

## APLA BULLETIN – AUGUST 2012 ISSUE

### **From the President's Desk**

by Lou Duggan

“It's impossible, that's sure. So let's start working.”

– Philippe Petit, *Man on Wire*, 2008.

I have several photos in my office that I look at all the time. They keep me in line and keep me focused. One is of a tightrope walker named Philippe Petit. His story is told in the 2008 cinematic documentary, *Man on Wire*. What I love most about this guy is that he understands that some of the things he wants to do in life are going to be hard. He understands that, and he embraces it. He picks a goal that he wants to achieve and then he sets to work. It all seems simple, depending on the goal. In *Man on Wire*, Petit walks a tightrope between the towers of the former World Trade Center.

The future of libraries in Atlantic Canada may never have been as uncertain as it is at this very moment. A majority federal government has made drastic changes to Libraries and Archives Canada, Statistics Canada, C@P, and other programs we have come to depend on. Local school boards are finding it harder and harder to maintain services and are choosing to cut libraries as a result. Provincial programmers seem to have come around to a, “do less with less” philosophy. Since libraries depend almost entirely on the support of government and other large institutions, we are in a sticky situation to be sure.

Personally, I believe in libraries as a social good: they make the world a better place. Safer, healthier communities with a better standard of living are directly correlated with literacy and education, which in turn are correlated to the existence of libraries. That is why I work in this profession. I have ‘drank the Kool-Aid’, as they say. To sum up, libraries are under grave threat and are worth saving. So let’s start working.

Last year was my first on the APLA Executive, so I was more or less learning the ropes. But when I saw the group in action, I became very confident that this executive could achieve significant results. Among other things, we did some very important advocacy, held an excellent conference, and completed a membership drive that saw our numbers increase by more than 10%. I would call that an excellent year of progress and good work by all. But to top it off, we also launched a new website with all new branding. Those who follow sports will know that often this really does change things. Remember the New England Patriots going from a 1-15 record to become one of the greatest franchises in American football history following a rebranding?

With the rebranding done, I'm hoping the 2012-13 APLA year will focus on four areas:

1. Advocacy – Past President Jocelyne Thompson is beginning a new APLA Interest Group on advocacy. The terms of reference will be to aid the Executive in advocacy activities by doing background research and helping to draft letters, etc.
2. Promotion – This is the first point of APLA's mandate, and promotion is needed now more than ever. It is my personal goal to have the word "library" spoken at as many non-library events as possible. As a good friend advised me, "whisper it in their ears until they think it was their idea."
3. Conference – APLA 2013 will take place in Charlottetown next spring. The conference is our flagship event, and I challenge everyone to help with presentations, posters, and most of all attendance!
4. Membership – Last year we recognized that APLA's membership only represents a small fraction of library staff in the Atlantic Provinces, even after our successful membership drive. Let's get everyone involved. Encourage your co-workers and colleagues to join so we can work together with all staff in all types of libraries. We are in this together.

I don't believe that restoring libraries to some former glory is the aim of all this work. That would be a misguided goal. Rather, the aim should be to create a new sense of worth for libraries and to find a place for them in an ever-changing society. We already know that libraries make the world a better place to live in. It will take work to keep us in the minds of people amid the distractions of the modern age. But I think that is the point: sifting through the deluge of information is what libraries are good at. We need to do the work that will show the citizens of Atlantic Canada what we can do. Let's start working.

### **The APLA Experience for a First-Timer**

by Janine Mills

Late Wednesday afternoon. Striding east along the raised dyke footpath, I could see that the water level to my left was noticeably higher than the lush meadowlands and cultivated fields to my right. The centuries-old stone-fronted dykes are still doing what they do best.

As I looked back at the white spire of Acadia University's Manning Memorial Chapel and white belfry of University Hall cresting the treetops in the distance, this bucolic setting of past and present struck me as being evocative of a recurring theme at this year's APLA conference, as voiced by Bill Greenlaw (Executive Director of the Archives, Museums and Library Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage) in his keynote address that very morning: library professionals are facing the challenge of finding a *balance* between their traditional mandate and models of service delivery, and using new technology to build on and enhance that service delivery, integrating non-print formats, to existing and offsite patrons, without losing sight of what *they* do best.

I remember in the recession of the nineties that libraries were among the first institutions targeted for cutbacks, and yet through those few difficult years, library attendance soared as people realized that their local library had just the resources to get them through that tough period.

Fast-forward to now: by comparison, the news from LAC/BAC of jobs being cut, in-person service being dropped, and the elimination of interlibrary loan service by 2013 is an unprecedented attack on freedom of information and freedom of speech, has taken us all by surprise, and threatens to be overwhelming in its sheer magnitude.

But as APLA President Jocelyne Thompson made clear in her Thursday morning session, what is probably the worst crisis being faced by libraries and their sister institutions (museums and archives) is also an opportunity that we must seize for raising our profiles, reasserting our relevancy, and pursuing ongoing advocacy, and advocacy is about relationships.

Why are libraries valuable and worth keeping open? Who are our stakeholders? How do we articulate our value to them (and government!)?

As the collective memory of Canada's history, archives, museums, and libraries must recognise that they have interests in common and foster collaboration with each other. Library professionals should not consider archives and museums as having nothing to do with libraries, or as competition for dwindling funding. This is to fall into the "divide and conquer" sandpit.

Acadia University Archivist Wendy Robicheau demonstrated this complementary relationship extremely well in her Wednesday afternoon session in the Kirkconnell Room of the Vaughan Memorial Library. She is strongly opposed to digitization, believing that there is more intellectual engagement in the physical handling of and sleuthing through primary documents. Wendy is on a mission to have critical archival research training made part of the undergraduate syllabus, and has enjoyed success in proselytizing students and faculty alike.

I believe that digitization is sometimes warranted, specifically to halt the further deterioration of fragile items that should no longer be fingered by the zealous researcher. In their Thursday afternoon session, e-Resources Librarian Donald Moses and Archivist Simon Lloyd of UPEI gave a detailed report on their ongoing collaborative digitization and stewardship of the flagship Charlottetown Guardian newspaper.

In their Wednesday afternoon session, Dalhousie University School of Information Management students Amy Lorencz and Nancy McPhee gave an overview of their exciting project of launching a physical and digital archives at the Khyber Centre for the Arts which showcases artworks, music, and movies, housed in a gloriously shabby heritage building (oozing old world character) on Barrington Street in downtown Halifax. For starters, they will digitize the Khyber's collection of 2,000 posters and construct a metadata framework and controlled vocabulary for cataloguing and searching.

And speaking of cataloguing, the pending Resource Description & Access cataloguing rules emphasise digital format, but not at the expense of traditional print. Clustered results displays showing a title in all existing formats allow for better resource discovery, I would argue,

enhancing libraries' ability to do what they do best and achieving that balance between our traditional mandate and accommodating new technology as it develops (since RDA is compatible with other metadata formats).

In her excellent Wednesday morning session on RDA, Dalhousie University's School of Information Management cataloguing instructor Dr. Louise Spiteri did much to diffuse the dread so many are feeling. This was about the third presentation on RDA that I'd attended in a couple of years, and as I listened I could see the words "DON'T PANIC" in large, friendly letters floating comfortingly before my eyes. Dr. Spiteri gave her audience the boiled-down RDA in common-sense language, and it is hard for me to see what all the fear and hostility is about surrounding RDA.

My first-time attendance at an APLA conference was so enjoyable, and I met so many intelligent and friendly peers. It also made me think more deeply and broadly about the profession I work in, and about our overlap and links with our sister institutions the museums and archives. Echoing the sentiments of Bill Greenlaw and President Jocelyne Thompson, we must find ongoing ways of demonstrating value *as things are changing*.

### **APLA 2012 Merit Award Acceptance Speech**

by Jennifer Richard

First, of course, I want to say thank you. Thank you to the Executive, my nominators, and to all who have conveyed lovely notes of congratulations and of course, Su Cleyle, because she told me to thank her. I let you know that I plan to keep this short because Bill Slauenwhite told me he didn't want to hear any long boring speeches, so it's a one-pager, Bill and I tend to read quickly.

I must admit, it felt exciting, humbling and a little nerve-racking due to some other minor responsibilities I had this year, when Joceylne called me with the news. The first thing I did was re-read Elaine MacLean's speech from last year – and as any good academic librarian that teaches students about plagiarism the first thought through my mind was: her speech was good and with a couple name changes, I could give a try and see if anyone notices.

But in the end, I thought better of it. So here goes... One thing that did strike me as I read notes of congratulations was that people said it was fitting that I receive the award here at Acadia and the more I thought about it the more I realized it was pretty neat – the first Atlantic/Maritime Library Association started at Acadia, it was revived at Acadia twice, and when I came to Acadia they were in the midst of planning for the 1998 conference and now 12 years later I was involved in organizing the conference getting the Merit Award at Acadia. That's really special to me.

I know that sometimes librarianship is referred to as a calling. For me it wasn't. I never planned to work in a library, but I also didn't plan to work in room service at a hotel after graduating with a science degree from St.F.X., either, so it was an easy decision to take a cataloguing position at Dal in October 1990. From there it was the grab of my hand by Sylvia Fullerton as I walked by

the ref desk, who simply said “have you ever thought of becoming a librarian”, I laughed and said nope, but that was enough, so I’ll continue my thank-yous with Sylvia. I want to acknowledge Judy Reade at Dal again who hired into my first librarian job in the School of Resource and Environmental Studies and Marie DeYoung for providing me one of the best interview processes where I didn’t get the job, and of course a huge thank you to Lorraine McQueen who brought me to Acadia. It was a dream job in the ideal location, at a time when positions in academia were pretty scarce and though there have been many ups and downs, I still do love what I do. And I love the people I work with – like a family, you don’t always get along all of the time and you have all kinds of personalities, but in the end you get to see great things from people, in particular one of my favorite traits in staff I work with is creativity, which often comes out when working on events or special projects. Steve MacNeil, Mary Lou Conrad, Carol Hadjisterkoti, and in the past Janet Ness have been such wonderful and fun people to work with during my time at Acadia. I can’t forget Susan Martin, who is a rock for all of us, not to mention treat provider. I also need to thank Tanja for her hundreds of hours as programme chair, Erin Patterson for the great food and wine and local arrangements, and all of the volunteers, David and Jason and everyone who worked on this conference and have made it so great!

APLA often struggles with “benefits of membership” (am I correct Ann Smith?). So I thought I would share the benefits of membership APLA has given me over the last 18 years:

1. The excitement and anticipation of heading to the conference, remembering to pack my Past-President’s pin, finding a roommate or at least finding out where everyone is staying, making arrangements for dinner and drinks, lots of drinks.
2. Finding out about the secret talents of your colleagues. Like John Teskey, Patick Ellis, and now Lou Duggan’s musical talents, and oh there is nothing like seeing your well-respected colleagues dance like they are in junior high at this event.
3. One of the biggest moments of my life, getting to meet and introduce Stephen Lewis and having him inscribe a book to me, a book he had given my mother 20 years earlier.
4. Discovering connections and treasures in the APLA archives. Getting know people I’ve never met, like Karin Somers and Alberta Letts and then finding out their connections to present-day colleagues – did you know either Karin or Alberta used to babysit Sara Lochhead?
5. The 3:00 a.m. chats with librarian roommates, (sometimes up to four of them in a room) ones I’ve known for years and new ones I just met, until we fall asleep literally mid-sentence, laughing or lamenting some aspect of the library world.

6. Finding that great idea or collaborator for your next project.
7. Skipping sessions to chat with exhibitors or better yet to go shopping with Donna, Su, Ann, Cordelia, or Tanja.
8. The food, I must say the three crème brulée in Halifax in 2009 was one of the best desserts I've ever had and I still remember the potatoes shaped like pears with a clove for stem in Antigonish in 2002.
9. The gems or treasures you pick up in OGMs. You may think I'm kidding here, but no really, I learned there that a seconder does not have to support a motion, the purpose of the seconding is to get the motion on the floor for discussion. I have shared this info with countless of people who didn't know it either – thanks to Norman Horrocks for that one.
10. Finally I think the best benefit is you, the same yous (and I'm from Cape Breton, so I can say yous) I connect with each year and every year, like the Lynn, Elaine, and the other library ladies (a.k.a. – the extremely successful class of '94) and new yous I'll meet this time around or next year in PEI – that's the best part of APLA. So thank yous all!

### **News from New Brunswick**

#### **Mount Allison University Libraries**

by Tom Eadie

Marc Truitt has been named Mount Allison's next University Librarian. Currently the Systems Librarian at the University of Alberta, Marc will begin his appointment on July 16th

Nancy Adams, Serials Clerk, has retired after more than 30 years at Mount Allison. Margie Slemming, formerly the Interlibrary Loans Assistant, has taken her place.

Peter Higham will retire from his position as Music Librarian on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Laura Snyder, recently Music Librarian at the University of Alberta, will start her Music Librarian appointment on July 16th.

Ruthmary Macpherson, Technical Services Librarian, is also retiring this summer. Anne LePage, Technical Services Librarian at Athabasca University, and Allisonian, will take up the same role on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **News from Nova Scotia**

## **Patrick Power Library, Saint Mary's University**

by Ron Houlihan

After 39 years of wonderful public service, Doug Vaisey is retiring as head of the Library's Reference Department.

Doug joined Saint Mary's shortly after graduating from Dalhousie's Library School. It wasn't long before he was helping plan the move to the newly constructed Patrick Power Library.

As the library grew, so did the Reference Department. Under Doug's leadership, it quickly developed its reputation for unparalleled reference service and dedication to the Saint Mary's research community, a reputation it maintains to this day. Doug didn't just preach the importance of great service, he served as its model, whether helping a struggling first year student or a graduate student with the most challenging research needs. Countless Saint Mary's alumni can attribute their good grades to his involvement. And countless library school students and library staff were the beneficiaries of his rigorous training, encyclopedic knowledge and enthusiasm for reference work.

In addition to making the lives of so many Saint Mary's students and professors a little easier, Doug also made many contributions to the profession at both the local and national level. He not only was a frequent conference presenter, he was also the longstanding Grievance Officer and Elections Officer for the Saint Mary's University Faculty Union and was very active in the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

Doug will leave quite a void in the life of the Patrick Power Library. Indeed, it is hard to imagine it without him. That he will enjoy his retirement is the sincerest wish of all those who have worked with him over the years.

Saint Mary's University recently held a reception to mark Doug's retirement and to express its appreciation for all that he has accomplished.

## **News from Prince Edward Island**

### **Holland College**

by Liane Belway

Library Services is planning for the opening of the new Waterfront Campus Library this fall, which will amalgamate the current Aerospace, Motive Power and Marine Centers into the new building. Everyone is eager to see what the sea of drywall and boxes will look like once

everything is in place. The library will feature collections for trades and industrial technology programs and adult education as well as group study rooms and a computer learning commons.

Library Services will be trialing a patron-driven acquisition model of e-books in the fall through EBSCO.

Our e-reader use has been increasing over the last year and we continue to promote their use and add new titles.

Our graphic novel collection continues to be very popular with both instructors and students.

A cookbook sale at the Tourism and Culinary Center library was a great success and raised several hundred dollars to put towards the new quiet study space in the library.

The popularity of our library instruction sessions is increasing rapidly, and we are excited to be planning new sessions for the fall term.

### **Public Library Service**

by Nichola Cleaveland

#### *PLS Newsletter*

The June 2012 issue of Public Library Service Newsletter is available at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/pls-news.pdf>.

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

The launch of One Book • One Island / Un livre • Une île 2012 was held on Wednesday, May 23rd at the Bibliothèque publique Dr.-J.-Edmond-Arsenault. This year's title is *Chroniques birmanes / Burma chronicles* by Guy Delisle. Please visit the One Book • One Island / Un livre • Une île 2012 websites at <http://library.pe.ca/onebook> Or <http://www.library.pe.ca/unlivre> for information about the author, library events, etc. See press release at <http://bit.ly/MB8bvL>.

#### *TD Canadian Children's Book Week*

TD Canadian Children's Book Week was a great success as visiting author Willow Dawson was both engaging and inspiring to the many children and young adults who attended her public and school readings. Willow visited four public and six school libraries over the week and talked of her visit to PEI on her blog at [www.willowdawson.blogspot.ca](http://www.willowdawson.blogspot.ca).



### *TD Summer Reading Club*

Public libraries across the province are busy with activities for the TD Summer Reading Club. This year's theme is Imagine. The TD Summer Reading Program is a national program organized by Library and Archives Canada, and supported by the TD Bank Financial Group.

### *Renovations*

Hunter River Memorial Library has recently undergone an extensive and exhaustive renovation. Branch Technician Kim MacLeod reports that the floorspace assigned to the library has almost doubled. Everyone is delighted with the expanded space!

Kinkora Public Library has also recently undergone major renovations.

### *Staff News*

Long-time employees Dorothy Carrigan and Hank Becker have recently retired from the Confederation Centre Public Library.

Melanie Barlow has accepted the temporary position of French Cataloguing Technician for the duration of Linda Allain's secondment to the Department of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs.

Jean Bernard has accepted the temporary position of Branch Technician at the Bibliothèque publique J.-Henri-Blanchard for the duration of Juanita Lewis's educational leave.

### **Robertson Library, University of Prince Edward Island**

by Suzanne Jones

Welcome to Jennifer MacDonald who is filling a contract librarian's position until the end of July. We wish Courtney Matthews hearty congratulations and sad farewells! He has accepted a Digital Data Repository Specialist contract position with Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Courtney, and his wife, Melanie, will be moving to Purdue, Indiana in the next month or so. All our very best wishes go with them.

With actual fanfare, the Elizabeth Epperly Plaza was officially unveiled at a ceremony which included special speakers, invited guests, and Dr. Epperly herself. This plaza is one of a number created to honour UPEI past-presidents and Epperly served in that capacity from 1995-98. The Epperly Plaza forms the Library's south entrance.



Dr. Karem Simon, UPEI's clarinet professor, gave a mini-recital in the Library's lobby on Thursday, June 21 over the lunch hour. The single clarinet deliciously played the music of Debussy, Kovacs, Cahuzac, and Paul Harvey – with Dr. Simon's help.

The Lucy Maud Montgomery Institute's (LMMI) conference was held from June 20-24 on UPEI's campus with approximately 80 attendees. Librarian Simon Lloyd was a conference co-chair and indicated that the conference was a success.

The Library's Web Committee has added OneSearch, an EBSCO Discovery service product to its home page to simplify searching options for its campus and public communities. OneSearch should be complete and ready in September.

This year's Islandora Camp is scheduled for August 1-3. For more information, please go to <http://islandora.ca/camp>