

DON SCOTT: Prince Edward Island Provincial Librarian

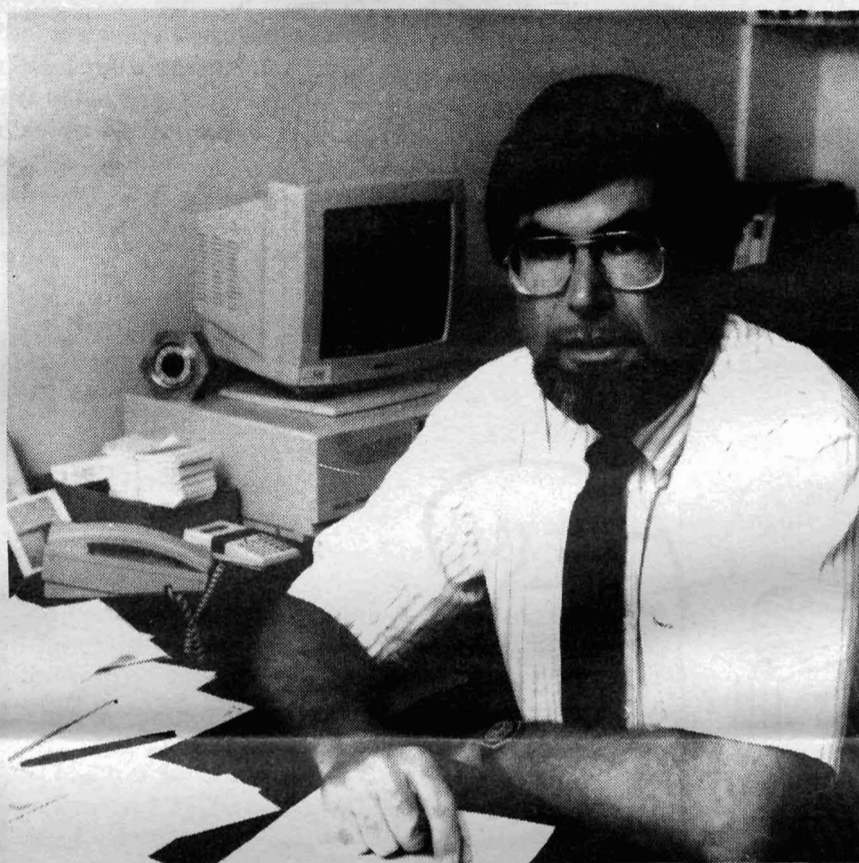
This is the third in our series of interviews with Provincial Librarians in the Atlantic Provinces. Priscilla Ykelenstam, APLA VP, PEI, conducted the interview.

As we go to press, the Bulletin has learned that Don Scott has been made Director of Policy and Planning at the Dept. of Community and Cultural Affairs and Albert MacDonald has been made Provincial Librarian, both appointments to be effective for a minimum of one year.

Q. Tell us something about your background—where you were born, your education, who or what influenced you to become a librarian, early job experiences, why you came to P.E.I. Things of that nature.

A. My home town was Florence, a coal mining area in Cape Breton. I entered Mount Allison in an Engineering program, and then decided I should take some time off, reevaluate what I was doing, and get some experience. I worked for a couple of years and then returned to university to get my bachelors degree. Library science was something that was in the back of my mind—that came from extensive contact with people working with professional librarians. My mother was the community librarian in Florence the last six or seven years I was in school. Friday was the day the library supervisor came to Florence. If she had time she would have dinner at our place after the library closed. We developed close contacts with several supervisors. Roberta Gilbank and Ruth MacDormand are two I remember particularly. It was through them that I got interested in the field. I managed to get a summer job with the Cape Breton Regional system which confirmed that was what I was interested in.

I went to library school at McGill. Coming to P.E.I. was a combination of circumstances. My girlfriend, now my wife, was going back to the Island after she graduated from Mount A. Doug Boylan, who was at library school with me, was trying to recruit somebody to work with him to establish the Confederation Centre Public Library. Doug and I had come straight from library school and were involved with developing the library from the ground up. They were very interesting and challenging years. Following that I worked a year and a half in Kirkland Lake as the Assistant Director to the North Eastern



Regional Library System, covering the area to Moosonee on the shore of Hudson's Bay. One of the reasons my wife and I returned to the Island was that we missed the landscape. We used to drive down to New Liskeard on a Sunday afternoon just to look at the lake and pretend that it was the Northumberland Strait. I worked three years for the Economic Improvement Corporation through the period of the development plan, when all the changes were taking place on P.E.I.. Part of the exercise under the Development Plan was to take a look at library services on P.E.I. and what could be done to enhance and improve it. We looked at one big library service for the Island combining public libraries and university libraries. It probably would have been a good idea if we had been able to get across the many administrative hurdles. The climate was right for that change. Certainly it hasn't been since and I doubt if it ever will be. At that time, Dorothy Cullen was the director of PEI Libraries and the obvious candidate for Provincial Librarian. She died during the process of creating the system. Once the system was set up, a competition was held, and I was successful in obtaining the job.

Q. When you look at the years between 1971 and 1990, what do you feel were your significant accomplishments?

A. One was the creation of the bookmobile service. In the rural areas

there were wide gaps in terms of coverage. Even with 22 branches spread across the province there are some fair distances between them. It would be less important today. Then we were a more rural society—the corner stores and the corner garages played an important part with people who didn't travel as much as they do now. Putting the bookmobile service in place allowed us to fill in the gaps. The other area I'm particularly pleased with is school library service. While we are not responsible for school libraries, we have had a mandate to encourage and foster their development. We were able to put in place the Technical Services service to schools whereby schools order and receive materials processed and ready to go on the shelves. Other provinces have pointed to this as a very enviable service. Teacher-librarians have had the time to do what they are supposed to do—work with children rather than be glorified clericals.

Q. After 20 years with the Department of Education you've been moved to Community and Cultural Affairs. Do you see a continuing involvement with schools and how do you feel the move will benefit library services?

A. We are drawing up a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Education that the free technical services we provide to schools

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FROM ONE LITTLE DRIP...

EVERYDAY DISASTERS IN LIBRARY LIFE

by John Neilson & Elizabeth Hamilton

A minor leak could easily have turned into a fullscale nightmare for UNB Libraries. In the following article John Neilson and Elizabeth Hamilton talk about turning a minor disaster into a major learning experience.

We couldn't get the water to stop. That was the first problem we faced when it became apparent that it could happen to us and that the Harriet Irving Library was in the midst of a potential disaster. At approximately 3:00 p.m. on 23 February 1991, a librarian from the Université de Moncton notified UNB Libraries staff that there was water coming in through the ceiling of the Microfilms Reading Room. The source of the water was soon discovered: a broken water pipe in the radiator in the Documents Department office.

When the Documents Department opened up that day, it was unusually cold in the office. There was no indication at that point that there was anything wrong other than the "normal" malfunctioning of one of our twenty-five year old radiators. With the office door opened, the room began to warm up. There was a steady stream of questions for the first hour. In the interim, the frozen pipes had thawed and water had begun to flow into the office. By the time the librarian on duty returned to the office, it was flooded with water, as was the area in front of the office. It was not until 4:00 that the plumbers arrived; it took them only five minutes to correct the problem.

ACTION TAKEN:

Several steps had already been taken in reacting to the situation: UNB Security had been called immediately, and the location of the problem had been identified. Security personnel removed the radiator panel to try to turn the water off, but their efforts were to no avail; hot water kept pouring out of two separate three-quarter inch rents in the pipe. Meanwhile, plastic sheeting was put in place in the Microforms Reading Room on the main floor, waste baskets set

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"From One Little Drip"
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out to collect the water dripping from the ceiling, and equipment moved. In the Documents Department, the computer directly in front of the radiator was moved, and the floor was cleared of boxes of books.

Key library administrative people were telephoned; none of them could be reached immediately, however. The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick was called to let them know that we had a situation in progress and that we might need their help and supplies. Security called the cleaning staff to assist in the clean-up.

EXTENT OF DAMAGE:

We assessed the situation. There was between 1 1/2 to 2 inches of water in the Documents Office, and water under all the microfiche cabinets against the side of the office. Water had run through the floor and

had thoroughly soaked the ceiling tiles of the Microforms Reading Room. An estimated 100 gallons of water had seeped out before the water was turned off.

The books in boxes were spread out on a worktable and inspected for water or moisture damage. Fans were set up in the microfiche cabinet area, as well as in the workroom, the Documents office and the Microforms Reading Room. The bottom microfiche drawer in each cabinet was removed to allow air circulation and the remaining drawers opened slightly to prevent a build-up of moisture.

Before leaving for the day, library staff contacted Security and asked them to leave the fans on, the office and workroom doors open, and the lights on throughout the first and second floor. Security was apprised of what had happened to that point, and Harold Holland, Conservator at the Provincial Archives of New

Brunswick, was contacted the next day.

With the situation stabilized, we took stock. To our relief and surprise, there were only four books wet enough to require any treatment; they were fanned to allow air circulation. The microfiche was clammy and it was decided to bring in a desiccant dehumidifier from Mississauga, Ontario to dry it out thoroughly. Damage to the building was minimal: the tile flooring lifted slightly in places, as did the baseboard trim in the Documents office.

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT:

At a meeting of the UNB Libraries Preservation Committee that week, it emerged that there were several factors which had operated to the Library's advantage in the situation:

—the incident happened on a Saturday during regular operating

hours when there was staff in the building;

—the Library staff who were at work had experience with preservation and disaster issues;

—the person who noticed the water realized the implications of the water seepage and contacted appropriate personnel immediately;

—the design of the building meant that there was no stack floor below the leakage area;

—renovations in progress in the Documents Department meant that there was a supply of plastic handy and there was a large, dry area close by to receive affected items;

—cleaning staff were on campus Saturday afternoon, and were able to respond to the call quickly;

—UNB Security understood the damage which could be done to books with a water leak and responded accordingly.

THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS: THINGS TO DO BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES:

It was not difficult to agree on what to do next; the final version of the UNB Libraries' Disaster Manual had to be completed and put into a format that could be used "at the scene." Gleaned from the experience of trying to juggle two pails of water while simultaneously phoning for help, we knew that the Manual had to include an 'easy to follow' summary of the first things to do in an emergency and that these pages had to be plasticized.

Next, in terms of quick protection for library materials, we now know that 4 to 5 rolls of plastic sheeting should be on hand, at the Circulation desk for instance; we are mindful of the fact that while the plumbing and heating systems can be turned off the only "quick" way to shut down the sprinkler system is to use a step-ladder and, sprinkler by sprinkler, wedge the valves closed. There is no choice—the plastic has to come before the step-ladder. And, we've discovered something about ceiling tiles—they can hold a lot of water: even after the source has been "apped" a deluge-in-waiting has saturated the ceiling and likely drained into the fluorescent light fixtures, and then sneaked off to some other water diversion project of its own. Again, plastic sheeting is a must.

Every organization has someone who knows where everything is and has the keys to it. This very same person, if reachable by telephone paging system, can direct you to the towelling, fans, wet/dry vacuum, and the building plans if you need them.

Our next observation was that Physical Plant had taken a long time to respond to the emergency: in different circumstances this delay might be the difference between a disaster and a problem. As a result, we decided that at least one staff member on duty would know where the heating, plumbing, and electrical shut-off valves and switches were located. Also, because of the difficulty in getting the radiator valves to budge, we agreed that the condition of the pipes and valves would be checked regularly.



It all began in the library.

From the centuries-old compilation of knowledge to the collection of books, the information age began in the library. As did Utlas. Today, from the complete range of bibliographic services through CATSS to our complementary OCLC products, Utlas is the most comprehensive technological support available to Canada's librarians. We understand your needs because we share your roots.

Utlas

IT ALL BEGINS IN THE LIBRARY



IMPLICATIONS FOR THE REGION:

For libraries in the Atlantic region, help can be a long way off. However, you can save a great deal of time if you've kept a file of the companies that have emergency equipment and/or expertise: best to avoid the Business Office paperwork/invoice routine and call direct with the order.

Finally, have your insurance company look at your disaster manual. They may spot something you've overlooked. Also, check with them to ensure that your coverage is what you think it is; for example, are you insured for the replacement value of the publication or just for the damage done to the material it is printed on?

This is not the first small-scale disaster that UNB Libraries has experienced, nor will it be the last. Each situation provides us with a little more insight into what will be involved if the black day comes when we are faced with a disaster of major scale. As a learning experience, it is invaluable for all library staff.

John Neilson and Elizabeth Hamilton are both Documents Librarians at the Harriet Irving Library, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton.

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will continue. The memorandum will also guarantee us continued access to the resources of the Media Centre so their materials, particularly video tapes, can be circulated through the public libraries. We are getting continuing support from Education by way of extra resources as we take on work generated by the school construction program. There has been a concern related to the relocation to Morell that Community and Cultural Affairs is not interested in that side of the service, and this is a way of relieving themselves of that responsibility. I don't see the logic in that idea. There's an economic motive for the relocation. The department is not particularly interested in moving a much reduced Provincial Library with fewer positions to the Morell area. Their idea, as I understand it, is to move all the positions and their functions.

The benefit that I've seen is we are now a part of a smaller department with similar concerns in terms of community service and a recognition of the importance of public library service as a community service. We're about one-third of a department of 157 people and expend 10% of a 15 million dollar budget. In Education we were in a department of 1200 employees and accounted for 1% of a 140 million dollar budget. There was a tendency for the Provincial Library to get lost in that. We are the newest part of Community and Cultural Affairs, so we have had a higher profile over the past year. Certainly it's been easier to see the Deputy Minister and get him to spend some time on departmental concerns than we were able to do in Education. I think the Deputy Minister of Education would agree with that himself. The school system is his major concern and you tended to see that at planning and budget time. The mandate of Community and Cultural Affairs to enhance services of all kinds within the rural areas should be a positive

thing for the Provincial Library and public libraries.

Q. The Provincial Library has operated without legislation since 1935. A Public Library Act was recently introduced to the legislature. What has it been like working without legislation and what do you expect the act to provide? Does it mean that library trustees will become a fact of life on P.E.I.?

A. In effect, yes, we will have library boards and library trustees, although in the legislation we haven't really talked specifically about trustees. My concerns with the system we are working under is the variation across the province in the kind of attention the public library gets. We are operating on the basis of past practice, but nothing has been formalized. The community provides the building and the Provincial Library provides the staffing and the materials with which they operate. Supposedly the community is responsible for the building and its maintenance. In some places it's an individual on council who has the duty to liaise with the librarian. In other places there is a library committee or a group which would be closer to being a Friends of the Library. The roles of the library and the community have been somewhat vague. Where we felt the community wasn't living up to its responsibilities we've found it very difficult to enforce them. The act will give us a framework within which we can operate.

I've benefited very significantly from APLA. You would come back from meetings or the conference charged up, with an awareness that you weren't quite as isolated as you thought you were.

Q. Will there be a chance for public input before the act goes to the house?

A. There will be an opportunity through a committee of the legislature. I'm hoping the School Library Association, the Professional Librarians' Association and other interested groups and individuals will take time to look at the legislation and tell us whether they think it is a good thing, or not such a good thing, or whether there are ways it could be improved.

Q. During these past months you have been managing a moving target. Staff and policies are changing from day-to-day. How do you deal with these challenges? Do you have any advice to give to others?

A. Well it certainly has been a challenge. The most difficult part has been trying to plan. It seems you get ideas and something else comes along which sends you back to the drawing board. It's a cliché—but you're nailing jelly to the wall—that's what I feel like many days. Another difficulty is dealing with people. The past provided plenty of opportunity for conflict. Something like this coming along really magnifies those problems many, many times over. You're dealing with people's emotions, with their lives, basically. Individuals want and expect answers and decisions and I can't give those answers, or I'm unable to make those decisions. Changing

circumstances bring forward a whole new series of questions by the time you've found the answers to the first questions which people are not interested in anymore. As far as advice to somebody who is going through this process, I don't know what I would say. Certainly there is a need to have a set of policies in place so you can give people some information right off the bat. Just on things like travel accommodations, travel arrangements when we are going to move, what benefits am I likely to be entitled to, what kind of efforts is my employer going to make to find alternative employment for me if I decide I don't want to move, that sort of thing. All of these things have been exacerbated by the economic climate. There is not much of a job market for librarians and library technicians in Charlottetown outside of the Provincial Library. We have a staff of people with a lot of experience with our system and a commitment to it. If they are making decisions to move out of the library and do something else, that in itself is a very difficult and significant event in their lives.

Q. How have you maintained your equilibrium during this time?

A. That's been very difficult. Most of the time I've had very good support from my staff, that's been important. Quite often at the end of the day I jump on my sailboat and believe it or not I'm able to forget about it all for three or four hours. That's contributed a lot to my sanity this summer.

Q. If your fairy godmother suddenly presented you with a large source of funding, what projects would you initiate, and why?

A. Automation would be a priority if the resources were available. The other area is the book collection. We've had great difficulty over the years in maintaining the purchasing power for the collection. It's always been a very vulnerable area in times of distress. You come towards the end of the year and a general 5% reduction is requested across the board. This has happened on a couple of occasions. You can't lay all the staff off for a month. But you can, sometimes, cut into the book budget. The problem is you never get that back. This is an area where I would like to see a lot of money spent. An automated system is very capital intensive in the initial phases but I do see a need for it. Once it gets in place the operating costs are not quite so significant. There will be days when I might have some difficulty in saying that I see automation having priority over adding material to the collection. The key thing is that automation will enhance the level of service staff can provide. It will allow us to direct more resources towards service rather than the many clerical activities our present system requires.

Q. In reality what do you foresee happening with the automation project?

A. I expect we'll go ahead in small steps rather than making a very significant leap. What I'm looking at now is being able to begin the retrospective conversion. We could develop a five year plan which would see the beginning of the centralized database in MARC format and perhaps a circulation system for the Confederation Centre Public Library.

Q. What is unique about managing library service on P.E.I.?

A. The operation without library boards. Also, in terms of what goes on in other provinces, the amalgamation of public library responsibilities with a provincial library service. We are a part of the provincial government and report to the deputy minister. Our resources are provided directly by a vote of the house. We have no boards and still no legislation to define the service. We don't have the backing in times of crisis that exists in other provinces. When I'm discussing our libraries with people outside of the province that strikes me as being very different in our operation. I'm told by librarians from other provinces there are many times they would be happy if they didn't have a library board. Most of the time I think they are very fortunate.

Q. What have you found rewarding in your career as Provincial Librarian?

A. One of the rewards is the frequent expression by people that they do really appreciate the service. It happens often, especially relating to the bookmobile service—the indication of how important that service is to people who regularly use it, the people who live in rural areas.

Also I think back to the 50th anniversary of the P.E.I. libraries held in 1983. I remember going to Summerside for the ceremony where Bram Chandler, one of my predecessors, talked about the early days of the system; of being introduced to people who had worked in the system many years ago and hearing them talk about what happened in the past. I experienced the feeling that I had inherited or had been passed down a very significant responsibility. That was quite moving.

Q. What do you think APLA has done for you and your organization?

A. I've benefited very significantly from APLA. You would come back from meetings or the conference charged up, with an awareness that you weren't quite as isolated as you thought you were. There were other people struggling with some of the same problems you had and solving them. Maybe solving them a little bit better and quicker. Sometimes you were able to give advice and assistance and contribute back into the association. Workshops APLA has helped fund on PEI have been significant for staff. Being able to attend an APLA conference has contributed to our own staff development—they become more aware and knowledgeable, and see the importance of what they are doing and how they fit into the larger picture. That's quite beneficial.

Priscilla Ykelenstam is Technical Services/System Librarian, at PEI Provincial Library.

RE-CROSSING THE DIVIDE

By Ruth Miller

The following is the text of a speech given to the Geelong group of ALIA (Australian Library and Information Association) on May 22, 1991 describing the library exchange between Ruth Miller and John Pinson. The exchange is now complete and Ruth Miller has returned to Canada and Mount Allison University.

Hi, I'm Ruth Miller, Reference Librarian, Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada. For the past nine months I have been Reader Services Librarian, Warrnambool campus, Deakin University. John Pinson, the usual Reader Services Librarian at Deakin: Warrnambool, is in Canada as Reference Librarian at Mount Allison. We have exchanged each other's work life for the better part of a year. We are also living in each other's home, driving each other's car and coincidentally are looking after each other's geriatric cat (one is 15, the other 16). We have not exchanged salaries, so you could say we are each a guest employee of the other's institution.

Why an exchange? I work at a university where the union comprises both teaching faculty and professional librarians. This is common but not universal in Canada. Therefore I am eligible to apply for sabbatical leave, i.e. paid leave at a percentage of salary to do research. But my first love is not research. It is working with university students and faculty. So in my case, an exchange made more sense than a sabbatical leave.

An international exchange will allow you to do three quite wonderful things all at the same time.

- A. Work in another library
- B. Live in a different country
- C. Still earn money

It is almost like having your cake and eating it too. Certainly it is the next best thing to a holiday.

A. Work in another library

You cannot just go and work in any library. You must find a library where your skills and background can be easily applied with a minimum of training. Otherwise you are a waste of time to that library.

You will never find an exact match with your job back home but some similarities can certainly be found. Three things must be more or less equivalent.

Type of library. I have had 20 years in a university library. It would be impossible for me to work in a public or school library. Neither I nor management would be happy with such an exchange over the short period of a year.

Type of position. Again most of my working life has been in reader services. My brief stints in administration and technical services are not enough qualification to work in those areas.

Level of responsibility. Both John and I have had long service in reader education in a university library and currently both of us, besides working at the Reference Desk, manage reference staff and supervise the

Loans Desk and interlibrary loans.

Of course any exchange involves two individuals and two libraries. For fairness to all, equivalencies must be there for both the people and the institutions.

Currently one of the Deakin reference staff is on exchange at the State Library of Victoria and I have

reference shelves to look up an answer to a straight forward query. For instance, there was recently a high school student who wanted to browse the costume books for ideas for costumes for a school play. GN500's came to mind immediately. It was a useful exercise for both me and the student to have to look it up



Ruth and an emu at Tower Hill, Australia, June 12, 1991.

talked to a librarian at the National Library of Canada who exchanged with a reference librarian at the University of Western Australia. In all four cases, the libraries are very much academic. Also the libraries in these cases are large enough that some job shifting could be done to accommodate the exchange.

At the ALIA conference in Perth in October 1990 I met a school librarian from Ottawa on exchange to a school library in Perth and an American public librarian on exchange at a public library in the Dandenongs.

When John and I first discussed an exchange we discovered that besides our institutions being much the same in terms of student numbers, we both worked in tertiary libraries, Reader Services, and had much the same responsibilities. Also we are much of an age: our professional lives had amazing similarities. Our personal lives are poles apart.

Since John and I began discussions in early 1990, Warrnambool Institute of Advanced Education has merged with Deakin. I don't believe a difference in size of institution is a barrier to an exchange. But there are differences in Australian and Canadian tertiary libraries. I would like to mention a few. These are all from the Reader Services point of view, of course.

Dewey classification and Library of Congress classification. I believe all North American university libraries use L.C. School and public libraries use Dewey. In Australia the Dewey system is prevalent. I hadn't used Dewey since library school days. I am still not as familiar with Dewey as with L.C. This is frustrating when you just quickly want to go to the

on the OPAC. But when it is really busy at the Reference Desk you sometimes want to do a cop-out and pull the answer off the top of your head.

Unfamiliar Australian reference sources. About 80 per cent of the Deakin reference collection was familiar to me when I first browsed it. There were the American and European publications, as well as old favourites like the Wilson Indexes, Psychological and Sociological Abstracts, Whitaker's Almanac, World of Learning, Europa Yearbook and Dialog for on-line searching.

There are a number of Australian reference tools which have Canadian equivalents. First and foremost is APAIS and the same on Austrom—CD Rom, as well as Australian Business Index, Oz directory of Associations, the directory of foundations, and various Australian encyclopedias and atlases.

Fortunately, the Australian Bureau of Statistics is organized in much the same way as the Canadian Bureau of Statistics—commonly called B.S. Both have an annual yearbook and the publications are arranged using a similar numbering system with an annual index (only a so-so annual index). But Oz has state yearbooks as well. We do not have provincial yearbooks. They are great. But there are three Canadian reference tools which do not have Australian equivalents and I missed them.

First—An index to Australian book reviews. You can pick up some on AustRom but, to my knowledge, there is no print or on-line index to book reviews. I recently saw that a pilot index has been published covering three months in 1989/90.

Second—An index to Australian newspapers. There is one on-line covering South Australia newspapers, but I mean one that indexes a major paper or two from each major region.

Third—A good annual Australian almanac. There are several editions of one which seems to give a majority of its coverage to sports. I don't think it is very good. I would like to see one that is annual with things like all public holidays in all states, addresses and phone numbers of federal and state government departments, names of ministers and deputies, mileages between cities, and addresses of publishers, universities, museums, etc. Actually there are two different Canadian almanacs. Both are "Bibles" at the reference desk, the first and often only step to answering reference queries.

I have missed all three but first and foremost a good annual Australian almanac.

B. Living in a different country

What can you say about living here? It certainly beats a three or six week trip as a tourist. It is the best way to get to know people, see the country, and really start to get a feel for what Australia is all about. I have done a lot of travelling and more is to come.

But moving and living here for a year has real drawbacks when your job is working on the reference desk. My knowledge of Australia was minuscule before I came and is not much better now.

You know how much Canadian political and cultural news is reported in the Australian media? Almost none. Well, in Canada we hear almost nothing about Australia. We hear about national elections in Australia, but not state ones. You heard about the Mohawk Indian uprising at Oka in Quebec last August/September. But for the most part Australia and Canada ignore each other.

When I first knew I would be spending a year in Australia I actually sat down and memorized your states and state capitals. That is how woefully ignorant I was. Then I read as much as I could about Australia before I came and continue to do so now that I am here.

This lack of background was rammed home my second week here. A student asked for information on Azaria Chamberlain. I politely asked, "Who is Azaria Chamberlain?" She just looked at me and said "Where have you been all your life?" When she said Lindy and dingoes, then I knew what she was talking about. I had forgotten the baby's name. That incident did hit the Canadian media.

John probably has had a rougher time in this respect than I. Deakin: WBL teaches in the field of Australian politics, Australian art and some general Australian studies. Mount Allison on the other hand is a liberal arts university. There is very active teaching and research in Canadian literature, history (both French and English), geography, politics, art and music. John has actually said he has

"undergone a crash course in Canadian history, politics, social science and French language".

C. Money

Here I am on a semi-holiday and still earning money. I say semi-holiday because I am not involved in any of my activities back home. Sure I work Monday to Friday including shift work, but I do the same at home.

In Canada I belong to a fair number of organisations or committees at the university, in the union and in the community. In many of them I was on the executive. All had to be given up for the year. I did join three organisations here in order to participate in their activities, but I'm not on the executive, of course. So I do not have the same responsibilities as I do at home. I would not want this situation on a long term basis, but it is great for a year. This lack of outside work responsibilities has left me time to travel.

As I said, John and I did not exchange salaries. Neither of us even contemplated it. It would be too complicated. My superannuation would have suffered a loss, and I'm not sure how health/medical benefits compare. There could also have been union problems at my end. And what about income tax—to which country? We avoided all sorts of potential problems by following the spirit of John's words—"exchanging desks and duties but not salary or position".

The nitty-gritty of how to organise an exchange

The exchange was arranged first by my applying to LIBEX, the Bureau for International Library Staff

Exchange at the University College of Wales. LIBEX advertises exchanges in the library media around the world. My advertisement appeared in Incite. Five months after I applied, John telephoned me. LIBEX merely acts as a clearinghouse, putting potential exchangees in touch with one another, then bows out of the picture. It is certainly a help in arranging exchanges and they are to be commended for providing this service since the mid-1980s.

There are two other means you can try in order to set up an exchange.



Kangaroo sign at Warrnambool.

This is John's second exchange. His first was with a community college in western Canada in 1984. He used the World of Learning and wrote to

colleges and universities asking if any staff were interested in exchanges.

The librarian at the National Library of Canada tried LIBEX but had no responses. Therefore she placed her own advertisement in Incite; the reference librarian at University of Western Australia responded. So much of arranging an exchange is sheer luck. There has to be someone somewhere in the world who is also looking for an exchange, has a similar type of job, in a similar type of library, at a similar level of responsibility in the right country. That's a lot of coincidences.

Allow at least six months to work out all the details once initial contact between the individuals has been made. Institutional and governmental bureaucracy takes an inordinate amount of time.

Some personal thoughts

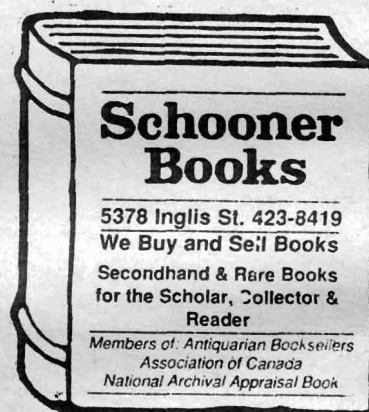
I'll never forget my first week at work—that first week in September. Come five o'clock I was wiped out. I was never so tired in my life. Everything was new, and there was so much to absorb. The names, faces and job responsibilities of the library staff. The names and faces of other university staff. I had to learn about the collection, and in particular the reference collection. As well as getting an overall feel for the sorts of queries asked at the Information Desk, learning the circulation system, and learning the administrative aspects of the job. For the first four to six weeks of work I did not like that feeling.

With the merger of Deakin and WBL having taken place so recently, procedures were still changing on the WBL campus to conform to the

Geelong model. That meant that the library staff and I were learning new routines and policies together. Geelong was learning to cope with a branch campus.

The library was in a state of flux. This led to interesting times. I would not have missed it for the world and I have learned a lot. It has also given me an appreciation and a new perspective on my own Canada. This was not something I expected. I highly recommend an international exchange.

Ruth Miller is Reference Librarian, Mount Allison University Library, Sackville, NB. John Pinson, her Australian counter-part, made a similar presentation at APLA 1991 (see "Crossing the Divide" APLA Bulletin, July-August 1991). Ruth has agreed to act as a resource person for anyone needing information about exchanges and may be contacted at Ralph Pickard Bell Library, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB E0A 3C0.



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UNIVERSITY OF KING'S COLLEGE LIBRARY

—Patricia Chalmers

On the 14th of May, the official opening ceremonies of the new King's College Library were held. The platform party included Lieutenant—Governor Lloyd Crouse; Bishop Arthur Peters, Chairperson of the Board of Governors; Mr. Brian Flemming, Chairperson of "A Rare Find" Capital Campaign; President Marion G. Fry; and Dr. G. Hamilton Southam, Chancellor of the University. The event was well attended by hundreds of special guests, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other friends of the University. Special displays of rare books, eighteenth century china, paintings, and other artifacts were mounted to honour the many donors and benefactors of King's. As the oldest university in Canada, the

origins of the Library go back to the eighteenth century. The large rare book collection includes medieval manuscripts, early printed books, manuscripts and books concerning the early history of the Loyalists, and historical libraries established in the colonial period. Construction of the new facility began in 1989, the University's Bicentennial year, and it was the focus of a successful \$8 million capital campaign by the University. The building itself came in well under budget, costing less than the \$5.3 million estimate. The Province of Nova Scotia contributed \$4 million in matching funds, and the federal Department of Culture and Communications gave a grant of \$840,000. Nearly \$3 million in gifts came from members of the King's community, alumni, friends, foundations and corporations. The elegant two-storey building,

designed by Roy Willworth of the Halifax firm Duffus Romans Kundzins Rounsefell, reflects the Georgian design of the rest of the campus. It completes and encloses the King's "Quad". For the first time in its 200 year history, King's has a facility purposely built to house the University's collections. The 22,000 square foot building will easily accommodate the present collection of 85,000 volumes, which includes 25,000 old and rare books. The building quadruples the former

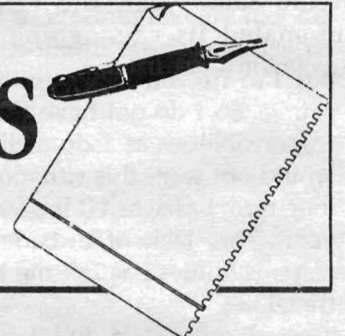
seating capacity, and is wheel-chair accessible. The library is now part of the NOVANET system. The rare books are now housed in an environmentally controlled space which provides the conditions that will secure them for posterity, and which also makes possible the safe display of many of the University's treasures.

Patricia Chalmers is Assistant Librarian (Collections), King's College.



The new library at King's College, Halifax.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



A Matter of Perspective

As the lazy days of summer fade into fall, it's time to review some of the correspondence that has crossed the desk since spring.

One interesting item is an article about the plight of the Canadian book publishing industry. The industry is facing hard times. After the GST, the factor that is identified as a major contributor to the financial problems now faced by the industry is "buying around" by booksellers and libraries. Many librarians see buying around as part of good fiscal management. Canadian publishers, on the other hand, see it as another nail in their coffin. Exclusive distribution of foreign (particularly American) publishers' output is the

one strategy that domestic publishers see as possible to maintain sufficient financial health to continue to publish Canadian product. We as librarians must be concerned about the future of Canadian publishing, just as we must be concerned with getting the best value for scarce resources. A classic example of the old saying "between a rock and a hard place"!

Another item across the desk is the APLA Strategic Planning Questionnaire. All personal members received a questionnaire with the last Bulletin. News on the results of the responses to the questionnaire will be forthcoming after the fall Executive Meeting. Your participation in the strategic planning process is appreciated.

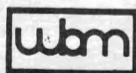
—Judith Head

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RECON AND AUTOMATION—IN SEVEN MONTHS

by Diane Brookes

Dartmouth Regional Library's cataloguing has been supplied by UTLAS through Nova Scotia Provincial Library since 1981. Suddenly, in the short time between June and December 1989, the Library needed to convert all book records before 1981 to MARC format.

From the beginning, the recon was governed by strict time limits. In the same year, the Library automated its cataloguing and circulation functions; the automation vendor, Dynix, set a timetable with which the recon had to comply or the Library would incur penalties. The most significant date for the conversion project was the loading of MARC records into the new system for creation of a computer tape. This tape was sent to a vendor to produce the barcode labels. About seven months were available to convert a collection of about 100,000 books.

The library's goal was to search shelflist cards, without UTLAS records, in a CD-ROM database and copy any MARC records found onto diskettes. The most suitable CD-ROM product had to be determined and obtained, and the Library's distinct print and audiovisual collections had to be identified and assigned collection codes and item types. Item types govern the length of time that an item may be borrowed and also who may borrow it. The Library arranged its holdings into 36 distinct collections.

Shelflist cards for discarded books were pulled from the drawers. Of the remainder, those without UTLAS

record sequence numbers (RSN's), indicating the existence of a MARC record, were paperclipped. Next, the status of books with paperclipped cards was determined. Bunches of shelflist cards were taken to the stacks to be matched to their books. When the book was located, the card was checkmarked. Books not found were reserved for Circulation to watch for and an "R" was written on the card. When reserved books returned to the library, the "R" was replaced with a checkmark. Shelflist cards for missing books were set aside.

Paperclipped cards for books that were accounted for were checked in the N.S. Union Catalogue to verify the absence of an existing UTLAS record. If a title was found for DRL on the microfiche catalogue, the RSN was recorded on the card, the paperclip was removed, and nothing more was done with it. When titles were confirmed not to have an RSN, an "N" was marked on the cards which were then searched on LaserQuest.

Each LaserQuest operator was assigned his or her own shelflist drawer and numbered computer diskette. A log of operators, shelflist drawers, and diskette numbers and dates was carefully maintained.

When a record was located on LaserQuest, it was copied and a local holdings field was added, according to Dynix's specifications, consisting of collection code, call number and Cutter, copy and volume information, branch location, and item type. The records were saved to diskettes for batch loading into Dynix later.

If a record was not located, the card was flagged by LaserQuest

operators, and the database manager typed the most important information on the card into LaserQuest's on-screen MARC workflow and saved it to diskette.

Over the seven months of the recon, a total of 27 staff from all departments helped on one or more task. Two CD-ROM players and micros for LaserQuest, three microfiche readers for the COMCAT, and four micros for reserving books were utilized. Ninety-six shelflist drawers of 110 were completed by the deadline.

The records on diskettes had to be converted from compressed to MARC readable format. Six diskettes were discovered to be unreadable and consequently unloading, with the potential loss of about 2300 records. Norton's Utilities succeeded in retrieving records on all but two diskettes, with the final loss of 800 records. The cause of the read errors could have been due to mishandling of diskettes or close proximity to electronic or magnetic sources. The data loading procedure took about 25 minutes for each diskette, and there were 49 diskettes to load. About 13,000 LaserQuest records were loaded, in addition to 48,000 UTLAS records.

Dynix recommends at least one week, if not a month, for barcode previewing. Errors cause barcode labels to be created out of shelflist order. Because of DRL's schedule, including moving to a new building early in 1990 and plans to complete as much of the barcoding as possible before reopening to the public, only 24 hours were available for previewing. In addition, the library was advised that six weeks were required by the vendor to produce

the barcodes. Due to the very short time available for corrections and a long time required for resorting, it was impractical to attempt any changes. The barcode computer tape was created by Dynix and sent by courier to the vendor.

After surviving the experience of a high speed retrospective conversion, several recommendations could be made:

1. Complete the recon before beginning the automation procedure. Either process is sufficient to deal with. A recon has a great number of details which should be handled with close attention for maximum effectiveness. Pressure from external agendas is counterproductive.
2. Maintain detailed and diligent logs so that it is always clear how much has been done on each shelflist drawer and what is left to do, what information is saved on each diskette, and who is working on what.
3. Make back-ups of diskettes regularly, and clearly distinguish back-ups from working diskettes. Failure to observe this point can lead to difficult reconstruction of lost work. One person should control the assignment and daily use of diskettes.
4. Restrict turnover of recon staff, if possible, for consistency and continuity. Much time can be lost in training staff to perform certain functions if shifting priorities remove them to other tasks after a short time.

Diane Brookes is Database Manager/Cataloguer at Dartmouth Regional Library.



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REPORT ON THE CONFERENCE ON RESOURCE SHARING IN NOVA SCOTIA

On April 26, 1991, the Nova Scotia Provincial Library hosted a Conference on the Future of the Union Catalogue and Resource Sharing in Nova Scotia. Forty librarians representing university, public, special and school libraries were invited to participate in discussions on the history, the present state and the future direction of the Nova Scotia Union Catalogue as a resource sharing tool.

The history of the Union Catalogue was traced from its 1949 origins, with two libraries—one special, one university—sending cards for integration into the central regional public libraries catalogue, to 1980, when cards were being received from 45 libraries for

interfiling into a card catalogue of a million records, to 1991, when 34 libraries report for input on-line into the National Union Catalogue. The current situation of fragmentation created by the development of consortia such as Novanet and of stand-alone local systems which cannot, or do not, report to the union catalogue was noted.

Carrol Lunau, National Library of Canada, noted the impact of the changes from manual to automated systems but predicted the changes in the next ten years will be even greater. She outlined the goals of the National Library's resource sharing strategy as equitable access, national self-sufficiency, optimal use of collections, bibliographic and

directory support and effective standards. Strategies for achieving these goals include recognition and enhancement of existing practices, use of appropriate technology, union catalogue decentralization, and partnerships. Plans for implementation are outlined in the National Library publication *Canadian Resource Sharing: A Proposed Strategy & Plan*.

Discussion groups reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of the current resource sharing situation and recommended possible solutions. Seen as strengths were the strong tradition of sharing in Nova Scotia, the potential of the Provincial Library as a leader and coordinator, and the high-level of self-sufficiency within the province.

Among the weaknesses are the incompleteness of the union catalogues, the development of local micro-based systems not necessarily MARC compatible, the lack of standardization and coordination, and ineffective document delivery.

Among the recommendations emanating from the group discussions were:

1. A strengthened role for the Provincial Library, enabling it to provide the leadership and coordination required for an effective resource sharing network.
2. A Resource Sharing Committee such as was recently established in British Columbia and Ontario.
3. A Union Catalogue which is a series of data-bases linked by gateways invisible to the user.
4. Rationalized collections policies.
5. Retrospective conversion.
6. Standards and policies.
7. Improved communications, information and training.

Jane Beaumont discussed two possible options for the structure of a network:

1. Star network—with single or multiple users linked to a central computer (e.g. Novanet).
2. Distributed network—individual computers communicating with each other (e.g. Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries).

Accepted as basic principles for resource sharing were:

1. Equitable access to information.
2. Involvement of all types of libraries.
3. Necessity of accepted standards and policies.
4. Need for coordinated collection development.

As ranked by the conference participants, the priority areas for development are:

1. A Resource Sharing Committee—province-wide, multi-type libraries.
2. Standards and policies.
3. Improved document delivery.
4. Network for locations.

Participants were very positive about maintaining the spirit of resource sharing in Nova Scotia and particularly appreciated the opportunity to share ideas with colleagues from all types of libraries.

The Provincial Library was asked to continue the process of encouraging partnerships in resource sharing amongst Nova Scotia libraries.

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The theme for the 15th annual Canadian Children's Book Week, November 2 to 9, 1991, is "A World of Difference—with Books". Among the current issues encompassed by this theme are: the environment, the earth and global awareness.

In these turbulent times, children are searching for information on important issues that puzzle, excite or trouble them and they are looking to books for answers. During Children's Book Week, Canadian authors and illustrators will visit communities across Canada, sharing their adventures in creating books with young readers.

To find out how you can get involved in Children's Book Week, contact your local Book Week coordinator. The following are the contacts in the Atlantic Region:

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Oromocto Public Library
54 Miramichi Rd.
Oromocto, N.B. E2V 1S2
(506)357-3329

NOVA SCOTIA
Norene Smiley
3552 Windsor St.
Halifax, N.S. B3K 5G8
(902)453-0365

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Ron Perry
Regional Administrative Office #2
Summerside, PEI C1N 4L9
(902)436-2194

NEWFOUNDLAND
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Bay of Islands/St. George's/Baigio
Integrated School Board
Box 190, Brook St.
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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

NEWS FROM NEW BRUNSWICK / NOUVELLES DU NOUVEAU- BRUNSWICK

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The New Brunswick library system was hit hard this fiscal year with an overall budget reduction of \$387,300 or 15%. The cut in the salary budget resulted in the loss of seven positions in the system. Although all the regions lost positions, the Saint John Regional Library was the only one to lay-off staff and three people were given lay-off notices. The materials budget for the province was also cut by \$36,000 and each region is faced with difficult decisions on how to achieve the reductions. The Saint John Regional Library announced that they are cancelling 74% of the newspaper subscriptions for the Market Square Library and an additional dozen periodicals. Of the cuts in the operating budget, the New Brunswick Library Service has absorbed a reduction of close to \$60,000 or 7% of its total budget, while the five regions absorbed the rest.

Le Service du bibliobus fut interrompu par La Bibliothèque Régionale du Haut-Saint-Jean pendant quatre semaines du 15 juillet au 9 août. Cette interruption a été nécessaire en raison des récentes coupures budgétaires imposées par le ministère du Tourisme, Loisirs et Patrimoine. Le service est dispensé depuis 1972 et c'était la toute première fois qu'il était interrompu durant l'été. Plus de 2,000 personnes ont été affectées par cette interruption du service. Aux intervalles de trois (3) semaines, il fait 58 arrêts dans les comtés de Madawaska, de Victoria et la partie ouest du comté de Restigouche.

All five chairpersons of the regional library boards met in Fredericton on August 19th to prepare their brief and they have requested a meeting with Premier McKenna to discuss their concern about understaffing and the inadequate budget for materials.

Both the Fredericton and Saint John public libraries took advantage of the International Gathering of the Irish celebrations in New Brunswick this summer. They offered a variety of programs ranging from history lectures to Irish stories and songs for children's programs.

The York Regional Library raised over \$10,600 from a giant book sale. The three day event, held in new quarters in the addition to the Boyce Farmers' Market, was hailed as a bargain hunter's paradise and few books were left behind. The income from the sale was originally to be used for special projects but the provincial budget reductions forced

the library to use it to buy new books and maintain subscriptions.

On August 2nd the Fredericton Public Library presented a "Literary Extravaganza!" featuring local poets and storytellers. Other libraries in the region have been active in featuring displays of crafts and paintings and the Summer Festival on the Miramichi included libraries as sites for readings and activities.

NEW BRUNSWICK LIBRARY SERVICE

The Inlex/3000 cataloguing module installed at New Brunswick Library Service in December 1989 has proved to be worth its weight in gold. In the first full year of utilization, cataloguing production at NBLS increased by 82%. 74,310 volumes were processed in 1990-91 compared to 40,930 the previous year and the backlog was reduced by 65% from 20,000 items to 7,000. This was achieved using the same staff complement as in 1989-90.

It is expected that the backlog at NBLS will be eliminated by the end of the calendar year, and work will begin on the RECON project which will eventually see the 1.3 million pre-Inlex items (books, periodicals, audiovisual materials, etc.) in library collections added to the Inlex database.

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY

The Legislative Library is celebrating its 150th birthday this year. As part of its celebrations it is sponsoring a series of three lectures on libraries and librarianship. On Friday, October 4th at 7:00 pm, Marianne Scott, National Librarian of Canada, will launch at a wine and cheese reception the publication on the Legislative Library's history entitled: *The Development of the New Brunswick Legislative Library*.

LIBRARY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

The UNB Dept. of Extension and Summer School is offering two non-degree courses in the Library Assistant Program. The Level I course is for library assistants interested in upgrading their skills and knowledge; and the Level II course, ABC's of Library Promotion will focus on public relations and strategy and tools.

PEOPLE

John Teskey has officially taken up his duties at the University of New Brunswick as the new Director of Libraries (Fredericton), effective August 15, 1991.

Mary Mayo, Children's Librarian at the Fredericton Public Library, was featured in the Profile section of the Summer Issue of Children's Book News.

La Bibliothèque Régionale du Haut-Saint-Jean a annoncé la nomination de Lise Thériault à titre de bibliothécaire aux services d'extension. Elle est diplômée de

l'École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information de l'Université de Montréal. Elle était responsable de la Bibliothèque publique-scolaire de Fermont au Québec.

Jocelyne LeBel, Director of New Brunswick Library Service, has been elected vice-president/president elect of the Canadian Association of Public Libraries for 1991-92.

Marc Pilon has been appointed Director of the Chaleur Regional Library effective September 3, 1991. A graduate of the McGill University School of Library and Information Studies, he most recently was Director, Keewatin Regional Library, NWT.

NEWS FROM NOVA SCOTIA

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA

Due to budgetary restrictions, PANS will be reducing its hours from 85.5 to 60 hours per week effective September 30, 1991. The hours will be: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday, Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday (closed).

Anjali Vohra, Newspaper Specialist, will be on leave of absence this Fall as she begins her MLIS degree at Dalhousie University's Library School.

KENTVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION LIBRARY

Jerry Miner has a new position as Assistant Regional Co-ordinator (Atlantic Region) Canadian Agriculture Library. He will continue as the Research Station Librarian, but 1/5 of his time will be devoted to Regional matters. Peggy Morton, Director of Canadian Agriculture Library and former Nova Scotian, recently retired. She will be replaced by Victor Desroches.

DARTMOUTH REGIONAL LIBRARY

DRL's automated system is working well. A new software upgrade was loaded this summer on DYNIX—RELEASE 130—providing many enhancements for public and staff. The public can now check their own records and see what they have out, what holds they have placed, and more. Patrons will be able to access the library's on-line catalogue from their homes through the new Dial Up service. Those with a microcomputer and modem will have 24-hour access to the library's catalogue. The Children's and Young Adult Services Department had a very successful summer, offering a full range of programs. The "Just for Kids" Bookmobile visited playgrounds in July and August. This was the first year for the new stops. A successful book sale was

held in April, which raised over \$1,600. Another book sale is planned for the fall.

NOVA SCOTIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Finalists for the first annual ANN CONNOR BRIMER AWARD were announced at NSLA's Conference on September 28th. They are: *Blood Red Ochre* by Kevin Major (Doubleday); *Pit Pony* by Joyce Barkhouse (Scholastic); *Sooschewan, Child of the Beothuk* by Donald Gale (Breakwater); *Thirteen Never Changes* by Budge Wilson (Scholastic); *Toes in my Nose* by Sheree Fitch (Doubleday). The winner will be announced at a reception on November 3, 1991 at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax. Janet Lunn, Vice-President of the Children's Book Centre, will be a special guest. The shortlisted books will be available for purchase and autographing by those authors in attendance. Anyone wishing to come to the reception should contact Woosle's Bookstore at (902) 423-7626 by October 25, 1991.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY

The move to a new building will take place in early 1992. No specific date has been set. Staff are very involved in floor plan designs, furniture selection, network development, and re-organization of the work flow. Elaine Rillie is the new Co-ordinator for School Libraries. Ms. Rillie has been seconded from the Kings County School System, and is eager to create some necessary changes for school libraries in the province. Management Board has given approval to fill the vacancy left by the early retirement of Bertha Higgins, Co-ordinator of Technical Services. Recruitment for this senior level position will proceed in the near future. Management Board has also approved the hiring of a consultant team to study the preliminary requirements for an integrated automated library system for the Provincial Library. Proposals have been invited from 13 companies and are due September 3, 1991. The preferred completion date of the study is mid-November 1991.

WESTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY

Yarmouth staff and Headquarters staff of WCRL moved into their expanded space and improved conditions in June. The new Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library is being enjoyed by everyone, including the borrowers! Many thanks to Yarmouth Municipality and Yarmouth Town Councils and Trustees to Yarmouth Public Library and Museum, the landlords, Department of Education, and Western Counties Regional Library Board, all of whom contributed financially to the expansion.

—Gwen Whitford

**NOVA SCOTIA LIBRARY
COMMUNITY HONOURS
BERTHA HIGGINS**

On June 24, 1991, over 80 members of the Nova Scotia Library Community attended a reception to honour Bertha Higgins on her retirement from the Provincial Library. This event was hosted by HALIFAX CITY REGIONAL LIBRARY and was held at its THOMAS RADDALL BRANCH. Marion Pape, Provincial Librarian, acted as M.C., and welcomed Bertha and her mother, Mrs. Jessie Higgins. Ms. Higgins' many years of devoted service as Coordinator, Technical Services, and on more than one occasion, Acting Provincial Librarian, were recognized by a number of individuals and groups.



Bertha Higgins years of devoted service were recognized by individuals and groups. From left to right: Doris Stevens (seated) of the R.L.B., Marion Pape N.S.P.L., presenting flowers to Bertha Higgins, and Mrs. Jessie Higgins (seated).

**NEWS FROM
PRINCE EDWARD
ISLAND**

**ROBERTSON LIBRARY,
UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE
EDWARD ISLAND**

The Board of Governors have accepted the application of Merritt Crockett, University Librarian, for early retirement effective August 1, 1992. The University President is striking a search committee who will advertise the position nationally. Crockett started his career in 1968 as the last Chief Librarian for Saint Dunstan's University and became the founding University Librarian of U.P.E.I. in July 1969.

The circulation module of the DRA system is expected to be fully operational on September 1. The library will be busy processing bar coded ID cards for current students until October 15. Non-student

patrons were encouraged to register for new cards before mid-August. Ed Hanus, Associate Librarian, reports making steady progress on the ReCon using the LaserQuest and Mitinet applications. Suzanne Jones' contract position as Systems Librarian has been extended to July 31, 1992.

PROVINCIAL LIBRARY

Leonce Bernard, the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, announced the creation of the Regional Rural Library System, which combines the present rural branch library and bookmobile services. Two separate regional units will be created. The western region headquarters will operate in the new Summerside Rotary Regional Library. The eastern region will operate out of the new Provincial Library headquarters being planned for Morell. Four library technician positions and 20,000 books will be moved to Summerside to accommodate the reorganization. The Summerside Rotary club and

the Friends of the Summerside Public Library have successfully completed their fund raising campaign for renovations to the CN train station. The new library is scheduled to be completed later in the Fall.

Bernard also announced the creation of the French Services Section which will be responsible for a combined school-public library in the new Carrefour de l'Isle St. Jean (Charlottetown), for the Abram Village Public Library and for French services across the Island. Francine Pichet, who worked on the initial set-up of the service, has resigned her position effective August 31, 1991. Johanne Jacob has accepted the position of French Services Librarian starting work in mid-September. Helene Crevier has been appointed Library Technician at the library in Carrefour de l'Isle St. Jean. The new facilities open in mid-September.

Captain Book and the Bookaneers was the theme for this year's summer reading club. Barbara Kissick, children's Librarian, Confederation

Centre Public Library, visited many of the rural branch libraries presenting storytelling and other activities. Kissick detailed the myriad of programs held in Charlottetown. Their summer reading club had three components: the basic program, a modified one for pre-schoolers, and one for advanced readers. A total of 194 children registered. Progress was charted via log books, treasure chests and pirate ship maps. Related activities included a Mock Court and a three-day Pirate School. Other programs given included two puppet shows, a Mad Hatter's Tea Party to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Alice in Wonderland, the Road to the Isles to tie-in with the Island's tourist theme, a Monopoly Tournament, a Pet Show (no live pets) to mark the anniversary of Lassie, Come Home and, a Teddy Bear's Picnic, a repeat of a popular program from last summer.

The Government Services Library was one of the central service providers recently studied by the Government Reform Initiatives group currently examining all aspects of the Provincial Government. The report is nearing completion and resulting recommendations should be announced by the end of the calendar year.

Priscilla Ykelenstam has returned to her position as Technical Services and Systems Librarian after a year's secondment at Holland College Library.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Sandra Taylor Richardson and Don Carter have returned to their respective positions: School Library Consultant, Dept. of Education; and, Teacher-Librarian, Colonel Gray Senior High School. More news on schools in the next issue.

—Priscilla Ykelenstam

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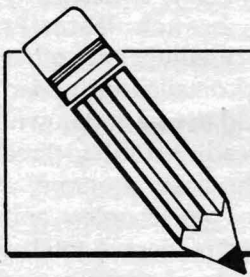
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From the EDITOR'S DESK

It is the editor's prerogative to offer up a few gratuitous and not necessarily original observations now and again. The following are three.

1. It is September and back to school. Not all, but most librarians are like children in at least this one respect: most are touched, directly or indirectly, by the cycle of the academic year. Although the more case-hardened might deny such sentiments, most of us feel a genuine excitement at the September influx of all those young people, with their fears, their energy, their hopes. There is something about all that raw, sheer potential. Personally, a line from a Lionel Trilling story (which I have no intention of checking) always runs through my head this time of year: *September has the charm of new beginnings, before they are corrupted by effort.*

2. Atlantic libraries have had a tougher year than any in recent memory. It has been a year of cut budgets, frozen wages, lay offs, increased postal charges, and new GST-related expenses—all at a time when the ever-expanding universe of materials continues to increase in price in excess of the inflation rate and when there has never been a more crying need for automation (by its nature expensive) and the expertise to acquire, implement and maintain it (which also comes at a high cost).

3. This is the most subjective of my three observations, but it follows logically from the second, and, I

think, ultimately from the first. This past year I have never seen so many librarians under stress. I have witnessed it in the strained, saddened voice of a city librarian telling me about the staff he had been forced to lay-off; in the outraged words of another librarian decrying in the media cuts to one of the most underfunded library systems in the country; and, closer to home, in the exhausted faces of librarians who have willingly forfeited nights, weekends and summer vacations to put in an automated system, not only with no outside assistance but with a reduction in the normal professional complement.

For these people, September and its influx of students may hold a passing charm, but it is certainly not the charm of new beginnings. What occupies them has more to do with old business—with making do, with damage control, with trying to provide something resembling the same service as last year with diminished resources. In the sense of my quote, these librarians are as corrupt as it gets.

So why do they take it all so personally? In a year, five years, things will look better. There are always cycles, and there would be no shame in a philosophical shrugging of the shoulders and a simple soldiering on until things improve.

Who would be hurt?
See observation one.

—Bradd Burningham

BARBARA BURNS (SMITH) SHAW

The library community was saddened by the death on June 15, 1991 in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia of Barbara Burns Shaw. As a librarian, artist, children's author and editor of publications for the Nova Scotia Museum and the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, Barbara Shaw made a significant contribution to the cultural and educational life of the province of Nova Scotia.

Following graduation from Mount Allison University and attainment of a library degree from McGill University, Barbara Smith worked as a cataloguer for the Halifax Memorial Library from 1950 to 1953, participating in the preparation of the book collection for the opening of the first Main Library building in her native Halifax. After three years' service with the Annapolis Valley Regional Library, the Halifax City Regional Library benefitted from her excellent abilities as a reference librarian, as well as from her artistic talent and the fine rapport she developed with public and staff from 1956 to 1959. After

working as a circulation and reference librarian at the University of Toronto and as the Nova Scotia Museum librarian, Barbara opted for part-time employment editing Museum publications. Her editorial activities included Arthur Wallace's magnificent *Album of Early Buildings in Nova Scotia*, published by the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Museum in 1976. As Chair of the Heritage Trust's Publications Committee, Barbara also participated in writing and editing both volumes of *Seasoned Timbers*, the Trust's books on historic buildings in Nova Scotia. With *Kiki of Kingfisher Cove*, published in 1977, and two other stories, she became known as a children's author and illustrator.

Those of us who had the privilege of working with Barbara Shaw in library or publishing activities, have lost a delightful colleague and friend. Our sincere sympathy is extended to her husband W. Stanley Shaw.

—Pauline M.A. Hildesheim

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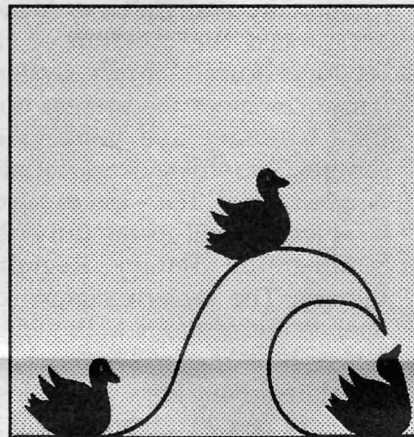
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This issue's duck goes, reluctantly, to the Editor. In a former issue, an interview with Pearce Penney was identified as one in a series on Maritime Provincial Librarians. With apologies to Pearce Penney and to Newfoundland, the series is on Atlantic Provincial Librarians.

—Bradd Burningham

Publication Information

The APLA Bulletin is the official organ of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association. The Association seeks to promote library service in the provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, to serve the professional interests of librarians in the region, to serve as a focal point for all those in library services in the Atlantic Provinces, and to cooperate with library associations and other organizations on matters of mutual concern.

Personal membership in the Association costs \$25 and includes a subscription to the APLA Bulletin, which is published six times a year—September, November, January, March, May and July. An Institutional Membership costs \$75. Institutions may subscribe to the Bulletin only for \$25. For more information contact the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, c/o The School for Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. Single copies of the Bulletin are available for \$4.25.

Submissions for the Bulletin (typed, double-spaced), news and correspondence should be sent

to the Editor, Bradd Burningham, Ralph Pickard Bell Library, Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B., E0A 3C0, or may be sent by Envo to: B.BURNINGHAM. The phone number is (506) 364-2571, FAX (506) 364-2617. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue (i.e.: August 15, October 15, December 15, February 15, April 15, and June 15). All correspondence regarding advertising should be addressed to the Advertising Editor, Gwen Creelman, Ralph Pickard Bell Library, Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B., E0A 3C0 or may be sent by Envo to: G.CREELMAN, FAX (506) 364-2617.

The Bulletin is indexed in Library and Information Science Abstracts, Canadian Periodical Index, and the Canadian Magazine Index and is available online in the Canadian Business & Current Affairs Database. Back volumes are available from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Mi, U.S.A., 48106.

Bradd Burningham is the Editor of the Bulletin, Moira Davidson is the Managing Editor, Gwen Creelman is the Advertising Editor, and Nancy Cohen is the News Editor.

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