

News from New Brunswick

News from Mount Allison Libraries & Archives

Laura Landon, Head, Access Services, R. P. Bell Library

Staff News

- The Libraries & Archives welcomed new University Librarian [Dr. Dianne Keeping](#) in August. Dianne came to Mount Allison from Mount Royal University in Calgary, where she served as manager of Library Collection Services. Before that, she worked for 11 years as a Collection Development Librarian and Metadata Librarian at Memorial University of Newfoundland, with terms as division head. As an archaeologist in addition to a librarian – she holds a PhD in Archaeological Sciences from the University of Bradford -- Dianne has worked in England and Newfoundland doing archaeological, ethnohistorical, and anthropological research. She joins Mount Allison in a time of change and revitalization, with a new ILS implementation; our new membership in the Novanet consortium; and a library renovation in the planning stage. For more on Dianne, see [APLA Bulletin v. 83 issue 1](#), and [Mount Allison University](#).
- Librarian [Sarah Bartlett](#) joined Mount Allison in August in a term position as Music Librarian. Sarah is also Liaison Librarian for Classics and Fine Arts. A pianist and brass player, she studied Music at Memorial University of Newfoundland and then received an MLIS from Western University. She worked as a practicum student in the Open Scholarship Department at Queen's University. Before coming to Mount Allison, Sarah worked as the Eastern Regional Librarian for the Newfoundland & Labrador Public Library System, overseeing 29 libraries.
- Staff member Georgina Macfarlane retired Oct. 1 after 10 years as an Access Services Assistant. Georgina made many contributions to the library during her career. Her most recent project involved organizing and indexing the library's extensive and uncatalogued map collection—an ambitious endeavour requiring research, patience, and knowledge. An avid reader with eclectic interests and hobbies, Georgina brought a breadth of experience to her job, complemented by compassion for students, mordant wit, and a solid dose of practical good sense. Georgina retired to her hobby farm in Jolicure, NB, with her family and pets, including Harry the lab, who occasionally worked in the Library as a certified therapy dog for students.

- Susan Duke, who joined the Library in a term position in September 2018, has accepted a permanent, full-time position as Access Services Assistant. Susan worked for the Peace River Municipal Library in Alberta as an interlibrary loans clerk and Access Services Assistant for four years. She also ran a high-school library in Peace River in 2013-14.
- The Libraries & Archives welcomed Allison Watson as a term Access Services Assistant in October. Allison worked for three years as a library clerk at the public library in Springhill, NS. Before that, she was a Recreational Therapist with the Nova Scotia Health Authority. She comes to the Library with rich academic and life experience. Allison has two recent science degrees from Dalhousie University. In 2019, she published the book *Transplanted: My Cystic Fibrosis Double-Lung Transplant Story*, which chronicles her experience with cystic fibrosis and her life-saving transplant in 2014. Her book is available through the Novanet library system.

Events and Related News:

- In July 2019, Mount Allison successfully migrated its library system to join Novanet, becoming the 12th consortium member and the only New Brunswick library within Novanet. As anyone who has undergone a system change within a library knows, migrating to a new ILS is a massive undertaking. Staff training in the spring and summer made the transition to a new circulation, acquisitions, serials and cataloguing system go smoothly. Patrons are adapting to the new Novanet interface, helped by sessions with librarians. Perhaps the most surprising aspect of joining Novanet was the immediate success of the Novanet Express lending program, which facilitates easy lending and borrowing among Novanet member libraries. From mid-July to the end of October, the Mount Allison library lent 485 items to other Novanet libraries, more than doubling our regular interlibrary loan numbers. Mount Allison patrons are also quickly learning the benefits of Novanet Express and have borrowed 184 items over the same period.
- In July 2019, the University Archives launched a virtual exhibit titled *The History of Acadians at Mount Allison University/L'histoire des Acadiens à l'université Mount Allison*. The [website](#), built by archival intern Renée Belliveau, chronicles the history of Acadians on campus and within Sackville. Renée examined newspapers, yearbooks and archival sources to create the website, which contains links to many sources for researchers. She also conducted interviews and consulted documents she found at l'Université de Moncton's Centre d'Études Acadiennes. "I'm trying to unearth and give voice to the underrepresented community of Acadians on campus," she said. "I hope that my research will give former and future Acadians on campus a deeper sense of belonging and pride in how long we've been here." Renée Belliveau completed her archival internship in August 2019 and is currently enrolled in the University of Toronto's Master of Information program.