

News From Prince Edward Island

News from Holland College, PEI Public Library Service, and UPEI Robertson Library

Juanita Rossiter, VP PEI

Holland College Library Services

Three library staff members retired this past spring from the Holland College Library: **Larry Tweed** (Electronic Services Librarian), **Rose MacDonald** (Library Technician), and **Jean Lykow** (Library Technician). With these retirements, Holland College hired two new staff, **Waley Frotan** and **Garrick MacLean**. All Holland College libraries have been busy with end of term assignments and exams.

In mid November, **Leslie Holt** and **Emily MacIsaac** served up hot chocolate and granola bars as a pick-me-up for the students!

A photograph of the new Holland College Library team as of this September:



Back (LtoR): Waley Frotan and Garrick MacLean

Front (LtoR): Patricia Doucette, Emily MacIsaac (middle) and Leslie Holt

PEI Public Library Service

Krystal Dionne is a Regional Librarian with the PEI Public Library Service. She recently agreed to do a Q&A session to discuss the [Stack Attack Podcast](#). Described as a podcast on books, culture and everything related to the world of libraries, Krystal shared some information about the podcast and why it was started.

Question: What is the name of the podcast? Who chose the title?

The podcast is called Stack Attack. A few of us brainstormed the title and created the logo together when we were thinking about starting it up.

Question: When did it start and why was it started?

Our first episode, Thrilling Tales: Prince Edward Island Ghost Stories was released on October 27, 2020.

We are always looking for new ways to serve the public beyond our physical walls. Podcasts can provide a unique platform to discuss a broad range of topics and to promote library programs, resources, and services. They are also a fun and stimulating outlet to utilize staff talent and to build connections within our community.

Question: What kind of topics do you cover?

We have covered a wide variety of different topics and often use the podcast to highlight community collaborations and upcoming programs. We have also recorded episodes in recognition or celebration of special months or days, and we regularly highlight books and other items in our collection through staff and guest recommendations.

Examples of topics discussed on the Stack Attack podcast include (but are not limited to):

- Explore the Public Archives and Records Office!
- Collaborating with IRSA PEI & DiverseCity Festivals
- French Library Services at the PEI Public Library Service
- Chatting with Creative PEI
- The Beaconsfield Book Club Presents: The Queer Historical Romance Society
- Black History Month with the Black Cultural Society of PEI
- September - Orange Shirt Day, Mi'kmaq History Month, Learning Disabilities Awareness Month and More!
- The Love of Food: Celebrating Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month
- Do the GREEN Thing: Earth Day 2021

Question: What have been some of your favourite episodes/series?

I've enjoyed working on all of the episodes for different reasons, but a few conversations that jump to mind are the recent October episode with Liam Richardson, the new PEI Provincial Archivist and our Summer Literacy episode from back in May.

Question: What do you enjoy about podcasting/the podcast?

I have a lot of fun connecting with folks (you'll hear me laugh a LOT) and hearing them share things that they're passionate about. Also, having access to the professional podcast studio at the Charlottetown Library Learning Centre for the past couple of years has made it even more exciting.

Question: Who would you like to interview on PEI? OR Nationally?

I would definitely love to chat with more local authors, but nobody specific immediately comes to mind. I would also love to collaborate with more local organizations to get the word out about the wonderful work that they're doing in our communities as well.

Question: Where can it be found?

You can find Stack Attack [here](#), and wherever else you listen to your podcasts.



Krystal Dionne, Regional Librarian with the PEI Public Library Service, getting ready to do her Stack Attack Podcast.

[Kensington Heritage Library & Summerside Rotary Library](#)

The Conversation Circle

The [Immigrant & Refugee Services Association](#) PEI (IRSA) is a settlement agency that helps new immigrants as they settle in PEI. One of the programs they host is The Conversation Circle. Program coordinator, **Zaven Almajian**, shared that this program is held at both the Kensington Heritage Library and the Summerside Rotary Library and is done with the supportive partnership IRSA has with both libraries and [United for Literacy](#), a national charitable literacy organization.



Members of the Conversation Circle at the Summerside Rotary Library, November 2025.

Zaven Almajian states that “language and communication skills improvement or verbal practice are vital steps for newcomers attempting to settle and integrate to their new community, as part of the settlement process. IRSA is striving to ensure all of their clients have access to this important support, by helping remove barriers to service access by bringing these casual conversation groups to more Island communities.”

Hailey Lewis works at the Kensington Heritage Library and says that “Having these conversational circles in our library has been so important. Not only does it provide a safe, welcoming and inviting place for

newcomers/immigrants to practice their English in a group setting, but it's been an eye-opening and educational experience for staff to learn about different cultures and backgrounds.”



The Conversation Circle at the Kensington Heritage Library, November 2025.

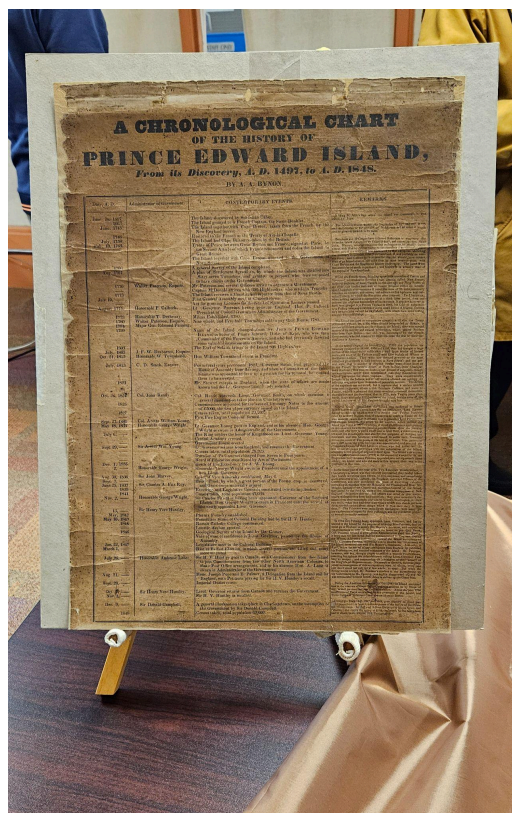
If you would like to know more about IRSA English as an Additional Language (EAL) programs (dates, locations) or to explore volunteer opportunities, please contact the IRSA EAL program coordinator, **Zaven Almajian**, at 902-628-6009 ext. 214, or via email at zavanalmajian@irsapei.ca

[UPEI Robertson Library](#)

Public Lecture: The Other Island Diaspora: PEI Books Abroad

On Thursday November 6, Robertson Library hosted a public lecture by The Reverend **Edward Rix**. One of North America's leading collectors of Prince Edward Island-connected books and ephemera, Father Rix

shared stories from his decades-long pursuit of PEI literary treasures. A proud Islander, with deep family roots in West Prince, Father Rix studied at the University of King's College in Halifax, the University of Toronto's Wycliffe College, and Dalhousie University. It was during his university days that he began to turn his passion for books into a successful venture as an independent bookseller and collector, learning from some of Canada's leading rare and antiquarian book dealers. Since 2001, he has served as Priest in charge of the Parish of All Saints Episcopal Church in Wynnewood, a western suburb of Philadelphia, where he has continued to build a remarkable personal library, including some 2000 titles relating to Prince Edward Island, with exemplary collections of the works of **Basil King** and **Milton Acorn** as particular highlights.



Left: The Reverend Edward Rix. **Right:** An early Island newspaper.

Father Rix brought enough treasures from his holdings to fill four display cases at the event. At the conclusion of his talk, he announced that he plans to donate his collection to Robertson Library in the future, which consists of approximately 2,000 items (and counting). For further information, please listen to Father Rix's interview with Mitch Cormier on CBC's [Island Morning](#).

Kitchen Party:

As part of its ongoing 50th anniversary celebrations, a kitchen party was held in Robertson Library on Saturday evening, September 27th. The music was spectacular thanks to Robertson Library's own house musician, **Rob Drew**, his beautifully voiced partner, **Harmony Wagner**, and friend, **Roy Johnstone**. Everyone loved that the music was made under the Quiet Zone sign!



Librarians:

Melissa Belvadi completed her work on an open source COUNTER 5.1 usage report harvester, and gave a presentation through the virtual component of the [Charleston Conference](#) in November, 2025. Anyone interested in learning more about the program should contact her at mbelvadi@upei.ca.

Juanita Rossiter and **Keltie MacPhail** presented a paper, "Revisiting the Pensie Letters" at the biannual conference of L.M. Montgomery Society of Ontario's (LMMSO) in October 2025. The conference theme was "[Vision and Commemoration: The Continuing Legacies of L.M. Montgomery.](#)"

Dr. Svetlana Kochkina accepted the position of University Librarian at UPEI and will begin her term on March 1, 2026. Read more [here](#).

Student Events:



Left: The annual Send a Postcard Home event was held in October that resulted in lots of postcards being sent around the world.

Right: Robertson Library is supporting The UPEI Climate Action Association, a student-led group dedicated to, "driving sustainable solutions for a greener, climate-resilient future," in their Campus Paper Recycling Drive.

IT'S A NEW SCHOOL YEAR, UPEI!

HERE'S YOUR BLOCK-HEADS AND LIBRARIANS!

Plus Brooke and our newest archivist

The banner features numerous cartoon cutouts of staff members, each with a name tag. The names visible include: Sarah, Javita, Rose, Bob, Alyse, Kinnes, Shawn, Kim, Melissa, Logan, Alanna, Stacy, Spencer, John, EM, Keri, Karvinder, David, Courtney, Nadine, Cindy, Gary, Katelyn, Chris, Keltie, and Brooke. There is also a cutout of a person with a large white arrow pointing to them, and a small white dog at the bottom right.

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