

## News from New Brunswick

### News from Mount Allison Libraries & Archives

Laura Landon, Teaching & Research Librarian

**MountAllison**  
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#### **News & Events:**

Mount Allison released a [concept design](#) in January for the soon-to-be-renovated R.P. Bell Library. The design includes a universal design for learning classroom, flexible collaboration spaces, and quiet study spaces with an overall focus on accessibility, intuitive layout, and natural light. The University plans to build an interim library to house library services and the general collection while the renovation takes place. A portion of the collection will also be housed on campus in the basement of Convocation Hall. The interim library building will become a multipurpose athletics complex when the R.P. Bell Library renovation is complete. Construction of the interim library should begin in 2024. The Library plans to relocate to the temporary space in Spring 2026. Construction begins on the R.P. Bell Library in Summer 2026, with a planned re-opening in Summer 2029. The project will cost an estimated \$85 million. See the [University's library renovation web pages](#) for details.

**Alexandra Tome** attended the Ontario Library Association Super Conference in January to present "Turning Green Dilemmas into Community Building and Outreach: The Plant Summer Camp Story." Alexandra is Assistant Head of Access Services in the R.P. Bell Library. She explained how she and colleagues volunteered to care for out-of-town students' and staff's plants for the summer in 2023, which provided a needed service but also an opportunity for creative—and at times hilarious—outreach on social media. See #plantsummercamp on [Instagram](#).

#### **Staffing:**

Longtime Public Services Librarian **Jeff Lilburn** retired in September 2023. Jeff joined the Library in 2000 after completing a Master of Arts in English Literature (Western) and an MLIS (McGill). He primarily served as subject librarian for Drama, English & French literatures, and Sociology. Over his 20+ year career at Mount Allison, Jeff played key roles on many committees, including serving as president of the faculty union for two years, and serving twice on the collective bargaining and arbitration teams. He also served terms as a director on the boards of CAPAL and FNBFA, and spent two year on the CAUT Librarians' and Archivists' Committee. His publications and presentations over the years brought a critical, scholarly eye to issues of privacy, privatization, and corporate influences within academia.

**Alexandra Tome** accepted a position as Assistant Head of Access Services in September 2023. Alexandra began her library career in 2017 after graduating from Seneca College's Library and Information Technician program. Alex worked as the E-Learning Library Technician at Humber College before moving

to New Brunswick and accepting a position in the Mount Allison Libraries' Technical Services Department in 2021. Her work with marketing and outreach helped facilitate her move to Access Services, where she led initiatives such as the summer plant camp (see events, above). Alexandra is the convener for the Library Staff and Technician's Interest Group for APLA.

**Elle Archibald** joined Mount Allison in November 2023 as the Student Engagement Librarian, with subject responsibilities in Drama, English Literature, Modern Languages & Literatures, Philosophy, and Religious Studies. She previously worked at Capilano University and is the former Chief Librarian of Sechelt Public Library in British Columbia. She holds an MA from Wilfrid Laurier University and an MI from University of Toronto.

**Ramina Mukundan** joined Mount Allison in January 2024 as Technical Services Assistant, Collection Maintenance. She holds an undergraduate degree in Zoology, a post-graduate diploma in library automation and networking, and an MLIS from India. In 2023, she received her MI from Dalhousie University. She worked in various librarian roles for 20 years, with positions in special and academic libraries in India, Kuwait, the UAE, and Kazakhstan, where she served as Reference and Instruction Manager at Nazarbayev University Library. In the UAE, she also set up libraries at the Abu Dhabi Vocational Training Institute's Bani Yas Campus. Ramina is an elected member of IFLA ACD, serving on the Acquisition and Collection Development Committee since 2022.