

News from Nova Scotia

News from Acadia University – Vaughan Memorial Library

Britanie Wentzell, Academic Librarian, Outreach and Promotions Coordinator

Staffing

A lot has been going on at the Vaughan Memorial Library with new positions, new hires and retirements!

New Positions

- **Jennifer Richard** stepped into the role once again of Acting Dean of Libraries and Archives, while **Heather Saunders** is on leave.
- **Agnieszka Hayes** was hired for another contract term (replacing Jennifer Richard while she is Acting Dean).
- A new Nursing program will be starting in January 2024 at Acadia University and **Maggie Neilson** will be taking on the new liaison role for the program.

New Hires

- We hired a new Digital Archivist in August, **Ciaran Purdome**.

Retirements

- **Patricia Townsend** has retired after 51 years at the Vaughan Memorial Library. She was also awarded the well-deserved distinction of Archivist Emerita. Pat has provided support and information on the history of the University and Baptist history to seven Presidents, along with numerous colleagues in the departments of Public Relations, Marketing, Alumni Services and Advancement. She has assisted and been recognized for her efforts in over forty theses from undergraduate work in various departments in the Faculty of Arts to Master's and doctoral theses from the Divinity School, along with at least eight books. Her presence around the Library and her plethora of knowledge will be sorely missed (however, as Archivist Emerita we do still get to see her often)!
- **Ann Myers** retired after 45 years of working at the Library in various roles, including: Reference, Interlibrary Loans, Cataloguing, and Special Collections. She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

Art

#HOPEANDHEALINGCANADA



We have the honour of hosting the art installation #HOPEANDHEALINGCANADA by **Tracey-Mae Chambers**, a Métis Installation Artist, in the Library until December 13th, 2023. Tracey-Mae installed the art piece on Monday October 2nd, 2023 and gave a talk about her work.

Tracey-Mae Chambers is a Métis Installation Artist who, since July 2021, has created over 100 installations at residential school historical sites, museums, art galleries and other public spaces. Many of these spaces serve to present a colonial viewpoint and primarily speak about the settlers who arrived and lived here, but not the Indigenous people that were displaced along the way. The installations are constructed with red wool, silk, and cotton yarn.

To learn more about her work please visit her [website](#).

New Mural

The Library's entrance got a new vibrant look thanks to Lettering Artist, **Kristen De Palma**. Kristen created a beautiful mural that faces the entrance to the Library. The mural consists of the words, 'This must be the place' with an open book underneath and flowers all around. Find Kristen's work [here](#).



Events and Initiatives

- **Pigs in the Library:** We hosted a Pigs at the Library event for students thanks to Dragonfly Haven Therapeutic Farms. One miniature piglet, a bunny and a guinea pig were brought into the Library for students to hold and interact with.
- We began a bi-weekly **therapy dog visit** at the Library, in partnership with the student-led Acadia Mental Health Initiative. The Acadia Mental Health Initiative provides snacks and mental health information for students during the Therapy Dog visits.
- **The Garden of Reading**, a partnership between the Vaughan Memorial Library and the Annapolis Valley Regional Library, was continued for the current term. This initiative brings in books from the Annapolis Valley Library to our Library for students to borrow. The collection is available during the Fall and Winter terms and provides leisure reading materials for students. The book selections include BIPOC authors, 2SLGBTQI+ authors and subjects, Fantasy/sci fi books, children's books, content on mental and sexual health, and graphic novels.