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## From the President's Desk



**Terri Winchcombe**  
**Fall 2025**

Dear APLA Members,

### **Advocacy Update**

In September, the APLA Executive wrote a letter to the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism & Heritage MLA, **Dave Ritcey**, to bring attention to the urgent need for renewed provincial support for Nova Scotia public libraries. We specifically requested that the Government of Nova Scotia:

1. Renew and modernize the provincial funding framework to provide stable, multi-year support.
2. Ensure equitable baseline funding for both urban and rural communities.
3. Support infrastructure and technology upgrades to promote digital equity.

I am pleased to share that the Hon. Dave Ritcey responded with encouraging comments regarding the importance of public libraries and the province's commitment to continued collaboration. In his letter, he wrote:

*"Like you and the members of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA), I believe that public libraries are important community assets. They have demonstrated their strategic position and willingness to assist government in getting resources and information to Nova Scotians. Their contributions to their communities are significant.*

*Also, I am aware of the challenges that the public libraries face as they serve their communities. We will continue to work collaboratively with the sector to address the issues and find solutions for sustainable funding for Nova Scotia's public libraries."*

*- Hon. Dave Ritcey, email message to APLA, October 15, 2025*

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APLA will continue to monitor the Atlantic Provinces governments' funding of public libraries.

## **Strategic Planning Update**

In October 2025, the Executive participated in a Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results (SOAR) exercise as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the association's direction and impact. During the two-hour session facilitated by **Suzanne van den Hoogen**, there were thoughtful discussions and numerous ideas for enhancing and growing APLA's work. In November, the Executive will create an action plan for the exercise. We look forward to sharing more details soon.

## **Perkopolis**

Early in November we reminded the APLA membership about the Perkopolis program and its benefits, and sent a survey asking members to opt in or out. Due to the limitations of our free SurveyMonkey account, we were able to collect 24 responses. Members who were unable to respond to the survey and would still like to opt in to the program are invited to email [membership@apla.ca](mailto:membership@apla.ca).

Warm regards,

**Terri Winchcombe**

APLA President 2025-26

## Membership has its Rewards

### the PARTNERSHIP

The Provincial and Territorial Library Associations of Canada

#### 6 WAYS THE PARTNERSHIP ENRICHES MEMBER LEARNING AND BENEFITS

The Partnership is Canada's national network of provincial and territorial library associations. The Partnership meets twice a year to collaborate and to develop services and programs for members of their respective associations. More than 7,800 people who work for or with the library and information management sector belong to the associations that make up The Partnership.

The associations that make up the Partnership include: l'Association des bibliothécaires du Québec - Quebec Library Association (ABQLA); Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA); British Columbia Library Association (BCLA); Library Association of Alberta (LAA); Manitoba Libraries Association (MLA); Nunavut Library Association (NLA); Newfoundland and Labrador Library Association (NLLA); Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA); Northwest Territories Library Association (NWTLA); Ontario Library Association (OLA); Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA); Yukon Library Association (YLA)

#### 02 CONTINUING EDUCATION CERTIFICATE (CEC)

cec

The Partnership's *Continuing Education Certificate (CEC)* is a national program administered by the Library Association of Alberta on behalf of The Partnership.

As a CEC program participant you will:

- Plan and document your learning and professional development by activity type and subject areas;
- Collect points annually, based on learning activities, over the program period of three years;
- Receive a certificate of completion and a full record of your learning activities.

Visit <http://bit.ly/ContinuingEducationCertificate> for more information.

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#### EDUCATION INSTITUTE (EI)

The *Education Institute (EI)* is a continuing education program for library information workers developed by The Partnership. Annually, there are three EI Semesters. The Winter semester runs from January - April; the Spring/Summer semester runs from May - August, and the Fall semester runs from September - December. Each semester is promoted through a calendar. Members of the Partnership receive discounts on webinars and annual institutional subscriptions are available.

Visit <http://bit.ly/EducationInstitute> for upcoming events and more information.

**\*\*Please note that CEC is no longer an active program\*\***



## the PARTNERSHIP

The Provincial and Territorial Library Associations of Canada

### 03

#### THE PARTNERSHIP JOB BOARD

the PARTNERSHIP JOB BOARD

*The Partnership Job Board* lists positions available to library and information personnel from coast to coast to coast. The Partnership Job Board was developed and is managed by the British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) to support members of The Partnership. The Job Board is free to job seekers and is a paid service for employers. The employer is responsible for all job posting content. BCLA does not participate in the hiring process and does not forward messages or applications to employers. The cost to post is \$55 for institutional members of a provincial or territorial library association in the Partnership, and \$85 for non-members.

Visit <https://partnershipjobs.ca/> for more information.



### 04



#### THE LIBRARY MARKETPLACE

Library associations in the Partnership receive discounts from *The Library Marketplace*. Associations are also provided with a variety of product marketing tools like "the store in a box".

Visit <https://www.thelibrarymarketplace.com/> for more information.



## the PARTNERSHIP

The Provincial and Territorial Library Associations of Canada



## 06 PERKOPOLIS



Individual members of library associations in the Partnership are offered an opportunity to take advantage of some very good savings on many products and services in entertainment, hotels, shopping, and travel. This offer is available through The Partnership at **Perkopolis** and is accessible through a code which is available through your association's office.

Visit <https://www.perkopolis.com/> for more information.

## 05

### THE PARTNERSHIP JOURNAL

**PARTNERSHIP: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research** is the journal of the Partnership. The Journal promotes the exchange of ideas about libraries, librarianship, and information science among practitioners across all library sectors. We are a Canadian, open access journal publishing double-blind peer-reviewed research and editorially reviewed articles and opinion pieces.

Visit us at [www.partnershipjournal.ca](http://www.partnershipjournal.ca) for more information.

**Partnership**  
The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research

## News from New Brunswick

### News from New Brunswick Public Library Service

Kate Thompson, Head of Public Services Development / Chef du développement des services publics



The New Brunswick Public Library Service is excited to announce the launch of our new **brand**! This move has been made to give the library system a more vibrant look that is appealing to all ages, and that better reflects everything that libraries have to offer. The rebrand is centred around four themes: Read, Learn, Play, and Create. These themes are tied to our Strategic Plan.

The central element of the rebrand is a new NBPLS logo. It features a black-capped chickadee – New Brunswick’s provincial bird – which symbolizes curiosity, friendliness, and local pride. The logo comes in many forms and colours and can even be customized for individual libraries who do not have their own logo.

The project also involved a redesign of our library cards. Users now have the option of five designs: a generic one, or a card that represents one of the four themes (i.e. a book for “Read,” an apple for “Learn,” a guitar for “Play,” or a ball of yarn for “Create”).

NBPLS is also celebrating the release of our new app, **BiblioNB**. The app, which was soft-launched in March, allows patrons to access their library account and the online catalogue via a mobile device. Patrons can view their checkouts, renew items, place holds and look up library information such as contact information and hours. Furthermore, the app enables patrons to generate a digital library card that can be used in place of their physical one.



NBPLS has been asked by the Government of New Brunswick to help make **long-term radon testing** devices freely accessible to the public. We are collaborating with the Research and Productivity Council (RPC) which is a crown corporation, and the laboratory that analyzes radon test data in New Brunswick. Libraries are acting as distribution centres for the tests; RPC will supply and analyze the test kits and respond to questions from the public. Patrons are not required to have a library card to check out a kit. This project is the first of its kind in Canada and has seen thousands of radon tests distributed through public libraries.

## News from Newfoundland and Labrador

### News from Memorial University Libraries

**Kristine Power, Communications Advisor**

#### University News

The search committee for the role of director of the Office of Faculty Relations has concluded its work and has recommended **Scott Kelly** for the position. Mr. Kelly holds a master of employment relations and a bachelor of commerce from Memorial University. His appointment began Oct. 27. [Read more.](#)

Memorial University launched an employee engagement survey on Nov. 24 to better understand the experiences of faculty and staff. The survey will remain open until Dec. 12, 2025. [Read more.](#)

#### Research

A partnership between the Centre for Newfoundland Studies (CNS) and NL Public Libraries has led to an exciting addition to the collection of Newfoundland newspapers digitized on the DAI. *The Royal Gazette and Newfoundland Advertiser* (sometimes titled *The Royal Gazette*) was Newfoundland's first newspaper. **John D. Ryan** established a press in St. John's in 1807, and the first issue was printed in August of that year. Until recently, the earliest surviving issues dated from 1810, with originals housed at the A.C. Hunter Public Library. Microfilm copies from 1810 have long been available to researchers at CNS. The recent acquisition of issues from 1807–1809 has generated great excitement, and an agreement was reached to loan the volumes to CNS for scanning and inclusion in the DAI. Thanks to the purchase of a new scanner and the dedicated work of **Don Walsh** and **Heather Kinsella** of the DAI, these rare issues are now [readily accessible](#) in their original form.

CNS is hosting a Creative Writing Workshop in partnership with WritersNL on Sunday, Nov. 30, from 2–4 p.m. The workshop, *The Work Work Work of Art: Poetry as Work/Play*, will be facilitated by St. John's award-winning poet **Mark Callanan**.

**Bonnie Morgan** of the CNS was an invited panelist for the session “Women, Spirituality, and Community,” being offered as part of [Up She Rises! A Public Forum about Women and Gender in Newfoundland & Labrador History](#). She presented “Sensory Anglicans: Women, Textile Making and Faithfulness in 20th-century Newfoundland.”

The First Space Gallery in the QEII Library is currently exhibiting *Sustainable Nunatsiavut Futures (SNF)* curated by **Jessica Winters** and **Melanie Zurba**. The exhibit will remain on display until December 2025.



and features artists: **Belinda Shiwak, Katelyn Jacque, Emelia Angnatok, and Sid Ford.** [Read the catalogue and learn more about the art/artists.](#)

The fifth annual Farm Fun Day at the Pye Centre for Northern Boreal Food Systems, held on October 5, was a resounding success for the Labrador Campus. Campus staff and the Centre's three farmers hosted 1,200 people – out of a town of 8,600! – for a day of celebrating the harvest. Lead farmer **Lem Seaward** led hundreds of people of all ages by tractor and trailer on tours of the research infrastructure and land plots to highlight the microbial, elemental, soil, and crop research sites. One experimental crop this year was sweet corn, and due to the extreme heat this summer there were only 50 cobs grown. An auction of these cobs, with the highest bid over \$23 for a single cob, with proceeds donated to the food bank. This engagement event is interconnected with the monthly Farm Fridays, **Sarah Papple**, librarian, leads at the Library. It is the augmentation of the Farm Collection, and a roster of experts to add to the human library that is our most thriving collection in Labrador. Pulling off such a successful day involves many hours of work and some volunteering time in the potato field.



(Heather Angnatok, Sarah Papple, Lem Seaward in the potato patch. Sarah is holding a heart-shaped spud, which she says is very lucky and will make good fries.)

Reconciliation, decolonization, and Indigenous-led research and education are the guiding principles written into the Constitution of Labrador Campus. Observing the National Day for Truth and

Reconciliation at the Campus is a careful combination of remembrance and respect for the community and working together to find new paths forward. In the Library, people had an opportunity to sit privately with their memories and experiences of colonialism and were invited to adorn a birch tree with an orange shirt ornament. During the month, the messages accumulated and presented an ongoing memorial to the losses our community still feels today. **Heather Angnatok**, Elders, Aunties and Uncles Coordinator, led a sealskin orange shirt workshop in the Library for staff, students, and the wider community. Copies of the Calls to Action were available for people to keep, and at least a dozen were handed out over the course of the month.

**Dr. Patrick Gamsby**, Scholarly Communications Librarian, QEII Library, published his fourth book *Henri Lefebvre, Metaphilosophy, and Modernity*. You can read more in the MUN Gazette.

Memorial University Librarians **Courtney Crocker, Janet Goosney, Kathryn Rose** and **Louise White** collaborated with librarians from the school system, CNA, and NLPL to make a submission to the Education Accord NL

## Employee News

**Philip Baluk** has returned to Library IT, QEII Library.

**Becky Smith** is on sabbatical as of Nov. 1, 2025, for the next year.

Congratulations to Archives and Special Collection's **Paulette Noseworthy** who retired this September after 20 years here in the QEII Library.

Archives and Special Collection's **Colleen Quigley** will be away from October 3 until the Christmas break on a combination of research and annual leave. She is attending the Harlow portion of the Theatre, Film and Social Justice program. Safe and fun travels, Colleen.

**Christa Newhook** from the CNS is providing some additional support to the Archives and Special Collections unit in the QEII Library.

The Libraries would like to recognize and thank **Jamie Steadman** for his contributions to the Music Library over the past 2.5 years. His contract ended in September.

**Crystal Rose** has returned from administrative leave and resumed her role as Associate Dean of Libraries (Grenfell & Harlow campuses). Following a successful review at the end of her initial three-year term, the

committee recommended renewal for a 5-year term effective September 1, 2025. Crystal will also serve as the administrative lead for Copyright and for Accessibility services at Memorial University Libraries.

**Sarah Papple** accepted an appointment as Division Head, alongside her role as Labrador Campus Librarian. This three-year term began on July 1, 2025, and is renewable upon review.

**Courtney Crocker** accepted a Division Head appointment on August 1, 2025, in addition to her role as Education Librarian at the Education Library.

**Dan Duda** was recommended for a one-year appointment as Division Head for Archives and Special Collections, QEII Library, effective September 1, 2025.

### **Other Cool Stuff:**

The Commons staff in the QEII Library did pop-ups with Student Wellness (Oasis in the UC + Thrive Week this week) offering polymer clay crafting, button making, etc.



(Commons student employee Maxwell Bursey)

The Commons also had a Halloween pop up in the lobby featuring spooky 3D prints and scary VR games, as well as a “I Love MUNDays” green screen event on Oct 10.

Map enthusiasts: **Dan Duda** and **David Mercer**, Archives and Special Collections, were recently part of a social media podcast about cool and interesting maps in the Libraries' Collections. Keep an eye on the QEII Library [Instagram](#) account to see more.



On October 17, the Grenfell Library hosted its Archives and Special Collections Grand Opening and High Tea Reception. Librarians **Crystal Rose** and **Chelsea Humphries** facilitated tours of our new historical map collection and rare book room, showcasing hidden gems in the Grenfell Library's collections. Over 50 members of the community came out, explored our displays, and enjoyed some tea and treats! [The event received local media attention.](#)

The Marine Institute Library hosted a special day, 100 Years of Careers, for high school students on November 6th. **Anne Bowden** and **Jessie Cahill-Bouzane** pulled together photos of students training for and practitioners working in marine careers.

*"In the 100 years since Memorial University began, so much history has occurred, and part of that history is when the College of Fisheries now known as the Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland (or MI) joined Memorial University in 1992. The Marine Institute Archive has photos of the College of Fisheries from its beginning in 1964, and we have scanned many of them and put them on the [DAI which you can see here.](#)" - Jessie Cahill-Bouzane*





Courtesy of the Marine Institute Archive, (Coll. 001-06.06.001)

On Wednesday, October 29, the Education Library hosted a heartfelt reception in memory of **Dr. Elizabeth Strong**, a retiree of the Faculty of Education who passed away on January 10, 2024. In a generous act of legacy, Dr. Strong's estate donated \$30,000 worth of children's literature materials along with a newly designed reading corner to the Education Library. Her gift will enrich the learning environment for generations of Education students, offering a space where stories come alive and future educators find inspiration.

Congratulations to Archives and Special Collections' **Linda White** and to the Greenspond Historical Society on their successful submission to the Provincial Historic Commemorations Program. The program recently recognized **Louise Maud Saunders** of Greenspond as an Exceptional Person. **Louise Maud Saunders** was the first woman lawyer in Newfoundland. [Listen to the CBC interview with Linda White as she does a deep dive through history to share more about this incredible historical figure.](#)

We had several [Cape to Cabot](#) runners from Memorial Libraries. Congrats and a big shout-out to **Jessie Cahill-Bouzane, Nicholas Diamond, and Dennis Flynn**. Cape to Cabot is locally known by runners as "The Beast" at 20 kilometers.

The Archives and Special Collections received a special shout-out in **Dennis Flynn's** November Downhome article, "Iron Skull to Iron Cross," about Frances Cluett, a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurse during the First World War. The Archives hold a collection of correspondence written by **Frances**

**Cluett** to her mother, a photograph album taken by Cluett, and five watercolours painted by Cluett during her stay in France.

Grenfell Library partnered with the Corner Brook Public Library to host a NL Public Libraries card drive in the Grenfell Library on October 28. Eleven new library cards were made, and many more students stopped by to learn about resources in the public library, like popular ebooks and audiobooks that can be accessed remotely from campus.

**Chelsea Humphries**, public services librarian, Grenfell Library, published two poems in [Horseshoe Literary Magazine](#): “Another Sunset” and “Like This.”

Health Science Library’s **Melissa Hefford** recently completed an online course from Library Juice Academy called Archival Outreach and Advocacy. Library Juice Academy offers several courses geared toward various aspects of archival studies.

HSL’s **Melissa Hefford** also created a display honoring **Dr. Ian Rusted**, first Dean of Medicine, Memorial Medical School. Dr. Rusted is a Memorial University Centennial 100 inductee. The display is located on the second floor in the Faculty of Medicine and will remain up for a couple of months.

HSL’s **Katie Kehoe** and **Lori Flemming** also created displays: one on air pollution for the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies (UN), and another on weird and wacky illnesses and their cures that included illnesses from chocolate cysts to the man who mistook his wife for a hat.

The Education Library had another successful Tales to Teach, Tales to Reach author event this September with over 50 attendees. The featured author **Erin Snow** talked about her new self-published book What Can You See From A-Z Under The Labrador Sea.

The Tales to Teach author series also went on the road in July to Grenfell Library and provided the perfect opportunity to work with some of our colleagues on the West Coast. The event showcased author **Judy Doucette** who read Poppa and His Drum and shared a reconciliation song.

The Education Library received \$500 in funding from the Faculty of Education to enhance their Indigenous Collection this September.

The Grenfell Library participated in Academic Prep Week from September 2-5, welcoming 75 incoming students and helping them get a head start in learning the skills needed to succeed at university. Librarians **Chelsea** and **Crystal** taught five different library instruction sessions, exploring everything from

how to search for books and articles in the library, citing sources, tracking down course reserves, and understanding generative AI. The library also hosted a well-attended movie night for students, complete with popcorn!

Grenfell Library yoga is back. It started this September with librarian and yoga instructor **Chelsea** leading some mindful movement.

Grenfell Library had another successful board game night on Sept. 19. The candy buffet was a huge hit.

Labrador campus Librarian **Sarah Papple** had the opportunity to partner with a local youth film production for the "Lecture on a Bus" series that she provided with faculty and staff from Labrador Campus. The purpose of the activity was to introduce information literacy and research possibilities and tips, bring recruitment information and highlight library materials (including the upcoming donation of film equipment) and services to the Youth." More than 20 youth signed up, including 8 from Sheshatshiu Innu Nation.

Marine Institute Library's **Jessie Cahill-Bouzane** participated in a student support fair at MI on September 11th highlighting library services to students.

The Centre for Newfoundland Studies participated in the Welcome 2025 Cultural Fashion Show. In honour of Memorial's 100th anniversary, Memorial-branded clothing was also on display as well as some archival gems from the Libraries' CNS collections.

QEII Library and Commons student employee **Rafika Rahman** was featured in the MUN Gazette feature "From classroom to campus job."

Keep an eye out for an upcoming Netflix Sea Creature Limited Series (starring **Josh Hartnett**) that was filmed here in the province. Look closely to see if CNS's copy of an issue of the Newfoundland Quarterly makes the cut for a scene! CNS staff member **Donna Doucette** has been in close contact with the props person and fingers crossed that all that time and effort leads to the magazine making an appearance!

A fine crowd turned out for the inaugural "Fall Semester Coffee Break" for the Memorial University Libraries Team hosted at the QEII:



(From left to right: Donna Doucette, Linda White, Martin Nolan, Michaela Doucette, Christa Newhook, Paulette Noseworthy, Heather Kinsella, Rob Ball, Nicole Cahill, Krista Delaney, Kelly Hatch, Lesley Squires, Katie Skanes, Jae Jin, Chrissy Glavine, and Sheri Coombs)

Keeping the water/sea creature theme going – the CNS's **Colleen Field** and her team, the Avalon Dragons, participated in the Calgary Dragon Boat Festival in August and brought home a bronze medal for the Breast Cancer Survivor Division. Next August she will be going to the International Breast Cancer Dragon Boat Festival in Aix-les-Bains, France – a festival that is held in a different location every four years.

The CNS drop-in craft circle, Livyers' Loops, has resumed every Friday from 1-2pm.

The first meeting of the CNS Nonfiction Book Club for 2025-26 was held on Wednesday, September 24 at 6:30pm. This year, they are reading on the theme of "Labrador," starting with a discussion of **Elizabeth Goudie's** *Woman of Labrador*.

The CNS hosted "Get in the Zone: A Fiction Workshop with **Sharon Bala**" on October 5. This was the third in their "Imaging History" series presented in partnership with WritersNL and made possible with support from the Office of Public Engagement. The event sold out!



## News from Nova Scotia

### News from Cumberland Public Libraries

Charlotte Gallivan, Community Engagement Librarian

#### Advocate Grand Opening

Our new Advocate Harbour library soft opened on November 15th, after being closed since March. Grand Opening celebrations for the new location were held on November 22nd, and we hosted approximately 45 people at the new space.

We want to take this time to thank the amazing community of Advocate Harbour, and the Advocate District Development Association. It is because of your hard work and determination that we are able to have this fantastic new space, and continue to provide library service in your community.



Members of the Advocate District Development Association, Municipality of Cumberland County officials, Library officials, and community members preparing to cut the ribbon opening the new Advocate Library. (Photo credits: **Darrell Cole**, Municipality of Cumberland County).

#### Record Breaking\* Fundraiser

We recently hosted a vinyl sale at our Amherst location. The event was proposed to the library by a patron, **Wayne McCabe**, who kindly donated 800-1,000 records as a fundraising opportunity. The sale took place from November 28, until December 2, and raised approximately \$1,000.

\*No records were harmed to raise money for the library, we promise!



## **Accessibility Efforts Continue**

A call for community members to join our Library Accessibility Committee was officially published on July 18th. We extended the deadline, and received a total of five applications. Our Accessibility lead hosted the newly formed Committee for a “Meet and Greet” in November. The Committee will officially start meeting in January to work on implementing the Library's Accessibility Plan. The Committee will consist of one Board member, one staff member, and five community members.

Library staff also conducted an audit of the Springhill Miners Memorial Library with the Municipality of Cumberland County's Community Engagement Coordinator on November 26. This directly relates to the Library Accessibility Plan's commitment to audit library locations, and the Board's desire for us to conduct facility audits with our Municipal partners.

## News From Prince Edward Island

### News from Holland College, PEI Public Library Service, and UPEI Robertson Library

Juanita Rossiter, VP PEI

#### Holland College Library Services

Three library staff members retired this past spring from the Holland College Library: **Larry Tweed** (Electronic Services Librarian), **Rose MacDonald** (Library Technician), and **Jean Lykow** (Library Technician). With these retirements, Holland College hired two new staff, **Waley Frotan** and **Garrick MacLean**. All Holland College libraries have been busy with end of term assignments and exams.

In mid November, **Leslie Holt** and **Emily MacIsaac** served up hot chocolate and granola bars as a pick-me-up for the students!

A photograph of the new Holland College Library team as of this September:



**Back (LtoR): Waley Frotan and Garrick MacLean**

**Front (LtoR): Patricia Doucette, Emily MacIsaac (middle) and Leslie Holt**

## PEI Public Library Service

**Krystal Dionne** is a Regional Librarian with the PEI Public Library Service. She recently agreed to do a Q&A session to discuss the [Stack Attack Podcast](#). Described as a podcast on books, culture and everything related to the world of libraries, Krystal shared some information about the podcast and why it was started.

### **Question: What is the name of the podcast? Who chose the title?**

*The podcast is called Stack Attack. A few of us brainstormed the title and created the logo together when we were thinking about starting it up.*

### **Question: When did it start and why was it started?**

*Our first episode, Thrilling Tales: Prince Edward Island Ghost Stories was released on October 27, 2020.*

*We are always looking for new ways to serve the public beyond our physical walls. Podcasts can provide a unique platform to discuss a broad range of topics and to promote library programs, resources, and services. They are also a fun and stimulating outlet to utilize staff talent and to build connections within our community.*

### **Question: What kind of topics do you cover?**

*We have covered a wide variety of different topics and often use the podcast to highlight community collaborations and upcoming programs. We have also recorded episodes in recognition or celebration of special months or days, and we regularly highlight books and other items in our collection through staff and guest recommendations.*

Examples of topics discussed on the Stack Attack podcast include (but are not limited to):

- Explore the Public Archives and Records Office!
- Collaborating with IRSA PEI & DiverseCity Festivals
- French Library Services at the PEI Public Library Service
- Chatting with Creative PEI
- The Beaconsfield Book Club Presents: The Queer Historical Romance Society
- Black History Month with the Black Cultural Society of PEI
- September - Orange Shirt Day, Mi'kmaq History Month, Learning Disabilities Awareness Month and More!
- The Love of Food: Celebrating Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month
- Do the GREEN Thing: Earth Day 2021

### **Question: What have been some of your favourite episodes/series?**

*I've enjoyed working on all of the episodes for different reasons, but a few conversations that jump to mind are the recent October episode with Liam Richardson, the new PEI Provincial Archivist and our Summer Literacy episode from back in May.*



**Question: What do you enjoy about podcasting/the podcast?**

*I have a lot of fun connecting with folks (you'll hear me laugh a LOT) and hearing them share things that they're passionate about. Also, having access to the professional podcast studio at the Charlottetown Library Learning Centre for the past couple of years has made it even more exciting.*

**Question: Who would you like to interview on PEI? OR Nationally?**

*I would definitely love to chat with more local authors, but nobody specific immediately comes to mind. I would also love to collaborate with more local organizations to get the word out about the wonderful work that they're doing in our communities as well.*

**Question: Where can it be found?**

*You can find Stack Attack [here](#), and wherever else you listen to your podcasts.*



**Krystal Dionne, Regional Librarian with the PEI Public Library Service, getting ready to do her Stack Attack Podcast.**

## [Kensington Heritage Library & Summerside Rotary Library](#)

### The Conversation Circle

The [Immigrant & Refugee Services Association](#) PEI (IRSA) is a settlement agency that helps new immigrants as they settle in PEI. One of the programs they host is The Conversation Circle. Program coordinator, **Zaven Almajian**, shared that this program is held at both the Kensington Heritage Library and the Summerside Rotary Library and is done with the supportive partnership IRSA has with both libraries and [United for Literacy](#), a national charitable literacy organization.



**Members of the Conversation Circle at the Summerside Rotary Library, November 2025.**

**Zaven Almajian** states that “language and communication skills improvement or verbal practice are vital steps for newcomers attempting to settle and integrate to their new community, as part of the settlement process. IRSA is striving to ensure all of their clients have access to this important support, by helping remove barriers to service access by bringing these casual conversation groups to more Island communities.”

**Hailey Lewis** works at the Kensington Heritage Library and says that “Having these conversational circles in our library has been so important. Not only does it provide a safe, welcoming and inviting place for



newcomers/immigrants to practice their English in a group setting, but it's been an eye-opening and educational experience for staff to learn about different cultures and backgrounds.”



**The Conversation Circle at the Kensington Heritage Library, November 2025.**

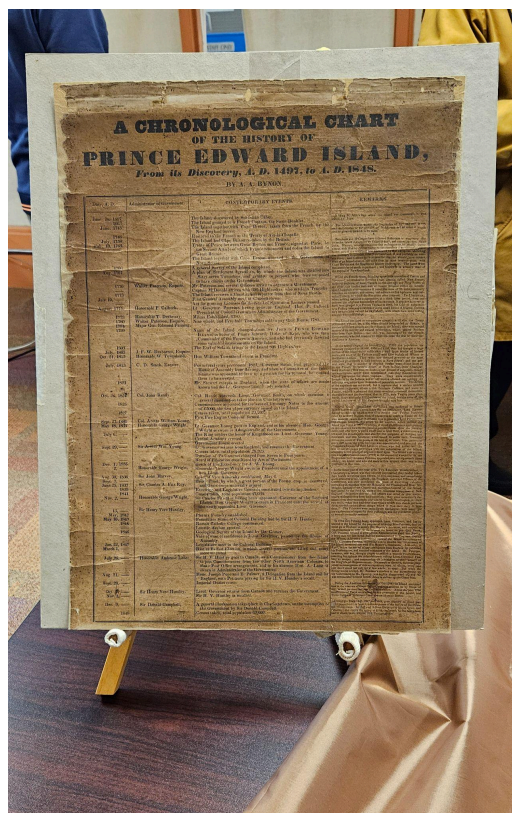
If you would like to know more about IRSA English as an Additional Language (EAL) programs (dates, locations) or to explore volunteer opportunities, please contact the IRSA EAL program coordinator, **Zaven Almajian**, at 902-628-6009 ext. 214, or via email at [zavanalmajian@irsapei.ca](mailto:zavanalmajian@irsapei.ca)

### [UPEI Robertson Library](#)

#### **Public Lecture: The Other Island Diaspora: PEI Books Abroad**

On Thursday November 6, Robertson Library hosted a public lecture by The Reverend **Edward Rix**. One of North America's leading collectors of Prince Edward Island-connected books and ephemera, Father Rix

shared stories from his decades-long pursuit of PEI literary treasures. A proud Islander, with deep family roots in West Prince, Father Rix studied at the University of King's College in Halifax, the University of Toronto's Wycliffe College, and Dalhousie University. It was during his university days that he began to turn his passion for books into a successful venture as an independent bookseller and collector, learning from some of Canada's leading rare and antiquarian book dealers. Since 2001, he has served as Priest in charge of the Parish of All Saints Episcopal Church in Wynnwood, a western suburb of Philadelphia, where he has continued to build a remarkable personal library, including some 2000 titles relating to Prince Edward Island, with exemplary collections of the works of **Basil King** and **Milton Acorn** as particular highlights.



**Left:** The Reverend Edward Rix. **Right:** An early Island newspaper.

Father Rix brought enough treasures from his holdings to fill four display cases at the event. At the conclusion of his talk, he announced that he plans to donate his collection to Robertson Library in the future, which consists of approximately 2,000 items (and counting). For further information, please listen to Father Rix's interview with Mitch Cormier on CBC's [Island Morning](#).



## Kitchen Party:

As part of its ongoing 50th anniversary celebrations, a kitchen party was held in Robertson Library on Saturday evening, September 27th. The music was spectacular thanks to Robertson Library's own house musician, **Rob Drew**, his beautifully voiced partner, **Harmony Wagner**, and friend, **Roy Johnstone**. Everyone loved that the music was made under the Quiet Zone sign!



## Librarians:

**Melissa Belvadi** completed her work on an open source COUNTER 5.1 usage report harvester, and gave a presentation through the virtual component of the [Charleston Conference](#) in November, 2025. Anyone interested in learning more about the program should contact her at [mbelvadi@upei.ca](mailto:mbelvadi@upei.ca).

**Juanita Rossiter** and **Keltie MacPhail** presented a paper, "Revisiting the Pensie Letters" at the biannual conference of L.M. Montgomery Society of Ontario's (LMMSO) in October 2025. The conference theme was "[Vision and Commemoration: The Continuing Legacies of L.M. Montgomery.](#)"

**Dr. Svetlana Kochkina** accepted the position of University Librarian at UPEI and will begin her term on March 1, 2026. Read more [here](#).

## Student Events:

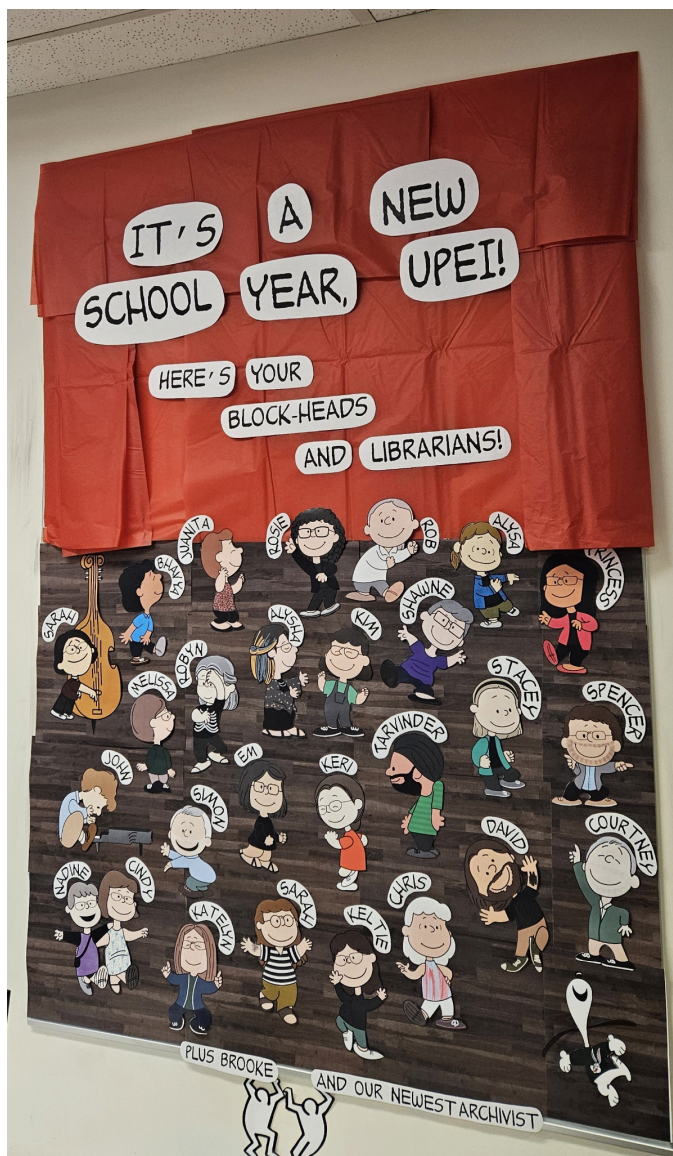


**Left:** The annual Send a Postcard Home event was held in October that resulted in lots of postcards being sent around the world.

**Right:** Robertson Library is supporting The UPEI Climate Action Association, a student-led group dedicated to, "driving sustainable solutions for a greener, climate-resilient future," in their Campus Paper Recycling Drive.



## Find your Peanut-y self:



Robertson Library student Assistant **Kiley Berringer** is now a UPEI graduate. Before returning to her home province of Ontario, she left Robertson Library employees an example of her art work behind the desk.