



The APLA Bulletin (ISSN: 0001-2203) is the official organ of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association.

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### Publication Information

The APLA Bulletin (ISSN 0001-2203) is the official organ of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association.

**Frequency:** The APLA Bulletin is published five times per year.

**Availability:** The APLA Bulletin is an open access periodical. Claims for missing print issues should be sent to: APLA Treasurer, c/o The School of Information Management, Faculty of Management - Kenneth C. Rowe Management Building, 6100 University Avenue, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3H 3J5. Back volumes are available from UMI, Ann Arbor, MI.

**Submissions:** Submissions should be sent to the editors. Deadlines for submissions are: October 1, November 30, February 1, April 1 and July 1.

**Advertising:** Correspondence regarding advertising should be sent to the Advertising Editor. A rate card is available upon request.

**Indexing:** The APLA Bulletin is indexed by CPI.Q.

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Bulletin Advertising Editor: Vacant

### Join the APLA Discussion List

APLA-L is an un-moderated discussion list for people who are interested in library issues in Atlantic Canada. The APLA list is: a place to post notices about workshops, seminars, and other events a source of current information about the actions of the APLA Executive a forum for sharing questions, comments and ideas about library services a place to post job advertisements

To subscribe to the APLA list, send the command "sub apla-list" to [listserv@lists.dal.ca](mailto:listserv@lists.dal.ca). To send a message to everyone on the list, use [apla-list@lists.dal.ca](mailto:apla-list@lists.dal.ca). To stay on the list but suspend your messages (while on vacation, for instance), send the command "set apla-list nomail" to [listserv@lists.dal.ca](mailto:listserv@lists.dal.ca). When you want to receive message again, send the command "set apla-list mail" to [listserv@lists.dal.ca](mailto:listserv@lists.dal.ca). To unsubscribe from the list, send the command "unsub apla-list" to [listserv@lists.dal.ca](mailto:listserv@lists.dal.ca). If you have any questions about the APLA list, please contact the postmaster, Anita Cannon, at [acannon@mta.ca](mailto:acannon@mta.ca).

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## From the President's Desk

*Submitted by Jocelyne Thompson*

I sit to write this column freshly inspired by the stories of two of our region's great library pioneers, stories that are captured on the [Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library website](#). I urge you to have a look if you haven't already. This attractive website also highlights the recent opening of the Antigonish Town and County Library, locally known as *The People's Place*. The new library is a thing of beauty, as is the concept behind it, and I congratulate all those who had a hand in bringing this major capital project to fruition.

Demonstrating value is a major challenge facing libraries today, and one that is much on my mind. As assistant director, then director, of the New Brunswick public library system in the 1990s, how often did I have to counter perceptions that physical libraries were becoming irrelevant. There was even a suggestion at one meeting I attended that Vancouver was wasting millions on a new public library when the world's knowledge would soon be contained on a support no bigger than a floppy disk: silly notion, but tough to dispel among people of a certain mindset. Although my province doesn't have the best track record in terms of library support (public, school, or otherwise), it does not have a monopoly on this attitude. Libraries are struggling everywhere. And I should mention that the particular civil servant who made the Vancouver comment was a native of Ontario!

Lest I should appear to be washing our dirty laundry in public, I think it's necessary to take stock of what we are up against. It is vitally important that we take inspiration from the past and "gird up our loins", as did Nora Bateson and Father Jimmy in the Nova Scotia of the 1930s, to fight for our 21st century libraries. Libraries in Atlantic Canada have a rich history, but it will be an uphill battle to ensure a bright future.

In my first column as APLA President, I want to reminisce on the great conference in St. John's, acknowledge the work of our many volunteers, and tell you a little about the executive's plans for the coming year.

The St. John's conference was bookended by a great keynote and a challenging closing address. Michael Crummey couldn't have been more inspiring as the keynote speaker. Michael made the link between Newfoundland's oral culture and the province's vibrant literary scene that has taken Canada – and the world – by storm in recent years. As closing speaker, blogger Ryan Deschamps elaborated on his "Ten Reasons Why 'Professional Librarian' is an Oxymoron". In between Michael and Ryan were an abundance of great sessions touching on just about all of the issues that concern library workers every day. Thank you and congratulations to all those who presented, including those who participated in the poster sessions.

A highlight of every APLA conference is the Merit Award Banquet. It's always gratifying to honour one of our own and Elaine MacLean shone as our 2011 award recipient. A personal high this year was opening the dance with Pearce Penney, retired Provincial Librarian of Newfoundland and Labrador. It wasn't planned, but when the lone guitarist began singing *Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes*, I couldn't help myself: I had to dance and Pearce, who was sitting beside me at dinner, had to join me on the dance floor. Now, what is so significant for me about this is that I danced with Pearce at my very first APLA conference in Moncton in 1990. I was new to the region – having moved to New Brunswick from Montreal in June 1989. What I remember most from the conference is the warm welcome I received from long-standing APLA members such as Pearce, Sue Sexty, Dick Ellis, Tom Eadie and others. I fell in love with APLA and have been a fan ever since, attending all but two conferences in the last 22 years.

I want to thank all those who made the 2011 APLA Conference a success. Conference Chair Erin Alcock did a fine job, as did her team composed of Lorna Adcock, Shannon Gordon, Dan Duda, Dianne Taylor-Harding, David Mercer, Donna Inkpen, Aaron Rudkin, Kristen Romme, Annette Anthony, Kathryn Rose, Pat Parsons, Karen Darby, and Katie Lawton. I also want to thank all of our sponsors and in particular the vendors who faithfully support our conference year after year.

APLA is a volunteer-run organization and its success depends on the hard work of many, as the above amply demonstrates. As well as the volunteer team that invests a year and more to bring us our annual conference (Jennifer Richards and her team from Acadia and area libraries in 2012 – thank you!), we have volunteers who develop and maintain our website, volunteers who edit and publish the Bulletin, volunteers who convene interest groups and committees, and volunteers who serve on the executive. I would like to welcome new members to the executive: VP/President-Elect Lou Duggan, Secretary Debbie Costello, and VP- New Brunswick Christin Sheridan; and I heartily thank on the behalf of all APLA members the outgoing executive members who have served us with distinction: Past President Donald Moses, VP-New Brunswick Sarah Kilfoil, and Secretary Lori McKay-Peet.

I have gone on far too long so I will briefly touch on plans for the coming year and leave the details for my next columns. The executive has already held its first meeting, on June 22 using Skype. The purpose of the meeting was to share information and identify issues, and to start setting goals for the months ahead. The meeting laid the groundwork for our fall meeting which will take place in Halifax on September 10. Some of the areas we are focussing on include APLA's profile and visibility, communication, the financial health of the association, and advocacy. Your executive is pumped to work hard to move the organization forward!

So that's it for now. I should say that CLA was very appreciative of APLA's contribution of \$1,000 to the Halifax conference, attended – indeed, partially organized – by many of our own members. An association presidents' luncheon bringing together library leaders from across the country set the stage for greater cooperation amongst the provincial and territorial library associations and CLA.

All good wishes for a wonderful summer. Take the time to relax with friends and family and to enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds us here in Atlantic Canada!

## **From the Editor's Desk: Ideas on the APLA Bulletin**

*Submitted by Ian Gibson, Co-Editor*

This is the last issue of the APLA Bulletin where my name will appear as Co-Editor. I thought I would use the pulpit one last time to present some thoughts about what this publication is, what I think it should be, and why any of that matters.

### *What is the APLA Bulletin?*

The APLA Bulletin is a long standing tradition of our organization. It has been published continuously since 1936. It is a testament to the dedication and spirit of the members of APLA and the wider library community. More formally, the Standing Orders of APLA state that the Bulletin "shall contain news, short articles, items of regional interest, job advertisement display, brief notes of publications received, and material of similar nature to this format" (APLA, 2011). Over the years the Bulletin has been successful in providing all of those types of items. We could end our story here and congratulate ourselves on a job well

done, but I am not content with the status quo and you shouldn't be either. I see the Bulletin, as it currently stands, as a publication without a purpose.

Consider this: when the rules governing the Bulletin were drafted one could only find out what was happening elsewhere in the region at some difficulty and expense. It may sound obvious but the rise of the Internet has had a profound effect on our ability to monitor developments at other libraries and keep in contact with our peers elsewhere around the region (to say nothing of the wider world). This in turn should have had a profound impact on the content of the APLA Bulletin. The Bulletin should have seen its news section get smaller and more focused, with other types of material becoming dominant. Instead it has been the other content: the featured articles, the brief notes on conferences, book reviews, etc. that has mostly vanished from the pages of the Bulletin. The Bulletin has become an excellent news reprint service. I find it hard to believe that the membership would be content with the current state of the content in the Bulletin.

### *What Should the APLA Bulletin Be?*

As I was thinking about this subject I was skimming some older issues of The Bulletin. The older issues certainly had a lot of news but the news had a different feel to it. The news items were briefer, much of it seemed to be summarized by the editor and there were more articles (mostly of the form of "I did this" or "I went to this conference"). There was one quote in particular that struck me as I read:

Will everyone else please remember that whatever you do – if it is new or unusual – if it involves a new idea, new technique, new readers, new books – interests BULLETIN readers. Don't say you don't have time. A few quick paragraphs are of use to us.

(Redmond, 1959)

I like this quote for a number of reasons. First, it is reassuring that other editors have faced a similar problem in attracting content. Second, it emphasizes that the Bulletin isn't looking for a grand unified theory of everything: short contributions are more than welcome. Finally, it encourages broad participation: anybody with an idea or story is welcome. More than all those things, I like that the emphasis is on *new* ideas, not just on rehashing what happened over the last two months. The emphasis on new is something the APLA Bulletin needs to come back to.

In my opinion, our approach needs to change. Instead of reprinting existing news in the Bulletin, APLA should create social media feed (Twitter, anyone?) that alerts the members to new newsletters and reports that the various libraries around our region are producing. The goal should be to move the Bulletin news section back to what it was in earlier days: brief notes about events, services, programs, conferences attended, etc., that link to the relevant newsletter or report so that those who are interested can get the full description where it was originally printed. Particularly successful events/programs/services or particularly interesting ideas could be expanded to a short article about the how's and why's. We don't need page after page of formal literature reviews or statistical analyses. The form could be something as simple as the following:

- Idea (what was it, who thought of it, how long did it germinate for)
- Planning (who was involved, what resources were needed)
- Event (what happened – or just link to other accounts)
- Debrief (was it successful, would you do it again)

I expect that in most cases this outline could be fully fleshed out in less than 500 words. When we released our most recent set of author guidelines for the Bulletin, these were the kinds of contributions we were interested in attracting.

### *Why Does This Matter?*

As I've stated above, the Internet has given us the chance to better explore the how's and why's. Writing down the how's and why's gives us the chance to share our programming initiatives, gives our peers the chance to better assess what we're doing and hopefully, promote a dialogue that will lead to better programming and professional practices across the region. In short, I think that the APLA Bulletin is the medium through which we can strengthen our regional community in a way that other professional literature can't.

On the other hand, perhaps none of this really matters. Perhaps we are content to let the Bulletin soldier on as it has done for the past 74 years. Or more radically, perhaps we no longer need the Bulletin at all. One thing is certain: the membership of APLA can have an important voice in shaping the future of the Bulletin if they choose to use it.

### *Final Thoughts*

As a final farewell, I want to let you know that working on the Bulletin for the past three years has been a wonderful experience – I've learned a lot and met a lot of great people. Over that time we have accomplished a lot: moved the Bulletin to Drupal, mostly formalized the content appearance and attracted some francophone content (merci Alain!). I am confident that Alexandra and my successor will be able to build on our momentum and take the Bulletin to new heights.

### *Work Cited*

Redmond, D.A. (1959) A Sort of Report on the APLA Bulletin. *APLA Bulletin*, 23(3), 49.

## **In Memoriam: A Tribute to Douglas Lochhead**

*Editor's Note: The following tribute was delivered by Jocelyne Thompson at the opening ceremonies of the APLA 2011 Conference in St. John's, NL.*

I am honoured to pay tribute today to Douglas Grant Lochhead, librarian, scholar, and poet. Winner of the APLA Merit Award in 1990, he published nearly 30 poetry collections in his lifetime, with his first book appearing in 1959 and the last, half a century later, in 2009.

His entry in the Routledge Encyclopedia of Post-Colonial Literatures in English hails him as "one of the most energetic, prolific, assimilative, lyrically sure-footed poets in Canada. In an article published in *Acadiensis* in 2000, Gwendolyn Davies acclaimed Douglas Lochhead as one of the "three wise men of Maritime literature", along with Fred Cogswell and Malcolm Ross.

In addition to his poetry, Douglas Lochhead edited many books and published significant literary criticism. An editor at both the University of Toronto Press and Goose Lane Editions, he served as chairman of the board for the latter, and was a founding member of the League of Canadian Poets and a co-founder of the *Maritime Art Magazine*.

Born in Guelph, ON in 1922, Douglas Lochhead said he was "rushed to Fredericton at the age of two or three months to be baptized" and throughout his childhood, while the school year was spent in Ottawa, summers were spent in Fredericton and Saint John. Douglas Lochhead wrote that this "heart was in the Maritimes" and he was a "confirmed regionalist". His daughter, Sara Lochhead, well known to us in the region and in the profession, has said that his greatest honour was being named First Poet Laureate for Sackville New Brunswick in 2002. "These are the people with whom he lived his life", she has said. The verses of one his works, *High Marsh Road*, are displayed on telephone poles in Sackville guiding people towards the marshes he loved.

After completing his BA in 1943, Douglas Lochhead was accepted into medical school at McGill but instead of taking up his place, he spent three years serving in the Canadian artillery and infantry during WWII. After the war he turned his back on a career in medicine which he claimed would have been a "disaster for humanity" and took an MA in English at the University of Toronto. He married Jean St. Clair Beckwith, a reference librarian at Toronto Public Library in 1948, and earned a library degree from McGill in 1951.

He spent a year as Librarian of Victoria College before applying for a position as a librarian at Cornell University, a place he chose, with true poetic spirit, for the beauty of the library and the campus. After only a year at Cornell, the position of University Librarian at Dalhousie lured him back, happily, to Canada. He remained at Dalhousie for seven years before accepting a position as York University's first Director of Libraries.

Three years later, Douglas Lochhead accepted an offer to become senior Fellow and Founding Librarian of Massey College at the University of Toronto. The position was considered unique in Canada as it was a research rather than an administrative position. In addition he was appointed Professor of English at University College, University of Toronto, and also taught in the University's library school. His classes included bibliography, the history of printing and the history of books and libraries. Robertson Davies was passing his classroom one day and remarked that "it's the first time I ever heard laughter coming out of a class on bibliography".

In 1975, Lochhead left Massey College for Mount Allison University where he became the director of Canadian Studies. In 1987, he was named Professor Emeritus, and the three years prior to his retirement in 1990 were spent as Writer-in-Residence at the Mount. His retirement gave him more time to write and his last book was published two years before his death.

In the midst of a busy life spent building library collections, teaching and writing, he managed to find the time to embark upon new enthusiasms, challenges and responsibilities. His love of typography, printing presses and hand printing did not prevent him from embracing new technologies and he was a Founding Board Member of Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproduction (CIHM).

When Douglas Lochhead died in March of this year at the age of 88, the tributes poured in. But his many accomplishments were acknowledged and celebrated throughout his long and productive life.

Amongst the honours to his credit are numbered the following:

- In 1976, he was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.
- In 1980, he was a Finalist for the Governor-General's Literary Award for Poetry (for High Marsh Road).
- In 1985, he was awarded the Tremaine Medal of the Bibliographical Society of Canada.
- In 1987, he received the Association of Canadian Studies Award of Merit; and
- In 1990, our own highest honour, the APLA Merit Award. (He served as President of APLA 1958-59)
- In 2001, the Alden Nowlan Award for Excellence in English-language Literary Arts; and
- In 2005, the prestigious Carl Betocchi International Poetry Prize.

Honorary degrees were conferred upon him by various Universities including St Mary's University (1987), Dalhousie University (1987), and the University of New Brunswick Saint John (2006).

The current University Librarian at Mount Allison, Bruno Gnassi, shared the following thoughts with me:



Douglas Lochhead made such a difference not only to the profession and to MtA but also to the region. He was a person of unique talent. He was instrumental in the development of a cultural presence in the region both as a poet/author and an outstanding librarian. His contribution to the development of Mount Allison University's Libraries and Archives are inestimable not only for the role he played in advancing Canadian studies and the unique collections that support it here, but in his leadership and scholarship. Our profession, our region, and our university was blessed to have him.

## **Assessing Trends in Desk Reference at the Queen Elizabeth II Library**

*Submitted by Amanda Tiller, Librarian, Queen Elizabeth II Library*

In March of 2011, Memorial University's Queen Elizabeth II (QEII) Library conducted its Information and Research Help Desk Timing Study, making it the eighth study in a series that began in 1993. Other such studies were conducted in 1995, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2007, and 2009. The purpose of the study is to determine current and changing trends in desk reference at the QEII library, to enhance overall knowledge of how librarians and library assistants spend their time at the information desk, and to help the Information Services division better define the busiest hours at the desk and, as such, to help the division assess staffing effectiveness and define potential areas of improvement. Statistics accumulated in the 2011 study were also compared with past data to define changes in desk reference services in the library over an extended period of time.

The 2011 study recorded the total observed number of patrons that approached the information desk, reference transaction duration, the number of patrons who waited for service and the duration of their wait, the number of patrons that departed the desk before being served, and the amount of time each patron waited before departing. In addition, this survey also noted who responded to each question, either an on-duty librarian or library assistant, a librarian scheduled to respond to the service bell during busy hours when scheduled desk staff required additional assistance, or an off-duty librarian, defined as a librarian neither scheduled on the desk or on the bell, who responds to questions when all aforementioned staff are occupied.

Librarians who worked on this study collected data by observing reference desk transactions from an unobtrusive location in the Information Services office and recorded the duration of each question using a continuously-running stopwatch. The study was conducted from Wednesday, March 9th to Tuesday, March 22nd, 2011, at random times during each weekday within this timeframe, between the hours of 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. At least two representations of each hour collected.

### *Scheduled Librarians*

During the twenty hours observed at the Information desk, scheduled librarians answered one hundred eighty-two questions in total, and spent an average of 3.8 minutes on each query, down slightly from 2009 where the average librarian question duration was 4.5 minutes. This most recent average is roughly on par with averages recorded in other years, as well; thus, question complexity and demand for in-depth reference services has not dwindled.

### *Librarians Responding to Service Bell and Off-Duty Librarians*

Librarians scheduled on the Bell answered eighteen questions, averaging 7.15 minutes in duration. The busiest hours on the desk which required the assistance of the librarian scheduled for the bell, were 10-11, 11-12 and 1-2. Off-duty librarians answered four questions in total, suggesting that help is rarely needed beyond those scheduled for desk duty.

### *Library Assistants*

During the observed hours in which library assistants were scheduled on the desk (11:00 am-12:00 pm, and 2:00-4:00 pm), library assistants answered a total of eleven questions (including one ongoing question) averaging 4.2 minutes in duration. The question number is down significantly from 2009 where forty-seven questions were recorded. An accurate comparison cannot be drawn between current and past numbers in this case because of a revamp in library assistant scheduling at the desk, which gives LAs the option to assist only when needed.

#### *Patron Wait Time: Served and Unserved*

A total of two hundred eighteen patrons were observed approaching the reference desk during this study. This total number is down from the last study which recorded a total number of two hundred, eighty-seven patrons, sixty-nine more than the current number. Given the fact that both studies were conducted during roughly the same time (Feb. 26- March 11 in 2009, and March 9-March 22 for the current study), it is safe to assume that numbers are down for this time of year since the last study.

Of the two hundred eighteen patrons that approached the desk, fifty-four patrons (15.7 on average) waited for service; thus, roughly 25% of our patrons waited for service. In 2009, eighty-nine patrons (27.3 on average) waited for service; thus, our number of waiting patrons has vastly declined. Better still, of this number, thirty-eight (70%) waited less than a minute for the librarian on the desk to either respond to their question or call for the librarian scheduled on the bell. Of the fifty-four patrons who waited for service, forty-eight were answered by the librarian on the desk, and six were answered by the librarian on the bell. The average wait time between the ringing of the bell and the answering of the bell is 0.6 minutes; that is, less than one minute. It can be concluded that most of our users are either served immediately or served within a very short and acceptable amount of time. The total number of patrons who departed before receiving service is three people, twelve less than recorded in the 2009 Timing Study. Departing patrons waited 0.7 minutes (<1 min.) on average, before departing which, again, is an acceptable time-frame.

#### *Conclusions*

During the 2011 Timing Study, a total of two hundred, eighteen patrons were observed approaching the Information Desk. This number is down from the 2009 Timing Study which recorded a total number of two hundred, eighty-seven patrons. These decreased numbers are consistent with the decreasing trend in desk reference seen in recent years. Indeed, with each Timing Study conducted at the Information Desk, the numbers decline. These decreased numbers may have played a part in our decreased wait times and wait duration, as well as our decrease in patron departures at the desk. Numbers have dropped, but the numbers that remain are receiving more timely and efficient service, as a result. Of course, these improved statistics can also be attributed to our current staffing at the desk, particularly, during busy hours, as well as the success of our library instruction program and one-on-one library instruction classes, as well as guides and information made available at the desk, which has decreased the need for patrons to come to us with certain questions.

As previously stated, there were very few occasions during the course of the Timing Study, whereby a scheduled librarian or library assistant deemed it necessary to call for backup in the form of the librarian scheduled on the bell or an off-duty librarian. For the most part, our desk is adequately staffed at all times, to assist patrons, as needed.

During all occasions whereby the librarian on the bell or off-duty librarian were called to assist during busiest hours, patrons had a very short wait for assistance (less than a minute, on average); thus, with the current staffing as it is, all patrons received timely service. Assistance was required most frequently during the 10-11 shifts where one librarian is scheduled on the desk;

therefore, it was deemed worthwhile to staff two people on the desk during the 10-11 shift instead of one. 1-2 is also a busy, so the same should apply in this case, as well.

Given these current statistics and findings, Information services and all librarians and library assistants who work at the information desk at the QEII library are doing their part to minimize patron waiting times, to ensure that the desk is adequately-staffed during peak hours, and that all efforts are practiced to meet user needs, in general. Desk statistics have improved immensely, and we are proud of our service ethic. Librarians and library assistants are quick to ring the bell for service, and librarians on the bell are fast to respond to the call for service.

The occasional timing studies performed in our division are a great way to look closely at the services we conduct on a daily basis to ensure that we are doing everything possible to meet and exceed the needs of our service community. They reassure us of what we are doing right, and alert us to some things we can investigate and possibly change. It is also beneficial to see how desk references is changing and will continue to change, so that we may readjust and respond accordingly.

## Hackmatack Awards

*Submitted by Kate Watson*



Thanks in part to APLA's generous support, this year's Hackmatack ceremony was held on Friday, May 13 at Pier 21 in Halifax. Over 400 students were on hand for the bilingual event that included snappy speeches from authors and students and a fun and frenzied post-ceremony autograph session. Eighteen authors from across Canada toured schools and libraries in the Atlantic Provinces in the week before the event.



The winners were selected by young readers from the four Atlantic Provinces who spent several months reading, discussing and engaging in story-related activities in their schools or libraries. They are:

- English Fiction: *Binky the Space Cat* by Ashley Spire
- English Non-Fiction: *How to Build Your Own Country* by Valerie Wyatt
- French Fiction: *La plus jolie histoire* by Richard Petit
- French Non-Fiction: *Le dico de Tibo* by Gilles Tibo

## Library Comes to the People

A new initiative in Lunenburg and Queens Counties, Nova Scotia, will bring public library services closer to the people. Your Library In Motion, a project spearheaded by South Shore Public Libraries Outreach Coordinator Christina Pottie, will take library services out of the building and into the community this summer.

"The Library has more to offer than books," says Pottie. "Books are still our core business. But Internet access, online services, programs, and information in different formats make libraries accessible. Your Library In Motion will give people who have never been to the Library a chance to see what is available for free in communities throughout Lunenburg and Queens Counties."

Any resident of Nova Scotia is eligible for a free library card. "Stop by our blue Your Library In Motion tent," says Pottie. "I can sign you up for a Library card on the spot with one piece of picture ID. Then you're free to borrow from the selection of books." Tourists are welcome too.

Your Library In Motion will offer two computer terminals where members of the public can check email and search the Internet. A small selection of Library materials will be available to borrow, sign up for a library card, or browse information on upcoming library programs and events.

Chief Librarian Troy Myers is excited about reaching out to the community. "This new initiative will allow us to connect with people better. We will continue to break down barriers to public library service by giving people what they want, where they want it, and when they want it."

Watch for Your Library In Motion at Privateer Days in Liverpool, the Tent Dwellers Festival at Keji, Going Green Festival, South Shore Exhibition and South Shore Youth Activity Day In Bridgewater, the Family Sandcastle contest on Risser's Beach, Treasures of Mahone Bay and the Farmer's Market in Chester. To book Your Library in Motion for your community event, contact Christina Pottie at 543-2548.



Andrew Poplawski, cleverly disguised as a pirate during Liverpool's Privateer Days celebration, enjoys the modern conveniences of South Shore Public Libraries Your Library In Motion initiative. Coincidentally, Andrew is Branch Operations Manager at Alderney Gate Library in Dartmouth.

## The Second Annual Games@theLibrary Event

*Submitted by Pamela Maher, APLA Public Relations and Communications Committee*

Public and academic libraries across Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick hosted the second annual Games@theLibrary event during the week of October 18-24, 2010. Games@theLibrary was initiated by Louise McGillis, librarian and Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Vice President for Newfoundland and Labrador in 2009. "Our goal was to show that libraries are places where people meet, learn, and have fun," says Ms. McGillis. "To do this we encouraged all public libraries in Atlantic Canada to host a 'game themed' event of their choice (board games, chess, trivia, scavenger hunts, video games, etc)."

*And the Winner Is...*

The winner for the 2010 grand prize Nintendo Wii (donated by APLA) was Ruth Young from Harry's Harbour Public Library, Newfoundland. Speaking of Newfoundland and Labrador – they really had their game on! A whopping 838 ballots were submitted from Newfoundland and Labrador alone. Nova Scotia submitted 594 ballots; New Brunswick 139; and PEI 114 – for a total of 1685 ballots. Thanks to all for your enthusiastic work! Additionally, PEI's Robertson Library was our first eligible academic library participant.

*Changes for 2010*

In 2010, Games@theLibrary was somewhat modified in response to the feedback given during the 2009 event. The planners decided not to work with a company like Hasbro, which had generously donated games in 2009, but which also required a certain amount of care around branding. The image of Games@theLibrary was tweaked a bit and new posters and promotional material were distributed to libraries around the Atlantic Provinces. An official press release was created and sent to APLA provincial VPs for distribution for increased media attention. This was an attempt to create a more comprehensive media campaign, in response to suggestions from last year's report. This year, academic libraries were also encouraged to participate, and were eligible for the Wii Grand Prize.

*Games@theLibrary Events in 2010*

- The Games@theLibrary events were all shapes and sizes, and many libraries worked hard to plan tried and true or original games for their patrons. Here are a number of event descriptions posted on <http://www.apla.ca/games>:
- Got Game! Saint John Free Public Library, Central Branch: On Saturday, October 16th, drop in to the Children's Department between 1-4 pm to play our board games or bring your own.
- On Saturday, October 16th, enjoy DDR and Wii Sports: 2-3 pm for ages 7-11 and 3-4 pm for ages 12 and up. Snacks will be served for tired gamers.
- Games @ the Library PEI / Jeux à la bibliothèque IPE : Bring your whole family to the library and enjoy some board games, brain teasers, and puzzles! / Venez à la bibliothèque en famille et participez à des jeux de société, des jeux de stratégie, et des casse-têtes!
- Bored? Games @the Library AVR: Games at the Library Week coincides with Teen Read Week, as well as a school in-service day, so we have several branches doing games events throughout the week.
- Games @ the Library Scavenger Hunts at all NL Public Libraries in St. John's starting Tuesday, October 19th. Participants will search the library to find game-themed characters and collect the letters they are holding. Letters will be unscrambled to reveal secret words.
- Games Night @Monastery Public Library, Nova Scotia (PARL): Join us at the Monastery Public Library for an evening of games! It's fun, free, and all ages are welcome!

*Next Time ...*

The numbers from 2010 were down from our 2009 numbers (2751 ballots were submitted in 2009), owing in part to conflict with other events and a delayed start in the planning process. Some suggestions for future events are:

- It would be best if the chair of the committee worked in a public library. This recommendation is repeated from last year's list of suggestions.



Harry's Harbour Public Library Technician Ellen King (left) presents Games@theLibrary Wii winner Ruth Young (right) with her prize.

- It would be a good idea to implement a more comprehensive media campaign. This is another suggestion from last year's report.
- A number of people suggested that event may need to be moved from October, which is already very busy with other Library Month activities.
- Some suggested that many families already have a Wii now, so the prize has less appeal than in the previous year. Another prize might be considered for future events.

If you have any additional suggestions for future events, please [contact Pamela Maher](#). Also, if you are interested in participating in the coordination of the next Games@theLibrary event, please contact Pamela as well.

Thanks for playing!

## News from Nova Scotia

### Cape Breton Regional Library

<http://www.cbri.ca>

*Submitted by Rosalie Gillis*

The Cape Breton Regional Library Board is very pleased to announce the appointment of Ken Chisholm as the first ever Storyteller-in-Residence for the Library. Chisholm is an accomplished singer, songwriter, musician, actor, director and writer who has been telling stories in many different ways for the past thirty-plus years in Cape Breton. During his two-year term, he will participate at library and community events to promote storytelling to residents of all ages.



Well known in theatre circles in the area, Chisholm has won numerous awards and accolades from the One Act Play festival held yearly at CBU, including awards for directing, multiple awards for acting, and the Boardmore Prize for best original script on three occasions for his triumvirate of plays dealing with the lives of Italian women from Whitney Pier. His casts have won awards for ensemble work for these productions. He has also written a number of children's' plays including the recent CBU revival of Robin Hood, as well as plays requested by various community groups on subjects such as the Canadian Navy, the Newfoundland ferry and Johnny Miles.

Chisholm has mentored dozens of budding actors, writers and directors and musicians and worked with many seasoned professionals throughout Cape Breton. He writes about the arts in Cape Breton in his weekly column in the Cape Breton Post and whats goin' on, and is a member of the local CBC Book Panel. He has written many original songs including Brothers In the Saddle and Company Town which are now considered Cape Breton Classics.

Chisholm says he is honoured to be chosen the first Storyteller in Residence for the Cape Breton Regional Library and looks forward to representing them at various events. "The Regional Library has been invaluable to me over the years as a resource in all of my creative endeavours," Chisholm says. "I've used their research files, attended author readings, learned from their workshops and lectures, and, most recently, enjoyed being a part of their book club for men. It is a huge thrill to be their first storyteller in residence and I can't wait to get to work."

The Storyteller-in-Residence programme is the first in Atlantic Canada, and will recognize and promote Cape Breton's rich storytelling heritage. The Library Board is very excited by this opportunity to bring many of these stories to a wider audience.

While some stories have been reflected in print, a great deal of local knowledge continues to be transmitted orally through stories passed down from generation to generation. A committee comprising library and community representatives reviewed and recommended the candidate to the Board.

“Through the telling and sharing of stories, we learn, preserve history, and develop an understanding of our heritage,” said Faye MacDougall, Regional Librarian. “The Library recognizes the value and importance of this rich oral tradition, and looks forward to working with Chisholm as he researches and imparts many wonderful, inspiring, and memorable stories.”

### Halifax Public Libraries

<http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/>

#### *Staff Recognition: Halifax Public Libraries Support CLA Conference in Halifax*

The CLA conference was held in Halifax from May 25-28, 2011. Throughout the conference, Halifax Public Libraries was recognized for its contributions. We’d like to acknowledge the following committee members, volunteers and speakers from Halifax Public Libraries who made the conference a big success.

Local arrangements committee, who staffed desks, sourced donations, stuffed registration bags, took tickets, printed signs and handled situations as they arose during the conference.

The committee included:

- Janice Fiander, Manager, Cole Harbour (Chair)
- Sharon Haley Mancini, Manager, Bedford (Volunteer Co ordinator)
- Hannah Colville, Youth Librarian, Halifax North ("CLA Today" Editor and Layout)
- Darcy Johns, Youth Librarian, Cole Harbour (Donations Coordinator)

The volunteers who staffed desks, convened sessions and guided tours, included:

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| • Alison Ambi        | • Heather MacKenzie |
| • Darlene Beck       | • Andrew Poplawski  |
| • Karen Dahl         | • Paula Saulnier    |
| • Cynthia Gatto      | • Kimberly Scheelar |
| • Bruce Gorman       | • Charby Slein      |
| • David Hansen       | • Tracey Stone      |
| • Tracey Jones Grant | • Varun Vyas        |
| • Susan McLean       | • Kelli Wooshue     |
| • Dacia MacDonald    | • Ken Williment     |
| • Kim MacKay         |                     |

Conference speakers included:

- Karen Dahl, Regional Manager Youth Services  
*Teen Spaces: Re imagining Library Design*
- Tracey Jones Grant, ELL, Literacy and Diversity Services Manager and Ken Williment, Community Development Manager  
*Asset Mapping: A Tool for Discovering the Library’s Role Within the Community*

- Judith Hare, CEO  
*Finding the True Public Voice: Reinventing Public Consultation*  
*New Central Libraries: A Cross Country Tour*

#### *Published Work by Halifax Public Libraries Staff*

In recent months, members of staff at Halifax Public Libraries (HPL) had their work showcased in a number of library-focused publications, including *Feliciter* and *Public Libraries Online*.

In April 2011, *Feliciter*, focused on the theme “Challenges Faced by Small Libraries.” Denise Somers and Ken Williment’s “Community-Led Library Service in a Rural Community: Musquodoboit Branch” was the perfect fit for this theme.

From 2004-2008, HPL participated in a national project called “Working Together”, funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada. Following this project, Musquodoboit Harbour was chosen as the pilot branch for the community-led service approach based on the toolkit developed out of “Working Together”.

“In preparation for implementing the community-led service approach at the branch, I could find no documented past incidences or experiences of other small or rural libraries who had done so”, explained Denise.

The article written in *Feliciter* came with reflection on how much the branch accomplished by using the community-led service approach. Denise added, “I wanted to share the MH experience with others who may be thinking of adopting the approach, so they would have a base, however small, of information and possible expectations.”

The article was based on staff discussion, which Denise said she hopes “inspires other rural and smaller branches to adopt this approach which is possible at all levels of library service.”

Ken Williment, Community Development Manager at Halifax Public Libraries, who co-authored with Denise, also had two articles recently published as features in *Public Libraries Magazine*. The articles were supported by *Public Libraries Magazine* editor, Kathern M. Hughes, who said: “Together the articles provide a comprehensive overview of the idea [community-led approach] and provide lots of tips in case you want to try it out at your library.”

Ken’s articles: “It takes a community to create a library” solely authored, and “From project to branch integration and sustainability: community-led work at Halifax Public Library”, co-authored with Tracey Jones Grant, Literacy, ESL and Diversity Services Manager, can be found at [publiclibrariesonline.org](http://publiclibrariesonline.org)

#### *Halifax Central Library Update: Archaeological Digs Begin*

The site of the proposed Central Library in Halifax is ascribed high potential for encountering significant archaeological resources. Once part of a larger property known as ‘the Governor’s Farm’, the site may contain structural remains, features and other archaeological deposits that, range in age from the mid-eighteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries.

In June, archaeologists began to monitor the removal of asphalt and earth in layers to watch for signs of historic structures and/or artefacts.

If any layers are discovered during the initial assessment, the archaeology team will begin a more detailed excavation process to study, record and preserve the discovered items.



The archaeological investigations at the central library site will be conducted under the terms of a Heritage Research Permit issued to Cultural Resource Management Group Limited by the Heritage Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

All items found will become the property of the Province of Nova Scotia which assumes long term curatorial responsibility for archaeological artefacts.

### **Eastern Counties Regional Library**

<http://ecrl.library.ns.ca/>

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) was busy this spring developing new partnerships. The Port Hawkesbury Rotary Club has joined forces with ECRL to help create a play space for young children and their caregivers at the Port Hawkesbury branch. ECRL also teamed up with Wal-mart and the Adopt-A-Library program to fundraise for this year's Summer Reading Club. The Port Hawkesbury locations of Dairy Queen, Subway and McDonalds are also joining in the summer reading fun by offering incentive coupons to encourage children to use the library.

ECRL's Summer Reading Club launched June 30th at the Port Hawkesbury Dairy Queen and McDonald's. Staff brought the library out into the community to attract more children, promote reading and get everyone excited about summer reading. This year's program is going to be the best ECRL has ever had. There will be storytimes, crafts, face painting, games to play and youtube videos to make! As well, for every three books a child reads they receive a ballot to enter to win a Kobo Ereader.

"Pass the Word" the 2nd Annual Margaree Reading Festival will be held July 1st at the Drs. Coady and Tompkins Memorial Library in Margaree Forks. It is going to be the author event of the year with presentations by Carol Off, Lesley Crewe, Lynn Coady and Nicole Shaw. The event was organized by the Margaree Area Development Association (MADA). ECRL would like to thank the community for their work in organizing the festival and the authors for their participation.

### **Western Counties Regional Library**

<http://www.westerncounties.ca/index.html>

#### *Meet the New Director*

Western Counties Regional Library has hired its new library director from within, elevating French Services Coordinator Erin Comeau to the position.

"The selection committee was impressed with Erin's enthusiasm for, and her knowledge in the field of public library service to the community in general and the users in particular," said Gary Archibald, chair of the regional library board. "She has been a valued worker for our Western Counties Regional Library Board during her tenure with us."

May 2 was her first day on the job as Regional Library Director, a post previously occupied by Trudy Amirault before her retirement in early December 2010.

Read more about it [here](#).

*Partnerships Extend Reach and Role of Library*

Western Counties Regional Library realizes the importance of forming community partnerships to enhance its services and the community it serves.

“It is important that the library reflects the community it serves and is actively engaged with that community,” says Acting Regional Library Director Joanne Head.

Head, like her predecessor Trudy Amirault, advocates being involved with other organizations and developing partnerships.

Read more about it [here](#).

*Library Staff Tackles Continents’ Highest Peaks*

In their climbing gear to tackle the tallest peaks on the seven continents, the Seven Summit Challenge is all part of a workplace wellness initiative that came out of a meeting attended by Public Relations Manager Ian White in 2010.

“The intent was to motivate staff in a fun way to become or stay physically active,” says White. “Staff members track any walking or running they do every week and fill in their own personal logs.”

The mountains have elevations that range from the 4,884 metres of Indonesia’s Carstensz Pyramid to Asia’s Mount Everest’s 8,848 metres. In total, participants are asked to cover just over 43 kilometres. Staff members are encouraged to complete the challenge as many times as they can. By April, one staff member has “climbed” the seven peaks seven times (over 300 kilometres) since the initiative started in mid-January.

Read more about it [here](#).

**News from Prince Edward Island****PUBLIC LIBRARIES****PEI Public Library Service**

<http://www.library.pe.ca>

*One Book • One Island / Un livre • Une île*

Islanders have been invited to participate in our inaugural One Book One Island / Un livre Une île campaign. *Still Life*, the first title in author Louise Penny’s Chief Inspector Gamache series is this year’s selection. Response by library patrons has been very impressive, with patrons lining up to borrow and place holds on the title in print (in either English or French), audiobook, eaudiobook and book club kits. A number of special events will be taking place throughout the summer, culminating in visits to three public libraries by author Louise Penny in mid-September.

A website has been created ([in English](#) and [in French](#)), or you can follow the event on

Facebook and Twitter. The Public Library Service is partnering with The Bookmark bookstore, as library patrons receive a 10

per cent discount when purchasing *Still Life*. Thanks to both Holland College and Robertson Library at UPEI who have purchased *Still Life* for the Kindle e-readers they loan out to library patrons.

What page are you on? / À quelle page êtes-vous?

### *Digital Media Download Service Introduced*

Islanders with a library card are now able to browse from a catalogue of 2,000 ebooks and audiobooks and download them immediately to their computer or transfer them to a mobile reading device, such as an e-reader, smart phone or MP3 player. Both classics and modern titles can be found and more books will be added as the collection grows. This service has been well received.

### *TD Summer Reading Club in Full Swing*

Public libraries across the province are bubbling with activities for the TD Summer Reading Club. This year's theme is Splash! Celebrate Summer / Splouff! Mouille-toi!. All we are waiting for is warmer weather!

### *Staff News*

Joan Sutton recently retired from her position as branch technician at the Breadalbane Public Library. During her 25-year career with the Public Library Service, Joan worked at several locations, but most of her career was spent in Breadalbane. When she first started work, the Breadalbane Public Library was located in a tiny, dark (no electricity!), and cold (so cold the books would freeze to the bottom shelf in the winter!) building. Despite the surroundings, she very much enjoyed working in the library. A few years later, the library moved to a new location in a renovated former school house, where it remains today. Joan has many interests (she is a well-known cookbook author, enjoys photography and gardening and is a devoted grandmother), so her life will continue to be busy. Enjoy your retirement, Joan!

## **ACADEMIC LIBRARIES**

### **Robertson Library (University of Prince Edward Island)**

<http://library.upei.ca/>

- On Monday, April 18, the Library and its partners officially launched the [islandarchives.ca](http://islandarchives.ca) initiative. This provides a digital record of various unique collections such as: IslandLives; IslandImagined; and IslandVoices.
- The Library now has 44 Dell laptops and 7 MacBooks which members of the UPEI campus community may borrow from the Circulation Desk.
- In June, the Library announced its third Art Competition. Interested local artists have been asked to transform the nine cement pillars in our Learning Commons into works of art. For more information, contact Suzanne Jones.
- The Library has installed an Espresso Book Machine, which prints, binds, and produces soft-cover books "on-demand." Contact Donald Moses for more information.
- The Library moved to a digital news environment with its purchase of a Screenscape electronic monitor. This is used to announce Library hours, special events, the Library and Campus twitter news, and that all-important Canadian thing, the weather!
- The Robertson Library Plaza Project recently began with the removal of the asphalt outside the west-side Library doors. This construction project will include: new lights, bike racks, perennial beds, stone pathways, and new benches in this area.
- Islandora Camp 2011 will be held this summer from July 20-22. Check out the [website](#) for more information.

- Red Island Repository Institute (RIRI) will be hosted at Dalway By The Sea from Sept. 17-23 with two streams: digital humanities and science data.

## News from the School of Information Management, Dalhousie University

### *2011 Convocation Award Winners*

- Anne Galler Award (Special Libraries Association – Eastern Canada Chapter): Julie McLellan
- APLA Award: Leah Brisco
- Beta Phi Mu Candidates: Naomi Balla-Boudreau, Tracy Daley, Nicole Dixon, Sophie Doiron, Barbara Hill-Taylor, Eugene MacDonald, Robert Martel, Julie McLellan, Rosalind Morrison, Amy Paterson, Nicole Radzikowski, Anna Walsh, Monica Ward
- Director's Award: Barbara Hill-Taylor
- Information Technology Prize: Nicole Dixon
- J. Clement Harrison International Award: Kamau Osborne
- Leadership Award: Amy Paterson
- Louis Vagianos Medal: Danny Jacobs
- Nova Scotia Library Association Prize: Sophie Doiron
- SIM Research Award: Kathleen Staves and Danielle Cossarini
- SIMSA Outstanding Service Award: Erin O'Halloran

### *Fiona Black Awarded New SSHRC Research Grant for Innovative Project*

Dalhousie School of Information Management faculty member Fiona Black has been awarded an Insight Development Grant (IDG) from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The project, "Developing Transnational Approaches in Print Culture: New Questions and Methods" involves an international team led by Dr Black including Dr Sydney Shep at Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand) and Dr David Finkelstein at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh (Scotland). IDG grants are part of the new program design at SSHRC and are intended to support research that moves in new directions intellectually and methodologically.

The two-year project will make innovative use of digital media and methods and provide opportunities for information management students to do thesis research, contribute as research assistants, present at international conferences and co-author scholarly papers. The project will use transnational enquiry through the lenses of labour history and migration studies and concomitant skills transfer in the printing and allied trades. SSHRC is interested in research projects that contribute to knowledge and may also contribute to contemporary policy development. Immigration and skills transfer are highly topical in many regions. This project's analysis of historical information and data will contribute potential new frameworks for immigration policy development.

### *MIM Students Receive Diplomas*

The School of Information Management (SIM) is pleased to announce that the following Master of Information Management (MIM) students were awarded their Graduate Diploma in Information Management from Dalhousie University during the Spring convocation:

- Christine Leanne Fedoruk, Post-production Team Leader, Hansard Services

- Sarah H. Horrocks, Administrative Officer of the Killam Trusts
- Musema Abdo Mossa, Information Management Officer, Health Canada
- Angela Petropoulos, Controlled Document/ QA Administrator, Maxxam
- Michele Wood, Researcher/Evaluator, Department of Health and Social Services, Nunatsiavut Government (Newfoundland and Labrador).

The MIM program, which is designed for mid-career professionals who have information management responsibilities, was launched in 2008, and is the first program of its kind in Canada. The program is offered through a distance blending learning model, with online learning as well as onsite intensives. The Graduate Diploma is awarded to students after completing six courses. We congratulate these students on their achievement, and look forward to honouring them at the completion of their degree. We are currently accepting applications for the MIM degree for September 2012

(<http://mim.management.dal.ca/admissions.htm>)

#### *Anatoliy Gruzd Awarded \$25,000 Research Grant*

Dr. Anatoliy Gruzd, Assistant Professor at the School of Information Management and Director of the Social Media Lab at Dalhousie University, has been awarded a \$25,000 grant for 2011 from the GRAND research network. GRAND is a federally-funded Network of Centres of Excellence (NCE) research network and commercialization engine whose goal is to address complex issues in digital media and transform multidisciplinary research into user-centred solutions.

Dr. Gruzd is involved with three projects: Digital Infrastructures (DINS), Media Enabled Organizational Workflow (MEOW) and Network Assessment and Validation for Effective Leadership (NAVEL). On these projects, Dr. Gruzd's role is to develop and evaluate various automated text mining techniques and visualization tools for uncovering and representing online social networks to provide researchers, managers and other information seekers with additional insights into the behaviours and roles of online network members and their relationships to each other.

Dr. Gruzd is also the Principal Investigator in a \$161,000, three-year research grant funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to study how online social media and other web 2.0 technologies are changing the ways scholars communicate and disseminate information.

For further information, please contact Dr. Anatoliy Gruzd [gruzd@dal.ca](mailto:gruzd@dal.ca)

#### *Jackie MacDonald Successfully Defends her Doctoral Dissertation*



The School of Information Management is delighted to announce that Jackie MacDonald, an Adjunct Professor at SIM, has successfully defended her doctoral dissertation titled "The Information Sharing Behaviour of Health Service Managers: A Three-Part Study." Dr. MacDonald's PhD degree is granted by the Information School, University of Sheffield. Dr. MacDonald has been associated with SIM for several years, both as a researcher, and an instructor in the MLIS program.

Jackie manages Library and Knowledge Management Services Department for Annapolis Valley Health, South Shore Health and South West Health. Jackie's service supports also the Dalhousie School of Nursing, Yarmouth Site.

*SIM Has a New Mailing Address*

Canada Post has consolidated all of Dalhousie's postal codes into one new code: B3H 4R2. SIM's new mailing address is as follows:

School of Information Management  
1459 Oxford Street  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, NS B3H 4R2

Our physical address (for courier deliveries) will remain as it was:

School of Information Management  
Kenneth C. Rowe Management Building, 4010  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, NS B3H 3J5

*Latest Issue of Inform Available*

The latest issue of Inform (January to June 2011) is available and can be found on the [SIM website](#). We look forward to receiving your updates and hearing your feedback. Happy reading!

**APLA First Timer's Report**

*Submitted by Amy Paterson*

This year, I was lucky enough to win the APLA First-Timer's award to attend the conference in St. John's, Newfoundland. I intend primarily to discuss my conference experience, but in order to build the complete picture, I need to start with a different story. So let's rewind a few weeks.

At the end of April, 2011, I had the opportunity to participate in a Service Learning Trip to Xela, Guatemala as part of Librarians without Borders. I knew relatively little about the culture beforehand, and without getting into too much detail, what captivated me most was the utter lack of any kind of reading culture within the country. As someone who could barely fathom a life without books, my work there focused on brainstorming and planning information literacy initiatives to help integrate reading into the community.

All this is just to say that when I arrived in St. John's to attend APLA, the issues and concerns in my head were still very internationally-focused. Michael Crummey's opening lecture changed all of that as he relayed stories about his father and the growth of reading in rural Newfoundland. Before Crummey's eloquent talk, it would never have occurred to me to consider the lack of reading in Canada; his speech took all my previous thought on international librarianship and brought them back home.

These feelings of local pride remained present throughout the entire conference. Not only did I know many of the presenters personally, but I was able to connect with many other Atlantic Canadian librarians who were open, friendly, and ready to exchange ideas. Of course, the most fascinating part of the event was seeing all of the innovative projects taking place here in Atlantic Canada; particularly fascinating was Melissa Belvadi and Donald Moses's presentation on UPEI's work with Islandora; I had worked with Islandora prior to the conference, but I very much enjoyed seeing the breadth of collections currently hosted on this system.

In addition to the prominent Atlantic flavour of the conference, I was excited by the uniqueness of Newfoundland, and St. John's. Never having visited Newfoundland before, my friend Samantha was able to point out the various conference food—purity cookies and jam—that was unique to the province.

Though the entire conference inspired East Coast pride, it was, fittingly enough, Ryan Deschamp's closing address that hit me closest to home. While I disagreed with many of Deschamps's points in his talk on "The Professional Librarian Paradox," each of the issues he raised is certainly entrenched into the profession of librarianship, and whether valid or not, affect both our public perception and the way we as librarians position ourselves. As a new Dalhousie graduate searching for employment and professional development, I left with many new points to ponder.

Overall, APLA was an excellent introduction to the world of professional conferences. The sessions were diverse and well-selected, and the overall experience is one that I look forward to repeating in the years ahead.

## **APLA Merit Award: Introductory Remarks**

*Submitted by Glenna Quinn*

Librarian colleagues, ladies and gentlemen: good evening. I am delighted to speak about Elaine Maclean, this year's APLA merit Award Winner. I have known and worked with Elaine for over 22 years. So, I am doubly delighted to be speaking first as a colleague and also on behalf of all her friends and supporters at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish and beyond.

Elaine has been Collection Librarian and Head of Acquisitions at STFX since 2007 but her connection to STFX and her love affair with Library service spans some 36 years during which time she has morphed from undergraduate student to library clerk to librarian. She has held leadership positions in many of these roles. When she started her career, her first role was that of Library Clerk and supervisor of the fledgling science library. She held this position for many years. In 1994, after gaining her MLIS from Dalhousie, she became Systems/Science Librarian and a few years later became the Head of Technical Services. She subsequently moved on to become Information Literacy Coordinator before becoming Collection Librarian in 2007. Her commitment to librarianship is not just limited to the hallowed halls of STFX. Indeed, she has found time to lend her enthusiasm, and commitment to APLA, CLA and IFLA. She was APLA Treasurer in 1997-1999, APLA Vice President from 2001-2002, APLA President from 2002-2003 and APLA Past President from 2003-2004. On the national scene, she was elected Councillor at Large for CLA in 2004 and on the International stage, has made presentations on Adult learning in South Africa and Thailand.

Talk to anyone who knows Elaine well and what you hear most often is about her commitment and dedication. Here is how one colleague puts it: "Elaine is one of the most dedicated librarians I know. If she commits to doing something, she puts her heart and soul into it and works until it is done". She is also known to be hardworking and feisty; two traits which make it possible for her to take on any kind of challenge, with her motto seeming always to be, "Bring it on". It is not surprising, therefore, that in addition to all her other roles, she has also assumed leadership roles in the STFXAUT since 2007 when she

became President of that association just when the first Collective Agreement with the University was being negotiated and as the Chief negotiator for the 2nd Collective Agreement in 2009/2010.

One of the sessions at this Conference dealt with faculty/librarian collaboration. Elaine's work with the STFXAUT is the zenith of such faculty/librarian collaboration because she fought doggedly with the administration not just for the enhancement of the rights and privileges of the librarians but also of the faculty and other members of the bargaining unit. Indeed, because of this, she has won the admiration and respect of all the groups in the unit and I believe that faculty and librarians are even now collaboratively praying and hoping for the health and strength of Elaine so that she will head back to the negotiation table as we approach our 3rd collective agreement in the next few months. I suspect that the STFX administration on the other hand, having faced a ferocious opponent in Elaine and having been forced to make so many concessions, is probably hoping that she goes to Antarctica or some such distant place during the negotiations.

Elaine inspires loyalty from her friends and those she supervises. One of those she works with in Collection Development forwarded to me, a message she had sent to Elaine. After looking at the message carefully, I have dubbed it the "just because" message. It was a sweet message, sent to thank Elaine just because she is a wonderful and helpful supervisor and mentor. Many of us who are supervisors can barely get a pleasant good morning out of many who work with us, let alone an unsolicited message of appreciation, just because.

Can anyone known for such hard work and commitment and dedication have any idiosyncrasies or quirks? As a famous US politician would say with a wink "you betcha". So what could some of Elaine's work-related idiosyncrasies be? Let's start with this. Elaine is a night-owl pure and simple. I would not be surprised if Merriam-Webster or one of those dictionary-type guys decides to use her picture to illustrate the word "night-owl". Here's why. After putting in a full day of multi-tasking, she often settles down at her desk for a full night of multi-tasking. She seems to come even more alive when she has the Angus L. Macdonald Library all to herself at 3:00 am when the rest of Eastern Canada is sound asleep and when she is working on some in-house, APLA, or union matter. Ladies and gentlemen, I must confess that I admire her for this because it is a well-known fact that the building is always populated at night by all manner of illustrious, dearly departed members of the Xaverian family including a Nova Scotia premier, numerous members of the clergy, world leaders, Coady students, and other alumni who congregate regularly to read the newspapers and hang out for late night chats.

Elaine, however, is not one to be fazed by such other-worldly activities. Indeed, I can envisage this scenario should any of that other-worldly crowd try to take her on. A brief conversation between her and Angus L. Macdonald, former Premiere, would go something like this: Angus L.: "Woman what are you doing here at this ungodly hour"? Elaine: "I can ask you the same thing". Angus L. "I can go anywhere and do anything I please". Elaine: "Good, then buzz off and let me get on with my own work". She then turns to her computer and continues to work until 3:30 am when she picks up her purse and confidently marches out of the building knowing full well that there are hundreds of eyes staring in disbelief at her Chutzpah. What a brave soul!

Elaine also considers herself a chocoholic but her chocoholism is unique. Many might even think it is strange. You see, she is the only one in the world who buys a Cadbury or any other chocolate bar in January, tucks it into her desk drawer and then proceeds to eat a square a month until December to "ease her cravings" and also to prove to herself that no chocolate bar can put pressure on her. The rest of you real, mortal chocoholics, who can devour a chocolate bar in five seconds, "eat your hearts out".

Perhaps these quirks are all part of what make Elaine tick. Perhaps they are just additional plates in her armour of strength, fortitude and commitment which make her the kind of librarian we honour tonight with the Merit Award.

Elaine's life, however, is not all just about libraries, STFXAUT Union matters, APLA, etc, etc. Her private life is just as active as her public life and so she lives a truly fulfilled and remarkable life outside "LIBRARIA" as a loving wife to David and doting mother to Liam and Courtney and as a mother-in-law to Ashley. Just recently, the family spent a week in Cuba. She and David



are also avid supporters of the arts and movie scenes and they do this on a regular basis, and no Stan Rogers concert would be worth its salt if David and Elaine have not pitched their tent for the duration of the event – come rain, sleet or snow.

Based on the foregoing and on all her achievements for and on behalf of the profession of librarianship, Elaine deserves the recognition that we are about to confer on her tonight. Congratulations Elaine on a well-deserved award.

## **APLA Merit Award: Recipient Remarks**

*Submitted by Elaine Maclean*

Along with so many recipients of this APLA Merit award, my overwhelming emotion is one of deep humility. Like many of you - I see myself as working “in the trenches”, exploring ways to make a positive contribution, so it feels strange to be singled out.

First and foremost I want to say that I feel that APLA is my extended library family. Attending the APLA conferences is like catching up with family where we all have to pitch in to make it work. I love the fact that we keep going from province to province for the conferences – we recognize that there is a benefit to gathering and hearing what people are up to in our region.

In particular, I love seeing new faces among the participants, even if I don't get a chance to meet you all. It gives me great satisfaction to see APLA sustaining itself through the contributions of so many.

I believe our keynote speaker, Michael Crummey, was given explicit instructions not to mention grey haired librarians from his past. I'm not exactly going there but I have to say that the librarian from my early life who influenced me, was a young, beautiful woman in a sari – a children's librarian from India.

For a girl from a large, Irish Catholic family, who had been mostly exposed to rather serious and dark clothed nuns, this sari clad librarian was the most exotic person I had ever seen, closer to a dream than a reality and a perfect example of the kinds of things found in the wonderful world of books.

Over the years I have met many inspirational librarians, some real and some make believe. My favourite make believe librarian is Bunny Watson, played by Kathryn Hepburn, in the film, *Desk Set*. Bunny Watson was smart, she was funny and she worked in the Reference and Research Library of a large corporation in NYC. Mr. Sumners, played by Spencer Tracy, asks her: “This is a nice, cheerful office you have. Do you like it here?” Bunny Watson replies, “Yes, I love it. If I didn't work here, I'd pay to get in.” Bunny Watson expresses my thoughts exactly – I don't admit this at the negotiating table but I'm in awe of the fact that my institution actually pays me for what I do.

In terms of thanks, I want to begin by thanking Glenna Quinn and Mark Leggott, members of the selection team who hired me as a librarian at StFX. I was the ‘known’ candidate – they knew all my faults and still, they hired me!

I am forever grateful to Sue Adams, of the Coady International Institute who connected me to the world of adult education, to the links between adult education and libraries, and to connections with people staffing resource centres in the global south which took me to so many places I had only read about.

My relationship with Jennifer Richard from Acadia has been a wonderful one – we met at DALSLIS in 1992. During the orientation, Jen was quick to tell me that I was old enough to be her mother. It took me a while to warm up to her after that start but we've been cheering each other on ever since.

As for my library association work, I have to credit several people – Sara Lohead who first asked me to take over the treasurer job and Rita Campbell who was the StFX University Librarian at the time and supported me in that endeavour. John Teskey was president of APLA that year and he was so understanding and relaxed while I was a wreck trying to keep the books straight. After being APLA treasurer, any other role in this organization seemed easier, so I continued to offer my services.

Like many of you, I also want to acknowledge a large debt to Norman Horrocks. Norman was not at DAL during my time there but I took a workshop from him a year or so later. It was a workshop on running meetings, and I have to say that my skill in running meetings has been one of the most valuable things I ever learned.

So, honestly, I should be giving awards to all those who have supported me and continue to support me. My husband David and my wonderful colleagues at StFX who look at me as if I'm crazy when I say I'm adding something else to my plate.

To the many librarians and library staff members at the Novanet libraries who help make our consortium work, including the folks, like Bill Slaunwhite at the Novanet central office.

Honestly, I thought getting this past president's pin was the best it could be, in terms of recognition. But this APLA award really takes the cake – I can't think of any award I'd rather get! Thanks to those who made the effort to nominate me, to the APLA executive for their acceptance of my nomination and to the many people who have taken time to express their congratulations to me.



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DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS**

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## REFUGEE CAMP IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

**Experience our free interactive exhibit**

Bannerman Park, St. John's	Sept 8 - 11
The Garrison Grounds, Halifax	Sept 15 - 18
Riverfront Park, Moncton	Sept 22 - 25
Place d'Youville, Quebec City	Sept 29 - Oct 2

## New Submission Guidelines / Call for Articles

### Calling All Writers!

The APLA Bulletin wants to hear from you!

<b><i>What are we looking for?</i></b>	Dynamic News Stories	Feature Articles	Book Reviews, etc.
<b><i>Who can submit?</i></b>	Anyone with something to say! Information professionals, librarians, library staff, students, and scholars are all encouraged to submit works for the <i>APLA Bulletin</i> .		
<b><i>What are the guidelines?</i></b>	Up to 500 words on an event/activity presented by your institution. Submissions must be timely, contain a description of the event, and discuss the outcome.	Up to 1,500 words on any topic related to libraries and information. The article must be timely and include a thorough description and analysis of the issue.	Up to 500 words on a recently-released book, article, or study. The work must be introduced and evaluated with respect to its value to the APLA readership.
<b><i>What's the deadline?</i></b>	<b>One month in advance</b> of the issue in which you would like your article to appear.		
<b><i>How do I submit?</i></b>	Directly to your <b>Provincial VP</b>		
<b><i>Anything else I should know?</i></b>	Picture files are welcome, but must be kept to a manageable size by not exceeding 500 x 500 pixels.		

### The News from the Provinces section is getting a facelift!

The APLA Bulletin will gladly link to your institution's most recent newsletter or any other online content you wish to bring to the attention of Bulletin readers. The Bulletin also accepts point-form descriptions of events that you would like to highlight on behalf of your institution.

Please submit such activities directly to your **Provincial VP** one month ahead of the next issue's publication.

***The APLA Bulletin is published five times per year:  
November, January, March, May, and August***

## Looking to get involved in your professional association?

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