

News from New Brunswick

News from Mount Allison

Laura Landon, Head, Access Services, R.P. Bell Library



The R.P. Bell Library re-opened its stacks for browsing in mid-July, welcoming both Mount Allison patrons and community members back into the building. With New Brunswick dropping its emergency COVID measures on July 30, Mount Allison has responded with a hybrid re-opening plan. As of August, the Library no longer requires contact-tracing information or registration to enter the building. While masking is not mandatory, we encourage it.

COVID procedures have been challenging for all libraries, but they also brought us some good things. We'll be keeping COVID-inspired innovations such as the Library to Go "curbside" pick-up service. Students also told us they liked our Book a Seat room-booking system. All rooms will remain bookable, with a selection of seats throughout the building bookable in advance.

As we enter New Brunswick's "green" phase of COVID reopening, we remain cautious and realize we may need to adjust quickly if circumstances change. Libraries have learned plenty since the pandemic began—particularly about the resilience and flexibility of our staff and patrons, who have led and adapted to COVID procedures with creativity and patience.

Staff News:

Congratulations to Public Services Librarian **Elizabeth Millar**, who was honoured by the Mount Allison Student Union (MASU) with a MASU Hall of Fame Award in Spring 2021. Unveiled in an online ceremony featuring student presenters in a variety of locations across campus, the award is "given to a person (staff, student, or faculty) who has made an exceptional and outstanding contribution and commitment to student life and the Mount Allison community over a number of years."

Mount Allison was pleased to host Dalhousie School of Information Management student **Emily Hillman** on a practicum in Spring 2021. Emily helped the Library on a number of projects, including the Novanet online help service, Mount Allison Libraries' online chat reference, collection development, and building a LibGuide on the Kanopy streaming video service. We wish her the best with the remainder of her studies and in her future endeavours as a librarian.

Renée Belliveau, who has worked with the Mount Allison Libraries & Archives in a variety of capacities since 2018, is serving as Acting University Archivist in the 2021-22 academic year, while Archivist **David Mawhinney** is on sabbatical. Renée has worked on numerous archival projects, including several [virtual exhibitions](#). In 2020, she completed her Master of Information from the University of Toronto, with dual concentrations in Archives & Records Management and Library & Information Sciences.

Jason MacDonald has accepted a four-year position as Library Renovation Project Coordinator for the R.P. Bell Library effective July 2021. The Library is Mount Allison's next major renovation project, and preparations for a future move out of the building are underway. Jason will work closely with University Librarian **Dianne Keeping** to guide the move out of and back into the building. Jason comes to the position with 20 years of experience in academic libraries, most recently as Head of Access Services and Interlibrary Loans in 2020-21, helping to guide frontline staff and patrons through the Library's COVID practices. Prior to that, Jason served as Interlibrary Loans Coordinator from 2016-2020.

Alexandra Tome joined the Library's Technical Services department in August 2021 as an Inventory and Withdrawal Clerk. Alex was the E-Learning Library Technician at Humber College in Ontario until she recently relocated to New Brunswick. She will be helping with Mount Allison's collections reconfiguration during our upcoming migration to the Alma ILS, and with our renovation over the next four years.

The Libraries & Archives welcomed **Gavin Goodwin** as our new term Creative Arts Librarian, beginning in August 2021 until June 30, 2022. A recent graduate of McGill University's Master of Information Studies program, Gavin worked as a student Reference Librarian at Concordia University for a year and as a librarian intern at the Canadian Music Centre in Montreal. In addition to his librarian degree, Gavin holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music, with substantial experience in both performing and teaching music.