

## News from New Brunswick

### News from Mount Allison Libraries & Archives

Laura Landon, Teaching and Research Librarian

## Mount Allison Libraries & Archives

### News and Events

**Renovation update:** Spring 2025 brought the Libraries & Archives' 2027 renovation move-out date ever closer, and we began shifting some collections into off-site storage. The bulk of the Archives collection moved to the United Church of Canada's climate-controlled, purpose-built archives in Sackville. Some special collections and rare books also made the move, with more to come. The library's print serials, government documents, student theses, DVDs, and Bell Collection of Acadiana, along with some microfilm, moved into off-site storage in Convocation Hall, a short walk from the R.P. Bell Library. Patrons can make requests to have materials brought to the main library for check-out. This storage solution will be permanent except for the Bell Collection of Acadiana and some other special collections, which will return to the new library when it is renovated in 2030. Timeline:

- Spring 2025: Construction began on the Scott McCain & Leslie McLean Centre for Health and Wellness, a multi-sport complex that will serve as the Interim Library while the existing R.P. Bell Library is renovated
- Spring 2027: R.P. Bell Library moves into Interim Library
- Spring / Summer 2027: Construction begins on R.P. Bell Library
- Summer 2030: Newly renovated R.P. Bell Library: Centre for Innovation & Learning opens

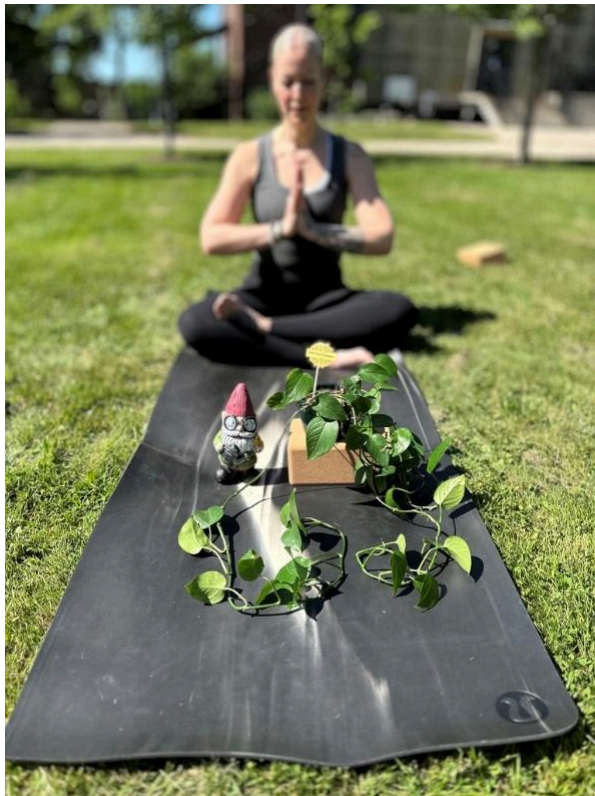
For more information on the Mount Allison library renovation, click [here](#).

On June 14, the Libraries & Archives hosted a **symposium on local news**, in partnership with the Canadian Association of Journalists. About 80 people attended Local News Matters: A Symposium on Local News in the Maritimes. Panellists and keynote speaker **April Lindgren** of the Local News Research Project discussed the what, why, and how of local journalism. Panellists included University of King's College professor **Terra Tailleux**; **Tim Bousquet** of the *Halifax Examiner*; **Paul MacNeill**, publisher of PEI's *Eastern Graphic*; and **Vicki Hogarth**, news director of CHCO-TV in Saint Andrews, NB. More info [here](#).

The Library hosted another successful season of **Plant Summer Camp**, an initiative established in 2023 to both care for returning students' plants over the summer, and promote library services and resources with innovative Plant-Camp-related social media posts. This year, 34 plant parents dropped off their campers, with 111 plants registered, from finicky ferns to self-sufficient succulents. Highlights for the plants included a visit to Governor General's Award Winning photographer **Thaddeus Holownia's** studio

in Jolicure and a trek to the Atlantic Cold Storage “cube” located in Sackville – a mysterious landmark on the Tantramar Marsh. The plants were also key participants in a library-renovation-inspired dance party on a floor of the library that was emptied when the library’s print serials collection moved into off-site storage.

Other Plant Camp highlights:



Yoga in the quad with Access Services Assistant Manager **Robin Lightfoot**

A visit to off-site serials storage in the basement of Convocation Hall





A field trip to Fort Beausejour

Follow Plant Camp on Instagram [@mta\\_libraries](https://www.instagram.com/mta_libraries)

## **Staffing News**

**Caroline Kaszar**, who served as the Library's administrative assistant from 2022 - 2025, accepted a position as Museum Manager with the Westmorland Historical Society in April. Caroline holds a Master of Museum Studies from the University of Toronto as well as a Master of Education. We wish her all the best in her career and extend thanks for her contributions to the Library, where her background in museums and galleries was much appreciated.

The Library welcomed **Hannah Ferdinand** as an Access Services Assistant in March 2025. A recent graduate of Crandall University with a Bachelor of Arts in History, Hannah previously worked in a student position at Crandall University's George A. Rawlyk Library. She is excited to work with the students and local community in a location so close to home. Her background in history and interest in all things "old" makes a career in libraries fun and fulfilling.

**Anne Price Lautenschlager**, who worked in a term position as Access Services Assistant in 2024, was hired into a permanent role in February 2025. Anne is a Class of 2024 Mount Allison Alumna with an Honours BA in English and Classics. She is currently studying for her Master of Creative Writing degree through University of Cambridge. In addition to her work with the Library, Anne is a writer, poet,

costumer, origamist, professional wrestler, mermaid, sheep farmer, and general life enthusiast. She says she looks forward to extending the warm welcome and generous assistance that Access Services gave her to the next generation of students.

Librarian **Christine LeBlanc** has returned to Mount Allison as Collections Project Librarian, a term position designed to help prepare the collection for the upcoming library renovation. Christine first joined the Library in July 2022 in a sabbatical replacement role as Public Services, Special Collections and Rare Books Librarian. A Mount Allison graduate, Christine has worked as a librarian at Acadia, Atlantic School of Theology, and as Campus Librarian at NSCC Lunenburg. She has also worked for New Brunswick Public Library Services, the Ontario College of Teachers, and the Government of Nova Scotia.

The Library welcomed **Jennifer LeDrew** as Administrative Assistant in June. Jennifer brings to the R.P. Bell a love of libraries as welcoming learning spaces along with several years' administrative experience running a small business. As a Newfoundlander now living in New Brunswick, her reading recommendations include historical books on the culture of Newfoundland and folktales from small communities. She recommends *Don't Tell the Newfoundlanders: The True Story of Newfoundland's Confederation with Canada* (Knopf Canada, 2012) by Greg Malone.

Every year Mount Allison honours staff, faculty and librarians who reach milestone employment anniversaries. In 2025, Access Services Assistant **Kathy Amos**—the library's most senior employee—was recognized for 45 years of service at Mount Allison, all of it spent in the Library. Her many years at Mount A and in the Tantramar area make her one of the first people staff, librarians and archivists talk to when seeking information about R.P. Bell library lore or local community history.

Two members of the Library were awarded a University-wide award of staff excellence in April 2025. **Janice Stockall**, Access Services Manager, and **Caroline Kaszar**, our then-Administrative Assistant, won the Purdy Crawford Staff Award of Excellence for enhancing the reputation of the university, providing exemplary service, and demonstrating innovation in the provision of services. Their winning work was Plant Summer Camp, a library service that takes in students' plants over the summer and returns them in the fall. This initiative builds community spirit and goodwill, fosters collaboration across departments, and – through humour and creativity – highlights the library's services, while providing a unique and practical service for returning students.