

## News from Nova Scotia

## News from Dalhousie Libraries

**Marlo MacKay, Communications Coordinator, Dalhousie Libraries**

## Celebrating the Donation of the Oberlander Collection

A significant new collection of over 500 books is now available at the Dalhousie Libraries. The materials were all handpicked by one of Canada's most eminent landscape architects, Cornelia Hahn Oberlander (pictured below).



Ms. Oberlander, a Companion of the Order of Canada and one of the first women to graduate from Harvard with a landscape architecture degree in 1947, has designed high-profile buildings in Canada, Europe, and the U.S. as well as landscapes for low-income housing projects. She also designed landscapes for playgrounds, including the Children's Creative Centre Playground, Canadian Federal Pavilion, featured at Expo '67 in Montréal.

With over 70 years of experience as a landscape architect, Ms. Oberlander has amassed a significant professional library. Recently, she donated that collection to the Dalhousie Libraries.

Ms. Oberlander reached out to Christine Macy, then Dean for the Faculty of Architecture & Planning, in June 2018. She wanted to donate her professional collection to Dalhousie University after hearing about the construction of the new Emera IDEA Building at Dalhousie's Sexton campus, and because the university was working towards starting a master's program in landscape architecture at Sexton Campus.

"The materials in [the Oberlander collection](#) are wonderfully diverse, including books on grasses, trees, flowers, and the importance of bees, butterflies, and insects. This collection will be invaluable to aspiring and experienced landscape architects," says Donna Bourne-Tyson, Dean of Libraries. "On behalf of the



Dalhousie Libraries, I'd like to express our sincere thanks to Cornelia Hahn Oberlander for this significant gift."

Most of the collection is located at the Sexton Design & Technology Library and some of the collection is at the MacRae Library, but books can be sent to any Novanet library through the Novanet Express service, making them accessible to a much wider audience. Many of the titles are unique to the Novanet catalogue.

To celebrate this extraordinary acquisition, the Dal Libraries recently held a reception with attendees from the local architecture community, faculty members from the Faculties of Architecture & Planning and Agriculture, and other special guests (Ms. Oberlander, based in Vancouver, was not available to attend).

Donna Bourne-Tyson hosted the event, which featured remarks from the Dean of Architecture & Planning Joseli Macedo, Associate Dean of Resources and Head of the Sexton Design & Technology Library Michelle Paon, local landscape architect Sue Sirrs, and former Dean of Architecture & Planning Christine Macy.



Dean of Architecture & Planning Joseli Macedo and Dean of Libraries Donna Bourne-Tyson



Associate Dean of Resources and Head of the Sexton Design & Technology Library Michelle Paon

Both Sue Sirrs and Christine Macy know Ms. Oberlander personally. Sue shared a collection of personal photographs featuring Ms. Oberlander and a group of local landscape architects, remarks from Ms. Oberlander’s convocation address when she received an honorary doctorate from Dalhousie in 2008, as well as a humorous anecdote praising Ms. Oberlander’s steadfast nature.



Landscape Architect Sue Sirrs



Former Dean of Architecture & Planning Christine Macy

Christine Macy explained the significance of the ginkgo leaf, Ms. Oberlander’s personal symbol, which represents longevity and endurance. Like the ginkgo leaf, Ms. Oberlander herself embodies longevity and endurance as she maintains her landscape architecture practice into her 90s. In correspondence with the Dal Libraries, Ms. Oberlander explained that she found a ginkgo leaf in Nanjing in 1976 on a walk to the tomb of Sun Yat-sen, a Chinese philosopher, physician, and politician considered by many to be one of the greatest leaders of modern China.

### **Preparing the collection**

Processing and preparing the collection for the shelves has taken Dal Libraries’ staff members the better part of this year, and as they worked, they delighted in becoming acquainted with this unique collection. In addition to the materials added to library shelves, the Dal Libraries will be making some items, mostly duplicate titles, freely available to students according to Ms. Oberlander’s wishes, giving students the opportunity to add to or start their own professional libraries.

“Thanks to Ms. Oberlander’s generosity, this collection adds a significant dimension to the landscape architecture resources of the Dalhousie Libraries,” says Michelle Paon. “Faculty, students, alumni, community members, and researchers will have access to a wider range of relevant materials as well as

the opportunity to consult books and journals that both informed and inspired Ms. Oberlander's landscape architecture decisions."

Cornelia Hahn Oberlander continues to inspire the landscape architecture community. Recently, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) announced that the \$100,000 International Landscape Architecture Prize will be named for Ms. Oberlander, whom they call "the Dean of Canadian landscape architects."

More information about the Oberlander collection, including the complete lists of titles added to the Dalhousie Libraries, is available on the Dal Libraries website.

## Increasing Access to the First World War Records in the Dalhousie Archives

**Mitchell Jabalee, Dal Libraries Archives Intern**

I am a second-year student in Dalhousie's Masters in Library and Information Studies (MLIS/MI) program and working as a Dalhousie Libraries student intern in the Archives. This semester, I have been working through a self-directed reading course based around the subject of digitization in archives under the supervision of Michael Moosberger, the Associate University Dean of Archives, Special Collections and Records Management, and University Archivist.

As part of my course, I have been working on the digitization of a selection of First World War material. I chose to work with these records because the subject is one that is of great interest to me as well as an area I have spent much time studying, dating back to my final year of my undergraduate degree in history, writing my honours thesis at Cape Breton University, and working in the CBU's Beaton Institute.

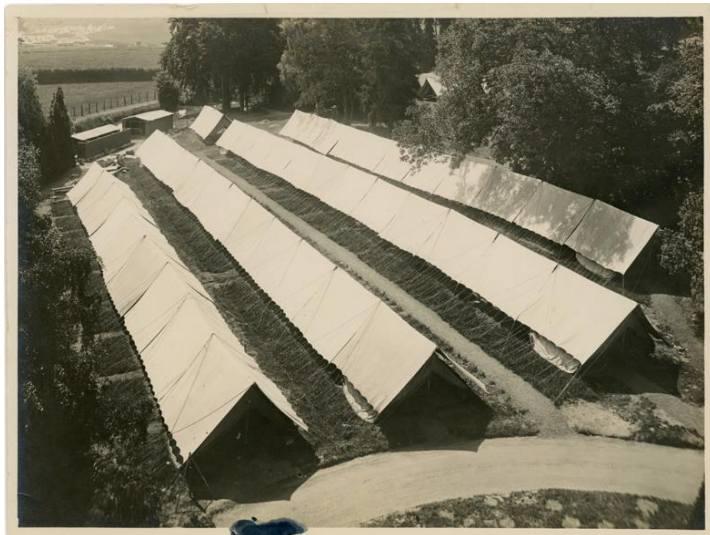
Since I began studying the First World War, it has become a great passion of mine. I saw my reading course not only as an opportunity to practice digitization and become more familiar with the functions of an archives, but also as a way to increase access to the Dalhousie Archives' First World War records by making them digitally available through their online catalogue, AtoM.

Digitization has become a common feature of archives in today's world. It is the process of creating digital copies of analog records with the end goal of making them more widely available online. Through this process, archives are able to greatly increase the breadth of access for their holdings.

My work this semester has included digitizing a selection of First World War records, thus filling in holes of collections with files that had not yet been digitized. In this manner, I conducted a review and

scanned through the archives' holdings of First World War records, looking for material that did not have any digital objects attached to them already. This provided me with a starting point for selecting material to digitize, to ensure I was not duplicating work that had already been done. What I ended up with was a selection of material from different collections that had not been digitized.

A number of digitized items have come from the Samuel Balcom fonds that contained photos of soldiers at Stormcliff, England (1914); tenting encampments at Argues, France; German prisoners of war in Argues; photos of Captain James A. Murray and Batman (not the Caped Crusader); and other papers relating to the Dalhousie No. 7 Overseas Stationary Hospital, which was started in the fall of 1915 in response to a need for qualified medical personnel. Additionally, I digitized other items from smaller collections including notes relating to the young Soviet revolutionary Leon Trotsky who was imprisoned in an Amherst internment camp in 1917; photographs of military personnel Oscar Donovan and Laura Hubley; as well as a message written in French from French Marshall Philip Pétain, addressed to Oscar Donovan, a Nova Scotian who served as a lieutenant with the Canadian Army Medical Corps during the First World War, relating to his service during the war.



Tent hospital in Argues, France



Oscar Donovan, a Nova Scotian who served as a lieutenant with the Canadian Army Medical Corps

The Dalhousie University Archives is home to many amazing archival records that document the University's and Canada's involvement in the First World War. First, Samuel Balcom fonds (MS-2-128): Balcom was a well-known Halifax businessman and politician who established the MacLeod-Balcom Ltd. (later Balcom-Chittick Ltd.) retail and wholesale business and served in both world wars. During the First World War, he served with the Dalhousie University Medical Unit and in the Second World War, he served as Officer Commanding, Medical Stores (1942-43) and as the Chief Medical Stores Inspection Officer (1944-45).

Another excellent collection is the Robert A. Logan fonds (MS-2-580). Contained in this collection are documents relating to his studies of language, his time as a German prisoner of war during the First World War, as well as his publications among other records. Logan served with the Royal British Flying Corps and was later shot down in an aerial attack led by the notorious Baron von Richtofen, the “Red Baron”. Logan survived being shot down (and the war) but was captured and taken as a prisoner of war by the Germans.

Records of this nature can give amazing insights into what the First World War was like, and to see into the lives of the men and women who served so long ago.

## Guylaine Beaudry Visit

Guylaine Beaudry, Vice-Provost, Digital Strategy and University Librarian at Concordia University, visited Dalhousie in November to give a lecture called: *Academic Libraries and the Digital Culture: How Should We Be Preparing for the Future?*

Guylaine led the major renovation of the Webster Library and the transformation of the chapel of the Grey Nuns motherhouse into a reading room. Since August 2017, she has been leading the university-wide digital strategy. She was recently elected member of the Royal Society of Canada and served in 2014 on its Expert Panel on the status and future of libraries and archives in Canada.

She holds a doctorate in history of the book from École pratique des hautes études (Paris). Her thesis is entitled “Scholarly communications and the digital revolution: Analysis of a mutation period from a historical perspective”.



Guylaine was previously Executive Director of Érudit ([www.erudit.org](http://www.erudit.org)), a publishing platform for humanities and social sciences scholarly books and journals. She wrote many publications on scholarly publishing, notably, the books *La communication scientifique et le numérique* (Hermès/Lavoisier, Paris); *Le nouveau monde numérique et les revues scientifiques* (Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal [PUM] and La Découverte, Paris, France), that was translated and published by University of Calgary Press (Scholarly Journals in the New Digital World); and *Profession : bibliothécaire* (PUM).

*Guylaine Beaudry was presented by the School of Information Management and Dalhousie Libraries*

## Michelle Sylliboy Visit

Interdisciplinary artist and poet Michelle Sylliboy came to Dalhousie in January for two events in support of this year's Dal Reads title, *Song of Rita Joe: Autobiography of a Mi'kmaw Poet*.

Michelle (Mi'kmaq/L'nu) was born in Boston, Massachusetts and raised on her traditional L'nuk territory



in We'koqmaq, Cape Breton. While living on the traditional, unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, Sylliboy completed a BFA at Emily Carr University of Art & Design, and a Master's in Education from Simon Fraser University. She is currently a PhD candidate in Simon Fraser University's Philosophy of Education program, where she is working to reclaim her original written komqwej'wikasikl (hieroglyphic) language.

Michelle's collection of photography and Mi'kmaq (L'nuk) hieroglyphic poetry, *Kiskajeyi—I Am Ready*, was published by Rebel Mountain Press in 2019. On January 15, she gave an artist talk about her book and the work she has been doing with the komqwej'wikasikl Mi'kmaw writing system. The following afternoon, she led a workshop where participants painted the **komqwejwi'kasikl writing on birch bark**.

## Dalhousie University Libraries Joins Scholars Portal Dataverse

Dalhousie University, along with several members of the Council of Atlantic University Libraries (CAUL) and other universities across Canada, has entered into a Service Agreement with the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) to host an institutional Dataverse on the Scholars Portal Dataverse. Dataverse is an open-source web application used to deposit, share and cite research data. It was developed by the Institution for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University.

"One of the biggest benefits with having an Institutional Dataverse on the SP Dataverse is that we are contributing to the effort for a robust national data repository. We already have a strong collective effort to develop research data management tools and resources through the Canadian Association of Research Libraries' Portage Network, and this will further assist these endeavors," said Dean of Libraries, Donna Bourne-Tyson.

## Staff News

### Retirement

Stephen Murray, who has been at the Sir James Dunn Law Library since 1990, retired in December. He started in technical services, moving into IT in 2001. Stephen is known for his creative and beautiful library displays to mark important occasions like African Heritage Month, Mi'kmaq History Month, and Pride Week.



### New staff



Scott MacPherson is our new Library Services Assistant, based in the Killam Library.

Deborah Hemming is our new limited term Learning & Instruction Librarian, covering a maternity leave. Deborah will be at the Dal Libraries until October 31.







Louise Gillis, is our new limited term Data Librarian, covering a maternity leave. Louise will be at the Dal Libraries until October 31.

### **Accomplishments**

Erin MacPherson and Melissa Rothfus of the Dal Libraries, along with Alison Farrell of Memorial University, Jasmine Hoover of Cape Breton University, and Kim Mears of the University of Prince Edward Island, were the recipients of a CAUL-CBUA 2019 Innovation Grant to help support their project, *Atlantic Canada Research Data Management (RDM) Workshop*.



Erin MacPherson



Melissa Rothfus



Jackie Phinney

Jackie Phinney of the Dal Libraries and Lucy Kiester of McGill were the recipients of the CAUL-CBUA 2019 Collaborative Research Grant to help support their project, *Are Canadian medicine librarians directly supporting medical student health and wellness? A nation-wide survey.*

For upcoming events, visit our calendar: <https://dal.libcal.com/calendar/events>