

## News from Nova Scotia

### News from Dalhousie Libraries

**Marlo MacKay, Communications Coordinator**

## Dalhousie Libraries Launches Partnership with the National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation

**Stephanie Rogers, Communications Manager, Faculty of Agriculture**

Indigenous culture, music, and language was at the center of an important event to launch Dalhousie's partnership with the National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation (NCTR) on February 5.

As the first East Coast hub of the NCTR, the space, located in the Indigenous Community Room of the MacRae Library on the Agricultural Campus in Truro, will encourage education and awareness about Indigenous history and will serve as a constant reminder to students, faculty, and staff of the university's commitment to reconciliation.

"Dalhousie is proud to house the first NCTR location in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq," said Donna Bourne-Tyson, University Librarian for Dalhousie. "Due to the archival and research-focused aspects of the NCTR, the Dalhousie Libraries are the anchor of this partnership on behalf of Dalhousie."

In addition to archival and research expertise, the Dalhousie Libraries have recently hired an Indigenous services librarian, Morning Star Padilla, who will facilitate connections between the local centre and the surrounding communities.

### **Making NCTR resources accessible**

The NCTR opened in 2015 at the University of Manitoba — a result of the 2007 [Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement](#) — to be the permanent home for all statements, documents and other materials gathered by the TRC. The NCTR was created to preserve the memory of Canada's Residential School system and legacy.

"We are thrilled to see this partnership with Dalhousie University take this significant step forward," said Ry Moran, a member of the Red River Metis and director of the NCTR. "The NCTR was founded on the

vision of a network of interconnected hubs working from coast to coast to coast, keeping the fire of Reconciliation lit in this country. Dalhousie, through this Centre, is helping advance this vision.”

Moran facilitated the gathering of nearly 7,000 video and audio-recorded statements of former Residential School students and others affected by the Residential School system. He was also responsible for gathering the documentary history of the Residential School system from more than 20 government departments and nearly 100 church archives — millions of records in all.

Through this partnership, Dalhousie Libraries will ensure the NCTR’s archives are more accessible and better used in the Atlantic region. In the future, Dalhousie will grow the service to include contributing additional holdings to the NCTR; facilitating additional oral history and community narratives, research and reports; supporting a broad scope of public education, research, cultural and reconciliation activities; assisting the NCTR in serving the public in a variety of Indigenous languages, English and French and fulfilling regional or community needs and desires related to residential school research, education and reconciliation.

**Pictured below (in order):** *Aaron Prosper* (President of Dalhousie Student Union), *Catherine Martin*, *Dr. Teri Balsler* (Provost and Vice-President Academic), *Elaine MacInnis & Donna Bourne-Tyson*, *Elder Jane Abram*, *Francis Sylliboy* (daughter of Rita Joe), *Morning Star Padilla* (Indigenous Services Librarian), *Ry Moran* (NCTR Director).





## Donna Bourne-Tyson Receives the Ken Haycock Award

Donna Bourne-Tyson, University Librarian of Dalhousie, has won the prestigious Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship from the Canadian Federation of Library Associations, presented at the OLA Super Conference in Toronto on January 30. Donna received this award for her significant contributions to the field of librarianship, to which many of her colleagues at Dal can attest.

The nominating institution, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL), submitted the following:

**February 4, 2019** – The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) would like to congratulate current CARL President, Donna Bourne-Tyson, on receiving the Ken Haycock Award on January 30th at the OLA Super Conference in Toronto. This award is conferred to an individual who has made significant contributions to the public recognition and appreciation of librarianship through professional performance, teaching, and/or writing.

Ms. Bourne-Tyson was honoured with this award for her firm commitment to personal membership in professional associations and her remarkable range of Board roles in regional, national, and international association and consortia, and for founding and shepherding multiple new organizations.

“Donna believes and lives a philosophy that working together is much more effective than solo or siloed action. Through her collaborative view of the library world, Donna has brought together people, institutions, and even associations to effect consortial action. Through this, she has had long-reaching impact. Donna has quietly and pragmatically helped shape the library association landscape in this country,” said Paul Takala, Chief Librarian, Hamilton Public Library, during the award ceremony.

CARL is pleased to have nominated Ms. Bourne-Tyson for the award, in recognition of her association engagement and her leadership and dedication as an ambassador and role model for librarianship. The award includes a \$1,000 reward, which Ms. Bourne-Tyson has graciously donated to the Canadian Federation of Library Associations.



## Putting Dal on the Map: Launching the Chris Hadfield Space Photographs Collection

On April 11, the Dal Libraries launched the [Chris Hadfield Space Photographs Collection](#) to a packed house in the Killam Memorial Library. Space and geography fans of all ages gathered to get their first look at the collection on the Killam's data visualization wall before the link to the collection was publicly released.

Commander Chris Hadfield donated over 13,000 of his space photographs to Dalhousie for the purposes of sharing, preserving and promoting their use in teaching and research. The photographs capture what he saw while orbiting Earth as Commander of the International Space Station (ISS) in 2013. Due to an incredible stroke of serendipity, Dal Libraries' GIS Specialist and Map Curator James Boxall obtained the photos from Commander Hadfield on behalf of Dalhousie.



*James Boxall*



*Caitlin Cunningham*

Inspired by the photos, Boxall saw the potential in using the Story Map platform to organize the collection. Caitlin Cunningham, a PhD student and intern in the Dal Libraries GIS Centre, is the author of this Story Map. Over a year, Caitlin reviewed all the photos, selecting the best 200, and then designed a series of related Story Maps to make them interactive and accessible. Dalhousie is one of only two institutions in the world to have these photos, and the only institution to create a public archive with the images.

“We are honoured that Chris Hadfield has entrusted the Dal Libraries to preserve his collection. Commander Hadfield is thrilled with the work we’ve done so that his photos can be an ongoing resource for students and the space-curious. The potential for these photos to inspire teaching and research is limited only by our imaginations and extends far beyond Dalhousie,” said Donna Bourne-Tyson, University Librarian.

In addition to presenting the photos georeferenced to their orbital path and plotted on a map, the collection features “swipe maps,” which puts two images of the same location on top of each other, for

the purposes of comparing them by sliding left and right. The swipe maps emphasize change over time, making them useful for urbanization and climate change studies. Another activity presents 56 images without a label or map location, giving the public a chance to play spatial detective by figuring out where on Earth the image is. Answers can be submitted to the Dal Libraries.

Commander Hadfield sent video greetings that were played at the launch, expressing his thanks for the work the Dalhousie Libraries have done with his photos and his Chief of Staff from Chris Hadfield Inc., Cheryl-Ann Horrocks, was in attendance.



*Donna Bourne-Tyson, Cheryl-Ann Horrocks, Caitlin Cunningham, James Boxall*



## Defeating the Mob in the Law Library, Halifax, 1946: Gamifying Research Skills Testing at the Dalhousie Libraries

In a corner of the basement of the Sir James Dunn Law Library, behind an unassuming door, is a room on campus like no other. The soft lighting, the solid wooden furniture, and the strains of Glenn Miller coming from a Bakelite radio are some of the things that may first catch your attention as you enter the room.



A closer look reveals you're in a lawyer's office from seventy years ago. The cast-iron typewriter, the crystal decanter and tumblers, the pipe and ashtray, and the Brownie camera, along with decorative touches such as the fireplace façade and the vintage photos on the walls add to the immersive experience of the room.

This room, that looks like it's been sealed off from the world since the 1940s, is not the former office of some long-retired barrister that's been preserved, shrine-like. It's an escape room – like those trendy

themed rooms that have been popping up all over the city. Escape rooms are described as adventure games wherein participants must solve a series of puzzles and riddles in a set time limit, all while trapped in a room.

The Law Library's escape room was developed and curated by law librarians David Michels and Hannah Steeves. Assistance came from a \$1,000 grant from the Council of Atlantic University Libraries (CAUL) and a grant for \$780 from the Dalhousie Centre for Learning and Teaching. David, the brains behind the initial concept, explains, "We designed the escape room to test the research skills of law students in a fun and unusual way."



*David Michels*

There is a gap between when the first-year students take the legal research course and when they're working in firms and using those skills in their second and third years. "We want to compare the retention of the first-year students, who've just had the instruction, to that of the second and third year students," said David. Previously, the law librarians had been recruiting volunteers and testing their legal research skills retention in a more traditional way, but David admits it was tough to get volunteers for such an activity.



*Hannah Steeves*

It's hard to believe that when he started working on this idea, David had never been in an escape room. David and Hannah started working on the room in March 2018 and did a period of testing with students and faculty. After making some adjustments based on the several months of testing, they've been running the escape room with students since January.

Groups of five go into the room where they spend an hour solving a mix of logic and legal research puzzles. David and Hannah observe the escape room participants from a laptop just outside the escape room that's connected to a web cam in the room, so they can hear and see what's going on.

"A lot of research the first-year students are doing is online and to solve the puzzles in the escape room, the students must use print legal resources. So, we're getting back to basics and teaching them some skills they will find useful," said Hannah.

"You really see the hive mind at work here," adds David. "The groups that communicate well tend to do better in the room."

This just might be the first escape room in an academic library in Canada, although Hannah notes that many public libraries are doing escape rooms. “We have had a lot of interest from faculty and students from a number of law schools. During the law library conference that was in Halifax last spring, directors from law schools across Canada toured the room,” said Hannah.

The premise of the Law Library’s escape room is that Halifax’s Crown Prosecutor has been kidnapped an hour before he is about to take on the mob in court. Without the Prosecutor’s papers, there’s no way the crown can win the case. Participants have one hour to solve all the legal research puzzles in the room, leading them to the papers that will solve the case — or the mob walks.

They named the fictional Crown Prosecutor after a current legal research instructor at the Schulich School of Law, Jonathon Shapiro. “Using her PhotoShop skills, Hannah has hidden a number of Jonathan Shapiro Easter eggs in the room,” said David.

The room even features a working period phone. “Emily, our intern, figured out how to rewire the phone. It was a challenge to integrate the phone into Dalhousie’s network, but it works,” said David. Escape room participants use the phone to call for clues and to announce when they’ve solved the room. An unexpected outcome of having gone through the escape room is students getting a lesson in using a rotary telephone and a typewriter.



One of the local antique shops really got into the project, showing David items they thought would work in the room whenever he stopped by. “There are so many things we could add, and there’s lots of potential to run the room in different iterations,” said David.

“We will be preparing a report for CAUL about the escape room. Even if we determine this was not a good way to measure retention of legal research skills, we have increased participation in library activities through gamification. As a result of that, we’re seeing students spending more time in the library because it’s become a familiar place,” said Hannah.



If you get a chance to visit the Sir James Dunn Law Library’s escape room, take the time to look at *everything*. The attention to detail David and Hannah have put into the room will make you wonder if they should be in the business of escape rooms full-time.





McNicol, S. (2017). The potential of educational comics as a health information medium. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, 34(1), 20-31. doi: 10.1111/hir.12145

Williams, I. (2012). Graphic medicine: Comics as medical narrative. *Medical Humanities*, 38(1), 21-27. doi: 10.1136/medhum-2011-010093

U.S. National Library of Medicine. (2018). Graphic medicine: Ill-conceived & well-drawn. Retrieved from <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/graphicmedicine/>

## Thank you, Miss Webster

The Dalhousie Libraries would like to honour the generosity and memory of Miss Ellen Webster, who left a gift to the Libraries when she passed away in 2017 at the age of 101.

Miss Webster worked as a reference librarian at the Halifax Memorial Library when it opened in 1951 until she retired. “I worked for Ellen Webster in my first library job at the Halifax Memorial Library. We always called her Miss Webster at work and she was such a nice lady, always kind and patient with staff and library users,” said Ann Barrett, Associate University Librarian for Scholarly Communications and Head of the W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library.



To honour Miss Webster’s known wishes, this generous bequeathment will be added to the previously existing Ellen Webster Library Fund, an endowment to be spent in the area of Arts and Social Sciences. In recent years, these funds purchased resources in the subject areas of Indigenous studies, music, film, and library and information studies.

“Miss Webster was known for her friendliness, smile, humour, and her Nova Scotian-style cooking,” noted Donna Bourne-Tyson, University Librarian. “We will also remember her for her generosity and commitment to life-long learning and libraries.

## New Staff

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff members to the Dalhousie Libraries:

**Ahmed Mahdy** – Systems Administrator

**Cassandra Larose** – Evening & Weekend Supervisor

**Kirsten Huhn** – Collections Analysis Librarian (new position)

We'd also like to acknowledge that **Brian Lesser**, who has been with the Dalhousie Libraries for six years, is the new Manager of Operations for our Academic Technology Services team.

## Past Events

|                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| Launch of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Hub                                                                                        | February 5                                                                                                                                                        |
| Blind Date with a Book                                                                                                                                | February 13                                                                                                                                                       |
| There's Something in the Water: a lecture by Ingrid Waldron                                                                                           | February 27                                                                                                                                                       |
| An evening with Oisín Curran<br>(2018 Raddall Award-winning author)                                                                                   | March 7                                                                                                                                                           |
| Afrofuturism: A panel discussion (Dal Reads event)                                                                                                    | March 18                                                                                                                                                          |
| Launch of the Chris Hadfield Space Photographs Collection                                                                                             | April 11                                                                                                                                                          |
| Scholarship @ Dal Webinar Series                                                                                                                      | April 17 - Avoiding Predatory Publishers<br>April 26 - DalSpace: a place to preserve the intellectual output of Dalhousie<br>May 3 - Managing Human Research Data |
| Research Bootcamp for RAs and TAs<br>23 sessions for RAs and TAs on topics such as literature reviews, copyright, supporting scholarly research, etc. | May–June                                                                                                                                                          |

For current events, visit our calendar: <https://dal.libcal.com/calendar/events>