shelves. Nobody speaks loudly or converses at length in NPL; rather, people murmur briefly at each other if they communicate at all. Staff members murmur answers to reference questions; patrons reply with murmured thanks. Where is the lavatory? A staff member points in the appropriate direction. Children sense NPL is a quiet place, and lie on the carpet in the Little Library with books provided by the Swedish Institute and the Embassy of Sweden in London. Parents encourage to browse, read, and play with puzzles, which they do in admirable near-silence. Missing a piece? Go and murmur at the librarian on duty.



On display: A skirt owned and worn by Sylvia Plath
Photo credit: Guy Robertson

NPL opened in 1953. T. S. Eliot and Herbert Read made speeches at the opening, and their presence inspired other poets to use the library, along with countless members of the public. Twenty years after the opening, NPL started to collect poetry magazines and poetry in translation. Ted Hughes, former husband of Sylvia Plath and, from 1984 to 1998, Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom, became an enthusiastic patron, and encouraged poets of all ages to use NPL.

In the 1960s, vinyl recordings were a popular medium at NPL for poets' voices and readings. The digital revolution in the 1980s replaced much "spoken word" vinyl with CDs. However, a Vinyl Collection remains available, and the Vinyl of the Month selection has become popular.

"In this library, you can read poetry and enjoy it for what it is, all on its own," says Ellen, a graduate student in

Comparative Literature at the University of London. "At school or university, you consume poetry to analyze it and to make clever observations about its structure and meaning. But here on the South Bank, you can simply read poetry and either like it or not. You can read great poetry or less successful stuff. You needn't be an insightful post-structuralist and spot the signifiers. What a welcome relief!"

Ellen notes with pleasure that there is no respect for particular poets because they are trendy or canonical. If you find Tennyson boring, nobody will scold you.

"You can leave *In Memoriam* on a shelving cart and find something else," she says. "How about Browning, Robert or Elizabeth Barrett? Or, if you'd prefer something modern and Canadian, try Pat Lowther, a delightful discovery for British readers. You can study specific poems carefully if you wish, or kick back and read whatever your browsing turns up. This library offers a lot of variety."

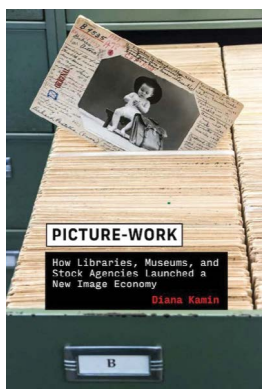
In 1988 NPL moved to its current location. Seamus Heaney, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature and author of many critically acclaimed poetry collections, spoke at the opening. A rumour persists that popular musician and fellow Irishman Van Morrison showed up at the opening as well, although there is no firm evidence of this. But, NPL staff members say Van must have been there in spirit, and these days one should not be surprised to find him in the stacks, poring over a volume of Yeats. There is always something at NPL to attract a poetry reader's interest, and dull would they be of soul who could pass by a library so touching in its majesty.

For more information, visit: <https://www.nationalpoetrylibrary.org.uk/>.

Guy Robertson is an instructor at Langara College, teaching library history, reference services, and records management. He is a disaster-planning consultant and the author of five books on library and archival topics. ■

Book Reviews

Edited by Frances Davidson-Arnott



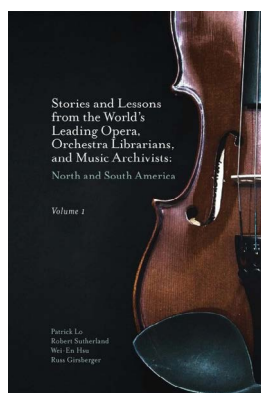
Picture-Work: How Libraries, Museums, and Stock Agencies Launched a New Image Economy
By Diana Kamin
MIT Press, 2023

Reviewed by J. A. Forrester

I found this publication and its approach to photo-collection history very revealing in terms of how quickly we forget the details of the analogue pre-digital era. An advanced lecturer at Fordham University, author Diana Kamin completed her PhD at New York University in 2018. However, this volume is much more than just an academic thesis. Kamin examines the development of three significant collections at the New York Public Library (NYPL), Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), and the H. Armstrong Roberts agency in Philadelphia (one of the very first stock-photo businesses). Developed by a city library, a museum, and a family business, these collections were developed in the infancy of advertising and promotion. The curators of photo collections developed sophisticated methods to house, index, and circulate their images. Romana Javitz (1903–1980), the NYPL photo librarian, was responsible for establishing the principles underlying this important collection. So was

MOMA reproduction manager Pearl Moeller (1915–2013), while integrating the collection into MOMA programs. H. Armstrong Roberts was an adventurous photographer who basically founded the stock-shot photography business in 1920. His son and grandson carried on independently for more than 100 years. The final chapter details the transition through the 1990s and early 2000s, when “digital-asset management” systems took over the storage and retrieval of photographic images. This book gives credit to the collection pioneers who conceptualized how photos would be organized, preserved, and circulated to the public and business communities. It’s a great credit to Ms. Kamin that she tells these stories so well.

James Forrester is a fellow of Trill College (Trent University) and president of the Peterborough Historical Society. He has an active interest in photo research and the use of images for all media formats.



Stories and Lessons from the World's Leading Opera, Orchestra Librarians, and Music Archivists. Vol. 1: North and South America
By Patrick Lo, Robert Sutherland, Wei En Hsu, and Russ Girsberger
Emerald Publishing, 2022

Reviewed by Laura Mattern Snyder

Authored by leaders in the field, this book presents a fascinating study of music-performance librarianship, a highly specialized profession in which “the core duty ... is centered on the preparation of music for performances and rehearsals.” Given the lack of formal training programs in this niche area (most MLS programs don’t touch it), these librarians followed various paths into their profession, combining extensive music training with practical experience, preferably under the guidance of helpful mentors.

Volume 1 presents 25 email interviews with librarians and archivists from professional orchestras, opera companies, and the ensemble divisions of several well-known music schools. While most are in the United States, Canada is represented in three interviews (Wayne Vogan, Canadian Opera Company; Lucie Brosseau, Les Violons du Roy and La Chapelle de Québec; and Michel Léonard, Orchestre symphonique de Montréal); as well, there is one each from Mexico and Brazil. (Volume 2: Europe and Asia is not included in this review).

Librarians describe their musical backgrounds, paths into ensemble librarianship, and the inner workings of their organizations — in detail, including rewards and frustrations. Advanced music-editing skills are required, as well as a solid understanding of music-publishing practices and performance-licensing requirements. The work requires meticulous attention to detail, excellent communication skills, flexibility, and creative problem-solving — often under the pressure of short deadlines and last-minute changes. Most respondents reported at least one potential performance disaster averted by quick action!

Continued on page 13

Write for ELAN

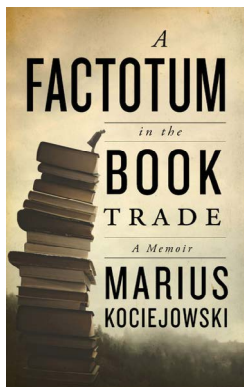
The Newsletter Committee welcomes contributions from our members. We are seeking articles, news items, and ideas that you think would be of interest to ELA members for publication in *ELAN*. Please submit your articles on items of interest to our members, including your memoirs of early days or important 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.

...continued from page 12

These interviews were conducted during COVID-19 lockdowns, so respondents also commented on how this situation affected their work. Responses ran the gamut from temporary unemployment, to project work at home, to new challenges as organizations pivoted from live performances to chamber concerts online.

I noted a few editing lapses, and the print quality is disappointing given the price. Nevertheless, this engaging volume is an informative resource for practicing ensemble librarians and archivists, and for music students and professional musicians exploring employment options. Avid music listeners might enjoy it for the “backstage” views, while librarians will gain a glimpse into a very different kind of library world

Laura Snyder retired in 2019 as music librarian at Mount Allison University, after a 40-year career in 10 academic libraries.



A Factotum in the Book Trade
By Marius Kociejowski
Biblioasis, 2022

Reviewed by Peter F. McNally

Born and raised in rural Eastern Ontario, Marius Kociejowski has written a few books which played a totemic role in his life. He soon discovered Ottawa's Shirley Leishman Books, and Patrick McGahern a local antiquarian book dealer, who “is to blame for the road I'd later take.” Moving to the U.K., he became a poet, travel writer, and printer of limited editions. He also entered the London antiquarian book trade, where he was mostly a self-described factotum — general employee — acquiring, cataloguing, and selling books,

manuscripts, and collections.

Names and stories flow easily about the famous and the obscure, as Kociejowski describes the antiquarian book world's dealers and collectors — individually and collectively — and the trade decline during his years in the business. He explores the strengths and weaknesses of dealers, such as Bertram Rota, Bernard Stone, Peter Jolliffe, and Peter Ellis. Collectors, such as Graham Greene and Philip Larkin, are characterized as hawks (collecting with a clear purpose) and magpies (collecting whatever looks attractive at the time). He devotes a chapter to Vancouver's William Hoffer. Another chapter is devoted to unraveling a mysterious 18th-century manuscript, reading like a novel, which unexpectedly relates to one of his ancestors. The book-trade decline is due, he claims, to high rents and taxes, and to electronic texts. In addition, practices such as focusing upon contemporary-author first editions have distorted the business. He also alludes to a general failure to transmit cultural values.

Providing unique insight into the antiquarian book world, this autobiography will appeal to all collectors and rare-book librarians, particularly those who have haunted London's Charing Cross Road and Cecil Court. The book is well written, amusing, and insightful. It has occasional informative footnotes, but is without a bibliography, illustrations, or a (much-needed) index. ■

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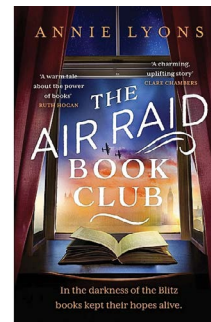
The names of potential new members may also be sent to Bob Henderson at the same address.

And please submit any outstanding membership dues.



Good Reads

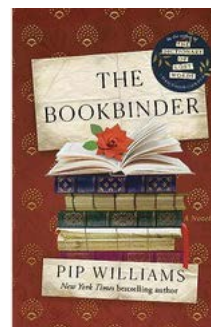
Compiled by Judy Dunn



The Air Raid Book Club

By Annie Lyons
William Morrow,
2023

In 1938 London the widowed owner of a bookstore takes in a Jewish refugee child and together they start a book club to provide a temporary escape from the reality of war.



The Bookbinder
By Pip Williams
Ballantine Books,
2023

Loosely connected but not a sequel to Williams's *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, this novel is set in Oxford during and after the Great War. It revolves around twin sisters who work in the university bindery, and eloquently portrays the themes of loss, sacrifice, family, and friendship.



The Door-to-Door Bookstore

By Carsten Henn
Hanover Square
Press, 2024

Translated from the German, this charming tale of a retired bookseller who delivers books to a small group of people details how he won't leave home to buy them. Their lives are all changed by a precocious nine-year-old girl.

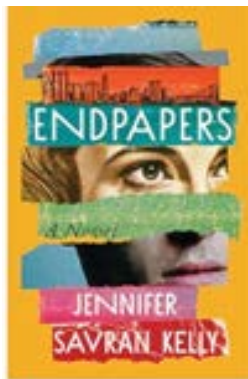
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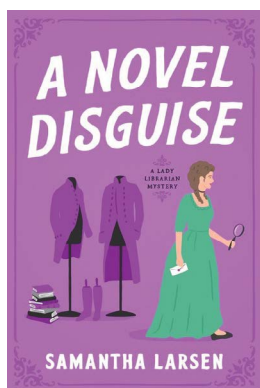
The Keeper of Hidden Books
By Madeline Martin
Hanover Square Press, 2023

Inspired by the true story of the underground library in Warsaw during the Second World War, a young woman fights to save her Jewish friend and salvage books destined for destruction.



Endpapers: A Novel
By Jennifer Savran Kelly
Algonquin Books, 2023

A Metropolitan Museum of Art book conservator and aspiring artist struggles with her genderqueer identity in New York City in the early 2000s.



A Novel Disguise. A Lady Librarian Mystery No. 1
By Samantha Larsen
Crooked Lane Books, 2023

In the mid-18th century, the main character disguises herself as her dead half-brother to remain in their cottage, work as the duke's librarian, and solve a murder at the duke's palace. Add quirky and witty to a dash of romance.

Find a compilation of Good Reads on the [ELA website](#).

Judy Dunn retired in 2011 after six years as Assistant Dean Academic, Faculty of Information at U of T, and 15 years as Program Co-ordinator, School of Information Management at Dalhousie University.

Books of Interest to Members

ELAN welcomes news about books by ELA members. Send a brief description or an advertising brochure to Frances.Davidson-Arnott@senecaretirees.ca.

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



In December **Vancouver Public Library (VPL)** released its lists of the **Top 10 Borrowed Books of 2023**.

In January VPL appointed **Joseph Kakwinokansum** to be its new Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence. As a member of the James Smith Cree Nation, Joseph grew up in northern BC. He based his recent first novel, *My Indian Summer*, on his youth, winning the 2023–2024 First Nations

Communities READ Award. The Writers Trust of Canada named Joseph one of Canada's Rising Stars of 2022.

In January **Surrey Libraries** announced it had loaned more than 1.1 million digital items in 2023, including 674,315 e-books. Prince Harry's *Spare* topped the list of e-books borrowed, and was the most-borrowed audiobook that year. Although he and Meghan attended the One Year to Go celebrations for the Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler, unfortunately they did not drop in on **Surrey Libraries**

to congratulate the staff and patrons for their record-breaking borrowing statistics.

From late January to March, the **West Vancouver Memorial Library (WVML)** exhibited Indigenous artist Carey Newman's **Witness Blanket**, one of the largest artworks based on the experiences of First Nations children in Canada's residential school system. More than a decade after Newman completed the original piece, WVML displayed one of two replicas he created to replace the original, which had become fragile after

lengthy travel. The original now has a permanent home at Winnipeg's Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Measuring eight-feet tall and 40-feet long, the piece contains photographs and a selection of artifacts including bricks recovered from residential school buildings and a wooden door from a school's infirmary.

In February **Government of BC Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie** visited the **Cowichan Branch of the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL)** to meet local seniors and provide a community workshop that covered topics, such as the prevention of elder abuse, scams that threaten seniors, affordable housing, and improvements to BC's long-term care facilities. **VIRL** encouraged patrons to attend the workshop, which was Isobel's last before her retirement in March.

The **University of British Columbia (UBC) Library** acquired its copy of Shakespeare's First Folio in 2021. In November 2022, the library's Digitization Centre completed the volume's digitization. The digital copy is publicly available at **UBC Library Open Collections**. In February the library announced its support for **First Folios Compared**. This Open Access website with access to Folios in collections in worldwide institutions allows scholars to analyze different textual aspects.

While libraries across Canada long for larger buildings and more space, in February the **Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD)** invited patrons to the grand opening of its new and delightfully small branch, the **Aberdeen Tiny Library** in Kamloops. At 352 square feet, "the Tiny" is the first addition to **TNRD** since 1974. Although it was developed for shoppers' convenience at the nearby Aberdeen Mall Food Court, local residents suggest it might also attract Hobbits. And why not?

In March the **North Vancouver District Public Library (NVDPL)** introduced patrons to its new catalogue, website, event platform, and mobile apps. Now patrons can enjoy updated interfaces, access through multiple languages, and other welcome features. **NVDPL** administrators expect patrons will adjust to the new system quickly and enthusiastically.

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



City of Winnipeg Libraries funding shortfalls are reviewed in **Framework to Review the Winnipeg Public Library Services for Improvement and**

Investment, released in June 2023, and showing that Winnipeg's 20 branches are significantly underfunded in most areas of operation compared to public libraries in selected Canadian municipalities. Operating hours varied widely across branches. The report's suggestions include adding staff, more funding, and improving security and community space. **City of Winnipeg Libraries** received the **2023 Canadian Green Building Award** in the Institutional (Small) Category, for excellence in the design and execution of its **Bill and Helen Norrie Library**.

In April 2023 Kirsten Wurmman, a longtime advocate for prison-library services and a member of the Manitoba Library Association's Prison Libraries Committee, was appointed on a three-year part-time basis with the **Manitoba Law Library** to identify the unmet legal-information needs of incarcerated Manitobans, and create services and legal collections to help meet those needs. Kirsten founded the Canadian **Prison Libraries Network**.

Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) is back on track to replace the aging **Frances Morrison Central Library** after delays and cost overruns. **Construction will start** in the summer of 2024, with a projected opening in 2027.

Beth Côté has been appointed Interim Director of Libraries and CEO of the **Saskatoon Public Library** effective January 2024. Since 2016 she has served as **SPL** Director of Public Services. In July 2023 Alberta's **Marigold Library System** announced it had been the victim of an impersonation **scam** due to a fraudulent job posting. It reported the scam to Upwork, Google, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, and local RCMP.

In August 2023 **Edmonton Public Library (EPL)** announced its next Leader-in-Residence, **Tommi Laitio**. The program supports the library as a learning

organization by connecting staff with forward-thinking ideas on topics such as leadership, innovation, and community development. Using the Latin American concept of *convivencia* and research into public spaces on three continents, Laitio draws a map for libraries to function as critical learning grounds for living with others.

EPL named **Mallory Chipman** as its first Musician-in-Residence (August 2023–May 2024). An award-winning songwriter, producer, and educator whose creativity blends multiple genres, she will offer workshops for musicians of any skill level and one-on-one mentorship, and act as the lead curator and jury member for Capital City Records.

Mid-2023 **University of Alberta Libraries** announced that **Peel's Prairie Provinces Collection** is migrating to a new website on the Internet Archive platform. The Peel collection of digitized materials includes more than 30,000 postcards, 8,000 books and printed ephemera, 900 maps, and 66,000 historic newspapers. Although many materials are in English, the collection also includes numerous materials in French, Ukrainian, and other languages.

In the spring of 2022 **University of Calgary Library** announced the acquisition of an **archival collection** (covering 1844 to 1885) of some 37 or 38 handwritten letters from Louis Riel (all but one in French), as well as a notebook written by him and another notebook containing a transcript of his defence lawyer's address delivered in Riel's treason trial in Regina. The collection has been digitized and an exhibition in the library was mounted mid-2023. **CPL** and **EPL** extended free library cards in the summer of 2023, to evacuees from N.W.T. and B.C. to provide them with access to books, newspapers, magazines, DVDs, audio books, comics, graphic novels, and other services.

Darel Bennedbaek has been appointed CEO of **The Alberta Library (TAL)**, effective January 1, 2024, replacing acting CEO Margaret Law. **TAL** was created in 1997 as a not-for-profit library consortium of public, post-secondary, government, and special libraries in Alberta to take advantage of discounted purchasing, and to share resources and seek new opportunities to reduce duplication and provide equitable access to information for local communities.

Norene Erickson and Lisa Shamchuk

were awarded the **Library Association of Alberta's 2023 Punch Jackson Award for Excellence in Library Service** for their development of the **CFLA Guidelines for the Education of Library Technicians in Canada**. Jaclyn McLean, University of Saskatchewan, was awarded the 2023 **Outstanding Contribution Award** by the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries.

Harriet Roy was awarded the Saskatchewan Library Association's 2023 **Frances Morrison Award** for outstanding service in literacy and librarianship. She began her career as an elementary school teacher and moved to La Ronge to join the **Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System** in 1996.

Sharon Siga received the Library Association of Alberta's 2023 President's Award, which recognizes the efforts of an individual or small group of individuals who have made a major province-wide impact on Alberta libraries.

CPL is one of eight libraries to receive the **2023 John Cotton Dana Award** for its strategic communications efforts demonstrating outstanding library public relations. The library developed a well considered, emotionally compelling ad campaign, "This Ad is For..."

Alvin M. Schrader is Professor Emeritus at the University of Alberta, School of Library & Information Studies.

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



Cyberattacks! Last October **Toronto Public Library (TPL)** was affected by a cyberattack, leading to an almost-complete shutdown of services. **TPL** staff

diligently worked to restore operations, gradually bringing back online services. One million returned books, stored until computers were working again, are being shipped to the branches. A cyberattack also hit **London Public Library** that compromised some employees' personal information, but left library patrons' data secure. Access to digital services such as

Overdrive have been restored, and staff members are working to restore accessibility to public computers, the catalogue, and other lending services. As part of an attack on the city, **Hamilton Public Library** also experienced a cyberattack (see the article by Stan Orlov in this issue, page 7).

Named after the city's longest serving mayor, Mississauga's **Hazel McCallion Central Library** opened in February. Following extensive renovations and a redesign by Toronto-based RDH Architects, the library features a 6,000-square-foot addition, an industrial kitchen, audio-editing booths, space for the homeless, and LED light sculptures by artist Nathan Whitford.

After 41 years with **Guelph Public Library**, and with a new central library beginning construction, CEO Steven Kraft retired, saying "it is time to hand over the reins to the next generation" (see "Retirements" in this issue, page 22).

The Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Sports and the MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka were in **Gravenhurst Public Library** to announce \$122,000 **provincial support** to bolster Internet accessibility for libraries in rural and First Nations communities and ensure equitable access to high-quality online services.

Two new Ontario libraries will be sharing space with arenas: **Wasaga Beach Public Library** and **Sarnia Public Library** (with a \$1.05 million conversion of the second-floor community room at **Clearwater Arena**).

Libraries across Ontario continue to innovate and receive recognition such as the **Ontario Public Library Service Awards'** Angus Mowat Award of Excellence presented by the Government of Ontario:

- **Ajax Public Library** received the Angus Mowat Award of Excellence (large library category) for its collection diversity audit.
- **Mississippi Mills Public Library** received the Angus Mowat Award of Excellence (small library category) for the Lanark STEM Program.
- **Pembroke Public Library** received the Minister's Award for Innovation (small library category) for Multilicious.
- **Timmings Public Library** received the Minister's Award for Innovation (medium library category) for Library Book Bike (Vélo-Biblio).
- **Cambridge Public Library, Idea**

Exchange received the Minister's Award for Innovation (large library category) for its multi-sensory room.

Western University's Weldon Library won *Interior Design Magazine's* Best of the Year (library category), and the International Interior Design Association's Global Excellence award.

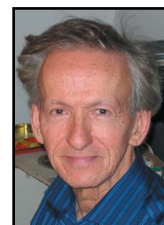
Vaughan Public Library's Civic Centre Reserve Library highlights **The Quiet Immigrant Project: A Living Exhibit**, preserving the stories of the resilient Italian women who came to Canada and helped shape our history after the Second World War.

McMaster University Library's wartime maps and charts star in **Masters of the Air**, a recently released movie based on the book of the same name. And, every February, Ontario libraries celebrate Black History Month to recognize the experiences, accomplishments, and contributions of Black Canadians through storytelling for all ages, topical reading lists, and online resources. These events, and the current and historical information offered by libraries offers patrons a wonderful sense of the unique cultural diversity that contributes to Canadian society.

Vivienne James worked at TPL for more than 25 years, was branch head of Queen Saulter, St. Lawrence and Spadina Rd. Libraries and was responsible for adult-collection development for the Black and Caribbean Heritage Collection (Parkdale) until retiring.

Quebec News

By Pierre Guilmette and Peter F. McNally



Westmount Public Library celebrated its 125th anniversary as Quebec's first public library, an event noted in the **media**. Last fall the Westmount Historical Society held a three-part lecture series on the library's history; the lectures were published in a theme issue, Westmount Public Library Celebrating 125 Years, of *The Westmount Historian*:



Newsletter of the Westmount Historical Association that's available [online](#), free for members.

Transferring **McGill University's McLennan-Redpath Library** collections to the university's new storage site in Valleyfield began in February. It began with literature from the fifth floor. Rare Books and Archives are scheduled to move in January 2025. This transfer is part of McGill's *Fiat Lux* project to rebuild the library complex for the 21st century. The newly renovated **Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Engineering**, in the Macdonald-Stewart Building, will serve as McGill's interim main library until the project's completion. A delivery system for providing material from the storage site is in place.

The City of Québec planned to open the **Gabrielle-Roy Public Library** on March 1, 2024. Renovation began in 2019. At a cost of \$43 million, the library now occupies a brightly-lit four-storey space, with 900 seats, 90 computer stations, work rooms, recording studios, a performance hall, and a collection of 200,000 documents. Artworks, musical instruments, toys, and telescopes can be borrowed!

The unionized public library staff in the City of Québec has been without a contract since December 2022. A labour dispute involving 240 staff members of the system's 26 branches led to a full strike as of March 1 after which the public lost access to the entire public library system. The festivities planned for the renovated library opening have been postponed, as covered by [Radio-Canada](#).

Pierre Guilmette is a retired librarian, Université Laval.

Peter F. McNally is Professor Emeritus at McGill University, School of Information Studies.

Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



The **University of Prince Edward Island Robertson Library** has set a goal of \$15 million to [revitalize the campus library](#) and create a more welcoming and inclusive space to support student

success.

Holland College's Library Services, in partnership with the PEI International Recruitment Office and Immigrations Services Association, are offering English Conversation Circles twice a month, at the Prince of Wales Campus.

The **PEI Public Library Service has partnered with the SaltWire Network** to provide patrons with online access to its news content at library locations throughout the province. The most-borrowed public library book in PEI for 2023? A new loan record was set with *A World of Curiosities*, by Louise Penny.

Children in PEI continue to gain more access to books, thanks to the **Dolly Parton Imagination Library** book-gifting program and support by those in the province including Rotary Clubs, PEI Literacy Alliance, Health PEI, and the **PEI Public Library Service**. Registered children are funded until March 2026, to each receive a high-quality book delivered to their homes. Since 2020 more than 119,000 free books have been mailed to children province-wide.

Moncton, N.B.'s more than 80,000 residents are being asked about their library needs regarding services, resources, and space. A modern central library opened in the city 35 years ago, but continues to be the only branch.

In the border town of Sackville, N.B., the **Mount Allison University** administration unveiled plans to renovate its campus library into the **R.P. Bell Library Hub for Innovation and Learning**. The renovation will be the first in more than 60 years. These projects don't happen overnight, but the initial funding of \$10 million from the province and \$26 million from the federal government is crucial for a temporary space to be built this summer to enable renovations to begin.

Campus librarians and copyright office staff from across the Nova Scotia Community College system supported the Challenge Nova Scotia 2023 competition by offering students academic integrity and copyright education. Challenge Nova Scotia is a free, pan-provincial problem-solving competition that calls on students to propose innovative solutions to social issues affecting the province. It's been reported that library support resulted

in high-quality video submissions by participants. Librarians are on the front lines, supporting copyright and fair-dealing queries at their various organizations; continual education and training is paramount. The Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries' copyright committee will host the annual **ABC Copyright Conference**, from June 20 to 21, 2024, at the Weldon Law Building, Dalhousie University.

The crown jewel of Halifax's **Saint Mary's University rare book collection** — the **Salzines Antiphonal** — will celebrated its homecoming in March after an exhibition at the Musée des Arts anciens du Namurois in Belgium.

Novanet Day was held February 23, 2024, with presentations given by and for library staff working with various academic libraries across the consortium network. Previously an annual event, this event was the first time in five years that staff from all the **Novanet** institutions have come together. This was also the last event before the retirement of longtime Novanet Manager, Bill Slauenwhite, who was thanked for his decades-long support and tireless dedication to the success of regional university and college libraries (see Retirements, in this issue, page 22). Acting Acadia University Dean of Libraries and Archives, Jennifer Richards agreed to extend her term until June 30, 2025.

Tanja Harrison, former University Librarian, Mount Saint Vincent University, is currently on leave.

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



The most recent good news is that the provincial government, fresh from spending \$35.6 million on contract nurses (*Globe and Mail*, February 16, 2024) and continuing that contract indefinitely, has found \$600 million for a one-time grant to the **Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries**. This adjustment follows a \$250,000 cut in 2012/13 that has not been addressed and, according

to the minister, is neither permanent nor a sign that a continuing increase is being contemplated. The minister was reported to have explained that after the COVID-19 pandemic, the government realized the additional value that public libraries brought to communities, rumours of a coming election notwithstanding (*The Telegram*, February 28, 2024).

There was no mention of LOLA (Love Our Local Authors) month (February), featuring 29 local titles in 29 days. This annual celebration of local authors and publishers includes a list of the top-ten local books (based on library circulation) and the announcement of the LOLA book of the year. This year will see the presentation of the Margaret Duly award, named after the author of several novels and other works in the 1930s and 1940s, and a prominent library supporter. The winner of the LOLA Newfoundland and Labrador 2024 Must-Read Book of the Year is Michael Crummey's *The Adversary*. Crummey also took home the Margaret Duly award. See CBC coverage here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/love-our-local-authors-lola-n-1-public-libraries-crummey-1.7099484>.

Memorial University Libraries celebrated the 25th anniversary of The Commons, a jointly-operated facility in the **Queen Elizabeth II Library**, with services from the library, the campus computing utility, and the campus writing centre. While the proliferation of laptop computers during the pandemic has had an impact on their use, student numbers are nearing pre-pandemic levels. The Commons resides on the library's main floor with rotating art exhibits on two walls in a space once occupied by a portion of the reference collection.

Dick Ellis is Librarian Emeritus at Memorial University.

News from the North

By Julie Ourom



Late last summer, massive wildfires throughout the Northwest Territories featured prominently on the national news, but fortunately no libraries were destroyed. The library community in the region pitched in to help evacuees through clothing drives, storytimes, and various drop-in programs, many for youth when fall school openings were delayed.

Libraries across the North, as elsewhere, are experiencing social challenges. **Hay River Public Library** removed chairs to discourage use as a “hangout warming shelter” when staff were no longer able to cope.

Facing similar issues, the **Whitehorse Public Library** took a different approach. Government funding provided the library with a community outreach worker to offer support with housing, mental health, addictions, and other issues. Closed for a month this spring for carpet replacement, this library will continue to offer full online services, while the outreach worker will operate from an off-site warming centre.

Local writers were featured in several events: Roy Osborne read from his short story, *One in the Wilderness*, in the **Haines Junction (Yukon) Public Library**. N.W.T.'s Bonita Nowell and her mother shared residential school experiences and readings from Nowell's book, *My Mother's Legacy*, at **Yellowknife Public Library**.

In October authors participated in the first-ever **Inuit Circumpolar Writers Festival** that included a family event at the **Iqaluit Centennial Library**. Visiting writers included Alberta's Jessica Johns in Yukon and Saskatchewan's Tenille Campbell in N.W.T. In 2023 authors Gord Grisenthwaite and Charlie Petch both enjoyed residencies at the Berton House Retreat, in Dawson City, Yukon.

The Outstanding Volunteer Youth Award went to Arianna Atienzav for her contributions as a regular volunteer at **Iqaluit Centennial Public Library**.

Julie Ourom was Director, Yukon Public Libraries (1990–2014). She previously worked at public libraries in B.C. (including Kitimat and Richmond) and in Moose Jaw, Sask.

News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools



Compiled by Judy Dunn

University of British Columbia iSchool, Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS)
By Guy Robertson

Since December 2023, SLAIS has implemented a redesigned MLIS curriculum and adopted a single intake process for application to all master's programs. Prospective students must apply by the annual deadline of January 15 for September classes. SLAIS is pleased to announce that graduate **Claire Dannenbaum**, a reference and instruction librarian at Lane Community College, Eugene, OR, has won an American Library Association (ALA) **I Love My Librarian Award**. Her nomination describes her as “energetic, caring, sleeves rolled up and moving our profession and library forward.” She has received a \$5,000 US cash prize and travel fees to attend an ALA conference. Sessional Lecturer **Kristin Kozar** has been confirmed as executive director of UBC's Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre. Previously, as the interim executive director, she had enhanced the centre's overall transparency and augmented its management team. Now she and her senior managers are completing a strong strategic plan that will rely on Coast Salish traditions and knowledge.

University of Alberta, School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS)
By Kenneth Gariepy

During the busy fall, SLIS warmly congratulated 15 MLIS graduates and **Dr. Brenda Reyes Ayala**, who was awarded

tenure and promotion effective July 1, 2024 by the Faculty of Education Faculty Evaluation Committee. SLIS alumnus **Kirk MacLeod** was elected to the **Indigenous Matters Section of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions**. MLIS student **Aizle Nyn Bernardo** received both the American Library Association (ALA) Spectrum Scholarship and the Associations of Research Libraries (ARL) Kaleidoscope Program Scholarship, and student **Joey Takeda** received the Kaleidoscope Program Scholarship. SLIS Director **Dr. Kenneth Gariepy** celebrated completing the inaugural UAcademy executive leadership program, to which he was nominated by Dean **Dr. Jennifer Tupper**, and his acclamation to a three-year term on General Faculties Council. **Dr. Doug Gleddie** served as acting dean during Dr. Tupper's administrative leave, which concluded December 31. **Chantelle Freitas**, formerly of Strathcona County Library, joined SLIS as the new program assistant.

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

By Becky Blue

FIMS was excited to catch up with old friends at its 25th Anniversary Reception held at the TIFF Bell Lightbox in Toronto on January 25, 2024. Coinciding with the Ontario Library Association Super Conference, the celebration did double duty as the FIMS LIS alumni reception, as well as a 25th-anniversary party for its other programs. LIS alumni from across graduation years stopped by. Professor **Grant Campbell** was there to deliver some reflections on Library and Information Science's role as part of FIMS over the last 25 years. At FIMS we don't forget the legacy of excellence that Western's LIS programs brought with them to the creation of the new faculty in the late 1990s. We hope to continue benefiting from that legacy for many years to come.

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

By Ann Brocklehurst

Major changes are afoot at FI, which welcomed new Dean **Javed Mostafa** in September 2023. FI has entered a period of renewal, recruiting new faculty members, finalizing plans for a critical building renovation, and looking to launch a new four-year Bachelor of Information program. This spring FI will hold its first post-pandemic Ian P. Sharp lecture (stay tuned for the date and details) and then, as always, there will be an alumni reunion (May 29 to June 2). In keeping with the university's Defy Gravity campaign that launched last year, FI has made engaging with as many alumni as possible — in whatever way works best for them — a top priority. The 2024 edition of FI's alumni magazine, *Informed*, can be found on its website.

University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies (ÉSIS)

By André Vellino

ÉSIS is focused on two significant undertakings this academic year: a cyclical review and a curriculum review. The Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance cyclical review offers us an opportunity to reflect on our achievements over the last eight years in providing top-tier bilingual education in library and information studies and also to identify areas for further growth. Concurrently we are undertaking a thorough curriculum review aimed at integrating new courses that reflect the evolving landscape of information studies. Recognizing the importance of digital humanities, bibliometrics, and business analysis and strategy, we are committed to updating our curriculum to include these critical areas. **Mary Cavanagh** is taking a well-deserved half sabbatical; we look forward to her return in the fall.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

The school is busy preparing its self study in preparation for next fall's American Library Association re-

accreditation site visit. The current enrolment is: MIST, 175; PhD, 26; Cyber Security Graduate Certificate, 27; and other Graduate Certificate, 4. The new Cyber Certificate program is running successfully online.

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

By Isabelle Bourgey and Martin Bélanger

On August 23, 2023, Trenholme Dean of Libraries at McGill **Guylaine Beaudry** (MBSI '97), was awarded the **Insigne du mérite** from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Université de Montréal, in recognition of her exceptional career. **Romy Otayek**, now a PhD student at EBSI, was awarded the Prix du ministre de la Sécurité publique (Québec) for her master's thesis entitled *Portrait actuel des services de bibliothèque dans le milieu carcéral québécois*. Last Fall, EBSI awarded 16 scholarships worth a total of \$39,000. They are awarded annually thanks to the generosity of former professors, graduates, and members of the school's staff, in recognition of academic excellence and to support the students' academic progress. On the faculty level, Professor **Vincent Larivière** is again on the list of the scientists most-frequently cited internationally by their peers, according to the Web of Science 2023 ranking.

Dalhousie University, Faculty of Management, Department of Information Science

By Sandra Toze

Dr. Vivian Howard retired as of December 2023. We thank Vivian for her significant contributions to our program, our faculty, and Dalhousie. This fall our Dalhousie Library and Information Alumni Association hosted its annual Outstanding Alumni and welcome event, where **Margie Singleton** (MLS '80) was honoured as the 2023 recipient of the association's award. Margie was celebrated as a "staunch advocate, champion and ambassador for public

libraries at the local, provincial, and national levels." Highlights of our Information Science Public Lecture series include the talk by **Dr. Maria Pawlowska** on Nov 29, 2023, on Open Science: A Shifting Paradigm, a New Reality. **Emily Drabinski**, president of the American Library Association, and associate professor, Queens (N.Y.) College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, gave our 2024 Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Lecture, on the

topic of Collective Power, Public Good: Library Leadership for Everyone Category. At the lecture we honoured MI student **Catherine Gracey**, who was the 2023 recipient of the Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Award.

Awards to Our Members

Victoria Owen

2023 OLA Larry Moore Distinguished Service Award, Ken Haycock Award

Shelagh Paterson

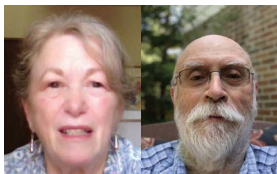
2024 OLA President's Award for Exceptional Achievement

To Save Space

ELAN will only include awards and appointments of national importance and high relevance to our members. Look for these in the news sections.

A Canadian awards page is available on ELA's website at:
exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=awards:canadian-library-awards

Milestones



Obituaries

Compiled by Frances Davidson-Arnott and Bob Henderson

Birute Ruth Bogusis died April 6, 2023, age 75, in Ottawa. She worked at the NLC Newspaper Division and was an author of *Checklist of Canadian Ethnic Serials*. Ruth pursued Eastern European and Slavic studies, at the undergraduate (Brock) and graduate levels (U of T, Carleton).

Nancy Leonard Byers died January 15, 2024, age 99, in Toronto. BLS (U of T, '63). She pursued children's library work, and ended her library career as head, TPL Dufferin/St. Clair branch.

Beverly Chandler died September 10, 2023, age 77, in Montreal. BLS (U of T, '69). She worked at the U of Alberta, Redpath Library at McGill, and retired as communications director, Vanier College.

André Chénier died October 17, 2023, age 93, in Gatineau, QC. He was a librarian at the National Library and various Quebec institutions, including Université du Québec de l'Outaouais.

Katherine Eleanor Cochrane died December 8, 2023, age 79, in Oshawa, ON. BLS (U of T, '68). She last worked at St. Catharines PL, retiring in 1995.

Gerald Cormier, CSC, died January 25, 2024, age 92, in Welland, ON. MLS (U of New York, '70). After retiring from his ministry in Catholic education, Father Cormier spent 22 years at College Regina Assumpta, Cap-Haitien, Haiti, as librarian.

Michael Dawe died December 24, 2023, age 67, in Red Deer, AB. BA (U of A, '76). A founding member of the Alberta Society of Archivists in 1981, he held executive positions from 1982 to 1999. In 1979 he became the first full-time archivist with the Red Deer and District Archives. He served as city archivist until 2017 when he was elected to Red Deer City Council, and remained until his death. Among numerous awards, he received the

Citizen of the Year (Alberta Teachers' Association's Council on School Administration), the Minister of Veterans' Affairs Commendation, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and Red Deer Citizen of the Year. He wrote historical columns for local newspapers as well as six books.

Sheila Farthing died January 4, 2024, age 91, in Mont-Royal, QC. MLIS (McGill, '02). Starting university at age 48, she earned her MLIS at 70. She spent most of her career at the McLennan library.

Ernesta E. Greenidge (née Bryce) died February 27, 2024, in St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. MLS (U of T, '82). She was head of the Medical Sciences Library at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

Shelagh Harris died December 10, 2023, age 89, in Richmond Hill, ON. With an M.Ed., she was a teacher, librarian, and principal. Active in the OLA, she was chair of the Richmond Hill PL Board, and received numerous

awards, including the OLA's 2018 James Bain Award.

Denise Hartley died March 8, 2024, age 69, in Leamington, ON. MLS (U of T, '79). She worked at Windsor PL for more than 30 years, supporting literacy, programming, and doing research.

Francoise Hebert died September 20, 2023, age 76, in Toronto. BLS (U of Ottawa, '68); PhD (U of T, FLIS, '93). She was head, National Library of the CNIB, president of the Canadian Library Association, chair of the Book and Periodical Council, and worked to advance the interests of Canadian writers and other creators. She ran the Alzheimer Society of Toronto, served on the Dying With Dignity board and campaigned hard to make the case for MAID.

Carole Henderson died October 7, 2023, age 81, in Simcoe, ON. She was a longtime librarian at the Simcoe PL.

Beryl Maxine Hunter died February 4, 2024, age 86. She served in libraries in Toronto, Nepean, Ottawa, and at Library and Archives Canada.

Linda Jane Jewett died December 29, 2023, age 76, in Toronto. BLS (U of T, '70), MLS (U of T, '76). After working at the Toronto Reference Library, she studied law and was admitted to the bar. She co-authored *Access to the law: a study conducted for the Law Reform Commission of Canada*, 1975.

Jeannine Lawlor died November 19, 2023, age 82, in Kirkland, QC. McGill (MLS, '83). She was a medical librarian at St. Mary's Hospital for more than 15 years.

Beryl Genevieve Laura LeMoyné (née Robinson) died December 17, 2023, age 95, in Montreal. McGill (BA, '49, BLS, '50, MLS, '72). She assisted Professor Effie Astbury, McGill Library School, with the reference course and worked in McGill University libraries. Beryl seems to have been the first anglophone hired by Bibliothèque de la ville de Montréal.

Elizabeth Anne Lewis (née Bennet) died February 26, 2024, age 96, in Montreal. BLS (McGill, '51). She worked at McGill University Library's Cataloguing Department and Rare Book Room, becoming the first head, McGill's Rare Books and Special Collections, from 1965 until her retirement in 1986. She also taught the Rare Books course, McGill Graduate School of Library.

Barbara Livesey died January 13, 2024, age 92, in Calgary. She began as a librarian at Manchester Central Library in the U.K., then worked at various libraries, finishing at the Calgary PL, in the Macleod, Shaganappi, Southwood, and Fish Creek branches.

Edith Vivian Mackay died December 18, 2023, age 98, in Toronto. A graduate of Acadia University, she was a longtime children's librarian for the Scarborough PL.

Margaret Fanny "Florence" Mackesy (née Cullen) died September 21, 2023, age 82, in Chesley, ON. BLS (U of T, '65) MLS (U of T, '82). She worked in St. Catharines, ON, as a reference librarian.

Margaret Elizabeth McFadyen died December 2, 2023, age 82, in Dundas, ON. She studied library science, worked as a librarian, and was an eminent library administrator. She worked at CORLS, headquartered in Richmond Hill, ON, and was predeceased by her husband, Don, also a librarian.

Roberta "Bobbie" Joy Merilees died December 31, 2023, age 81, in Vancouver. BLS (U of T, '62), MLS (McGill, '71). She worked at IBM, in Toronto, bringing libraries into the digital age, and earned an MBA (York U).

Cassandra Mireau died January 18, 2024, age 38, in Saskatoon. MLS (U of A). She was regional librarian, Lakeland Library Region, and assistant director and branch manager, Wheatland Regional Library, and active in library association activities.

Sylvia Morrison died January 17, 2024, age 95, in Stittsville, ON. BLS (U of T, '52). In Cape Breton she was a librarian, travelling in a bookmobile throughout Victoria County, Cape Breton. She was editor of the *Canadian Periodical Index* at the Canadian Library Association for many years. She was one of only 15 librarians awarded the 1977 Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal for outstanding service.

Hiroko Ozaki died December 31, 2023, age 84, in Ottawa. (U of Ottawa, '70). She was a librarian at the National Library of Canada for nearly 30 years, many as a cataloguer. She also worked briefly in the Library Documentation Centre.

Chantale Elizabeth Pard died January 3, 2024, age 39, in Halifax. MLIS (Western, '13). During her career, she wrote two books for the Practical Guides for Librarians series: *STEM Programming for All Ages* and *Anime Clubs for Public Libraries*. At her death, Chantale was the Youth Services Librarian for Halifax Regional Library and was a PhD student in LIS (Western).

Duncan Rand died February 4, 2024, age 83, in Calgary. BLS (McGill, '64). He worked at Regina Separate Schools and was vice-president, Saskatchewan Association of School Libraries; assistant chief librarian, Regina PL; acting director, London PL and Art Museum; and chief librarian, Lethbridge PL. He was president of both the Canadian Association of Public Libraries and Library Association of Alberta. He was involved in the establishment of the Chinook Arch Regional Library System and The Alberta Library, and the construction of the new Lethbridge PL building.

Ann H. Schabas died November 8, 2023, age 97, in Toronto. Physics (U of T), master's (Smith College). BLS (U of T, '65), MLS and PhD in library Science (University College, London). She joined what is now the Faculty of Information, where she became

a professor, then dean. Ann was a longtime **ELA** member.

Betty Doris Seldon-MacFarlane died February 9, 2024, age 96, in London, ON. MLS (Western, '79). In 1964 she became an instructor. She was then an associate professor in the Department of Secretarial Science at Western, retiring in 1988 with a Professor Emerita designation. She also took a local leadership role within ARMA International.

Shafferun (Shaffie) Shaieb died January 11, 2024, age 88, in Montreal. She was a librarian in the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada Library at McGill University. She completed her library degree as a mature student.

Brian Silcoff died February 17, 2024, age 81, in Ottawa. MLS (Western). He worked in the Ottawa Room, Ottawa PL, and at the Department of External Affairs library.

Katherine Simpson (née Jenner) died November 18, 2023, age 83, in Mississauga, ON. MLS (U of T, '73).

Terry Conway Skeats died August 28, 2023, age 75, in North Hatley, QC. MLS (McGill, '82). He taught courses in the Philosophy Department at Bishop's and Champlain College Lennoxville (1977–1988) and was a librarian at Bishop's (1981–2004). He served briefly as head of North Hatley PL.

Vida Venter died February 4, 2024, age 101, in Graysville, MB. She worked at Potchefstroom University of Christian Higher Education library, then studied library science. She worked in the catalogue room, becoming head of the catalogue department, and eventually vice-librarian. After retiring she and her husband moved to Canada in 2002.

Elaine Louise Waddington died November 14, 2023, age 99, in Halifax. MLS (McGill, '75). She had a long career as medical librarian at the Royal Victoria Hospital Women's Pavilion. She earned a diploma in computer sciences in her sixties, learned to program in several

languages, and provided consultation to medical libraries across Canada.

Patricia Doreen Ward (Thornton) (née Simmons) died September 15, 2023, age 92. With a degree in science, she was instrumental in the development of the Pickering PL system, retiring as chief librarian. Pat fought for women's rights and pay equity in the workplace.

Elizabeth Jennifer Wheeler died December 19, 2023, age 89, in Montreal. Library Sciences (Concordia U). After attending night classes for many years, she worked at Vanier College Library, then McGill University's Religious Studies Library.

Nancy Williamson died December 3, 2023, age 95, in Toronto. BLS (U of T, '49), MLS (U of T). She worked at Hamilton PL (1956–1964), then joined U of T's Department of Library Science as assistant professor (1965–1977). After completing a PhD (Case Western), she was appointed associate professor, then, in 1982, full professor, FLIS, U of T. A world traveller, she attended many national and international library-science conferences. A longtime **ELA** member, Nancy was on the ELA board for many years as archivist and managed the Biography Committee.

(George) Alan Wilson died January 23, 2024, age 96, in Halifax. During a distinguished academic career, he taught and lectured in many places and contributed to the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. In retirement, he chaired the South Shore Regional Library Board and was a president of the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia.

Obituaries are brief, due to space constraints. You can access a published obituary for each person by visiting the online issue of ELAN, then clicking on the name (shown in green). The ELA website, exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:memories-and-tributes, provides more information celebrating the lives of our members.



Retirements

Compiled by
Suzette Giles

Deputy CEO and children's librarian at the Almonte, ON, branch, **Monica Blackburn**, Mississippi Mills PL, retired in December 2023 after more than 35 years with the library. She is also a published author of three children's books, illustrated by Almonte artist Sam Hamilton and published by Upstream!, an Almonte-based independent publisher.

Vivian Howard, associate professor, School of Information Management and Associate Dean Academic, Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University, retired in early 2024. With a BA and an MA from UBC, Vivian held a number of positions at UBC, before moving to Halifax in 1991 and enrolling in the Dalhousie University MLIS program in 1992. Positions at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, the library at the Technical University of Nova Scotia, and part-time teaching at Dalhousie University followed. She became a full-time instructor at Dalhousie, with the launch of the Bachelor of Management Program, becoming the program's academic director in 2007. In 2011 she was appointed associate dean academic for the Faculty of Management. She has a PhD from Aberystwyth University, Wales, UK. Her research focuses on books, literacy, and services for children, teens, and young adults, with an emphasis on Atlantic Canada.

CEO and secretary to the library board, Guelph PL (GPL), ON, **Steven Kraft**, retired on February 29, 2024, after almost 10 years in that position. His career spanned 41 years with GPL, beginning as a part-time children's reference librarian. Prior to becoming CEO, his roles included director of Main Branch Services and assistant CEO. Steven holds a master's degree in library and information science from Western University. As of March 1, 2024, deputy CEO, Dan Atkins, is interim CEO.

Public Services Librarian **Jeff Lilburn**, Mount Allison Libraries and Archives, retired in September 2023. Jeff joined the library in 2002 and, with a master's degree in English literature from Western University and an MLS from McGill University, became a full librarian in 2018. Jeff was Mount Allison Faculty Association president for two years, and was twice on the collective bargaining and arbitration teams. He also served terms as a director on the boards of the Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians and the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations, and spent two years on the CAUT Librarians' and Archivists' Committee.

Mary Maw, manager of Communications and Community Development at Caledon PL, ON, retired at the end of 2023. Mary began as a page at the library in 1979. After a brief break — from 1983 to 1986 — she spent her career at the Bolton branch, where she held roles in Circulation, Children's Services, Technical Services, as Public Service manager and Bolton branch manager, before her final position, a career spanning 37 years. **Jill Jambor** is the new manager of Communications and Community Development.

Cynthia Mckeich, director at Humber College, retired in December 2023. Cynthia's career of more than 24 years in the Ontario college system, included more than 10 years at Seneca College, where she was manager, King Campus Library and manager, Library User Services, before starting at Humber in 2017. She has a master's degree in Library and Information Science (U of T '86). At Humber Cynthia oversaw the launch of the Idea Lab and the expansion of the college archives, and also played an important role in the development of a new college library-system resource-search tool called Page 1+, as well as the integration of University of Guelph–Humber library services with those of Humber Libraries. She was president of the Ontario College and University Library Association in

2006, and, in 2024, received OCULA's Lifetime Achievement Award. On December 11, 2023, **Alexandra Ross** joined the senior leadership team, in the Division of Students and Institutional Planning, as library director.

Bill Slauenwhite, manager of Novanet, joined Novanet as the Implementation Project Manager in 2004 and retired in February. Bill graduated from Dalhousie University in 1983, and held positions in Dalhousie University Libraries and Technical University of Nova Scotia, prior to joining Novanet. He received the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Award of Merit in 2013 and was the Halifax Library Association president (2015–2016).

Chris Stephenson, CEO of Haliburton County PL, ON, retired in October 2023. Stephenson graduated with a BA from McMaster University in 1997 and an MLIS from UBC in 2015. He was a scenic carpenter with the Vancouver film industry for nearly 10 years, a rare-books digitizer for the BC Historical Books Project, an information architect for the Global Civic Policy Society in Vancouver as well as a board member of the Niteo Africa Society, Kelowna, BC. He was the CEO/head librarian of Bancroft PL, ON, (July 2016 – November 2017). In August 2018 he became head, Kelowna branch of the Okanagan Regional Library. While there, together with Ashley Machum, branch Youth Services librarian, he received the 2020 BCLA Intellectual Freedom Award, which stemmed from a Drag Queen Story Time held in 2019. Stephenson left Okanagan Regional Library in January 2021, and was a librarian at Bookmanager.com, before becoming Haliburton County PL CEO in September 2021. **Andrea Brown** was appointed CEO and chief librarian as of February 2024.

Susan Therrien, CEO of Port Colborne PL, ON, since July 2017, retired on February 29, 2024, after 31 years with the library. Susan worked on the library's first strategic

plan (adopted in 2018 and recently renewed), joined the Libraries in Niagara Cooperative in 2020, increased outreach with a pop-up library to cater to underserved areas, and increased community engagement and partnerships. Library Services manager/acting CEO is **Rachel Tkachuk**.

Ross Tyner, director of Library Services, Okanagan College, Kelowna, BC, retired in December 2023. After obtaining a BA from the University of Ottawa in 1988 and an MLS from UBC in 1992, Ross joined Okanagan College library. Prior to being appointed director of Library Services in 2009, Ross was active in the faculty association, serving terms as chief steward and president. During his 14 years as director, he also became interim regional dean, Shuswap-Revelstoke, Salmon Arm campus (2015–2016) and interim director of Human Resources (2016–2017). Roën Janyk became interim director of Library Services on December 18, 2023.

Suzette Giles held a number of different positions at Ryerson University Library from 1975 to 2010, and was the Data Librarian at retirement.



Winnipeg, Man., Carnegie Library.

ELA Indigenous-Student Bursary

By Deb Thomas



In 2023 ELA launched an annual Indigenous Student Bursary of \$2,500 for students in library and archival programs. Thanks to a donation of \$500 from Library Bound and generous contributions from ELA members, we were able to raise the funds for the bursary's first year. We are pleased to report that the 2023 bursary has been awarded to William Fayant, a second-year student with an excellent GPA in his second year in the Library and

Information Technician Program at Red River College Polytech.



William Fayant
Photo credits: From left, Don's Photo (Regina),
Quin Jackson-Buck

“As I currently understand it, 2023 marks the first year this bursary has been awarded, in what I hope shall be the case for many years to come. Being an initial recipient, I understand, first-hand, just how much this award can change a person's life. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Ex Libris Association for their support in the 2023-24 academic year. As a Library and Information Technology student, and as a Cree/Métis man from Treaty 4 Territory, receiving this bursary has been a life-

changing experience for me: I am now enrolled full-time in my studies, and can begin my path to a lifelong career in the library field much sooner than I could have without the Ex Libris Association's generous support. Thank you very much, ELA, for your kind investment towards my future!”
— William Fayant, Ex Libris Association Indigenous Student Bursary recipient (2023)

We have a healthy start, but welcome more donations to fund the 2024 award. If you would like to donate, please contact bob.exlibris@gmail.com, and contact our president, Deb Thomas at thomasde424@gmail.com if you have questions about any aspect of the bursary.

Thanks to Indspire which manages the award. More information on the bursary can be found on ELA's [website](#).

The Indigenous Student Bursary Committee comprises Deb Thomas (chair), Bob Henderson, Tom Eadie, and Lorisia MacLeod.

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