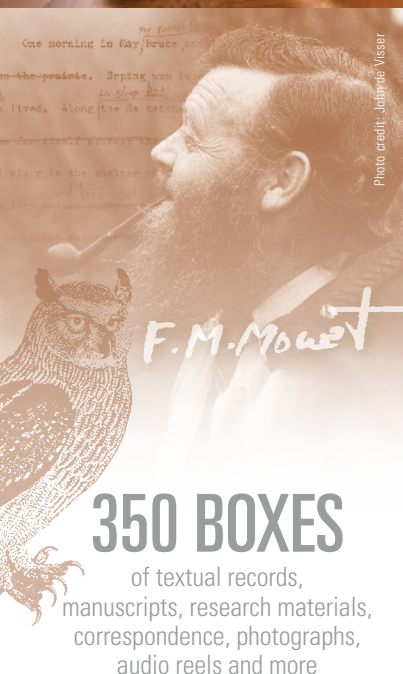


# Celebrating the work of a Canadian literary icon



## "He was Canada's best story-teller."

That's how Anna Porter, co-founder and publisher of Key Porter books, recalled the late Farley Mowat at an event held in April that paid tribute to the work and life of one of Canada's most distinctive and iconic writers.

The event highlighted Mowat's extensive personal and literary archives, housed in McMaster University Library's William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections.

Mowat was best-known for his literary depictions of the Canadian Arctic, famously recounted in Canadian classics such as *"Never Cry Wolf"* and *"People of the Deer."*

Mowat first began depositing his archives in 1970, while still in the prime of his writing career.

Over the past 45 years, the collection has grown significantly, and is now made up of 350 boxes of textual records, manuscripts, research materials, correspondence, financial documents, photographs, maps, audio reels and videocassettes with more materials still to come.

"It is my great honour to join in this celebration of the life and work of Farley Mowat — one of Canada's great storytellers and one of the true iconic figures of this country and its fine literary traditions," said Vivian Lewis, McMaster University Librarian. "He challenged us as a society and as a reading public. McMaster University Library is proud to be the custodian of his rich archive."

In attendance was Farley's widow Claire Mowat, a writer and visual artist in her own right, who has also donated her archives to McMaster.

McMaster is home to the archives of a number of Canadian literary talents including Margaret Laurence, Pierre Berton, Matt Cohen, Austin Clarke, Sylvia Fraser and Peter C. Newman, as well as Canadian publishers McClelland & Stewart, Key Porter Books, Macmillan Canada and Clarke Irwin.

For more information on Farley and Claire's archives, go to: [library.mcmaster.ca/archives/findaids/fonds/m/mowatf.htm](http://library.mcmaster.ca/archives/findaids/fonds/m/mowatf.htm) and [library.mcmaster.ca/archives/findaids/fonds/m/mowatc.htm](http://library.mcmaster.ca/archives/findaids/fonds/m/mowatc.htm)



## McMaster community helps write the McMaster poem

During the academic year, the Library partnered with the 2014-15 Writer-in-Residence, Hal Niedzviecki, on a number of events. One of the most interesting was a social media experiment in which Niedzviecki invited the McMaster community to contribute to an online poem, adding their lines to the narrative on twitter at hashtag #macpoem.

Many people contributed to the poem, which took numerous twists and turns before concluding on February 10.

To see the McMaster Poem, go to:  
[library.mcmaster.ca/news/30098](http://library.mcmaster.ca/news/30098)

*The Mabel Pugh Taylor Writer-in-Residence is co-sponsored by McMaster's Department of English and Cultural Studies and the Hamilton Public Library.*

*Niedzviecki's book The Peep Diaries was named as one of Oprah's "25 Books You Can't Put Down." He is a writer, speaker, culture commentator and is the author of 8 books of fiction and non-fiction. He's also the founder and publisher of Broken Pencil: the magazine of zine culture and the independent arts.*



## Message from the University Librarian

In my 24 years at McMaster, I've seen the University Library make tremendous advances on many fronts.

The Mills Library I first entered in 1991 was awe-inspiring, if somewhat intimidating. In keeping with the long tradition of the research library, we acquired books and journals across a broad set of disciplines just in case a scholar might need them. We taught students and faculty members how to find and use our collections using a variety of nightmare-inducing techniques that no student of 2015 would tolerate.

Our engagement with the research process back in 1991 was important but indirect. We acquired the materials our faculty members needed to do their research, then largely left them alone until their finished book or journal article was ready for purchase – then the whole cycle started again.

The landscape has changed dramatically. The 13,000 McMaster students on campus in 1991 have grown to 28,000 today. Technology has created limitless opportunities for students, scholars and the libraries that support their work. Our users demand (and deserve) seamless and easy access to information – from wherever they are, 24/7. Our faculty members are looking for a host of services to support their research – including assistance managing their data and supporting platforms for online journal publishing.

The University Library is thriving in this new space and is eager to make its mark. We have recently completed a strategic planning process that resulted in a new and compelling vision.

Going forward, the Library aspires to be a true "catalyst" of intellectual activity. The word was chosen very deliberately to convey the sense of active engagement in the intellectual life of campus.

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activity.*  
”



Our new plan features some dramatic changes in focus and approach.

First, we are committed to directing enhanced attention to those collections and programs that make McMaster's University Library unique.

Second, the new plan commits us to reducing obstacles to discovering and accessing McMaster collections – whether users are entering through our catalogue or through a commercial search engine, on campus or remotely.

Finally, we are committed to an enhanced focus on community engagement. New partnerships, whether with our local public library or with a research institute in another part of the world, can open up doors for our students and scholars.

The Library is a far different place than it was back in 1991 but some things remain the same. Library staff members continue to take great pride in helping students navigate through the challenges of their research projects. Faculty members continue to rely on the Library to support their research and teaching needs. Our commitment to excellence continues.

I encourage you to watch future issues of the *McMaster Library News* for details on new programs and initiatives.

*Vivian Lewis*

**Vivian Lewis**  
University Librarian

# President Emeritus Alvin A. Lee

Former McMaster President Alvin Lee has a long history of supporting McMaster University Library.

In 1962, upon hearing that the senior administration wanted to establish a doctoral program in the Department of English, Lee, then a new assistant professor, with a colleague met with the Dean of Graduate Studies. They explained that the establishment of humanities doctoral programs would require significant investment in the Library, to make it a true research library. When asked how much funding they thought was needed, Lee replied that a million dollars a year for the next 10 years would be a good start. Within a few months the University was providing greatly increased funds and McMaster University Library was well on its way to becoming the important research library it is today.

Over the years, Lee, a long-time donor to the University, has continued to make valuable contributions to the Library, including gifts to the Library of the Future Fund and numerous gifts-in-kind.

Most recently, he has established the Alvin A. Lee Fund for Indigenous Research Collections to support the acquisition of rare books, manuscripts, and oral histories that document the history, culture, and language of First Nations communities.

Recently we met with Dr. Lee and asked him about his long-standing relationship with the Library.

## Why is it important to you to support this area of scholarship? Why now?

When, last year, the Indigenous Studies Program celebrated the first 20 years of its existence, it helped me focus on how important this area of study is in Canada. I wanted to help in some way, because, especially in a place like McMaster—which is close to large numbers of First Nations people—it is important that Indigenous studies grow, thrive, and intensify. I'm happy that there's a kind of renaissance of Indigenous voices in many parts of this country. It's important that young First Nations men and women, for their own cultural well-being, learn the traditions of their parents, grandparents, and elders. The wider emerging world culture also needs to know the Indigenous traditions, because in them there are beliefs and knowledge that are essential for the well-being, and perhaps even the survival, of people in the rapidly changing world culture.

## What do you hope will be the impact of your gift?

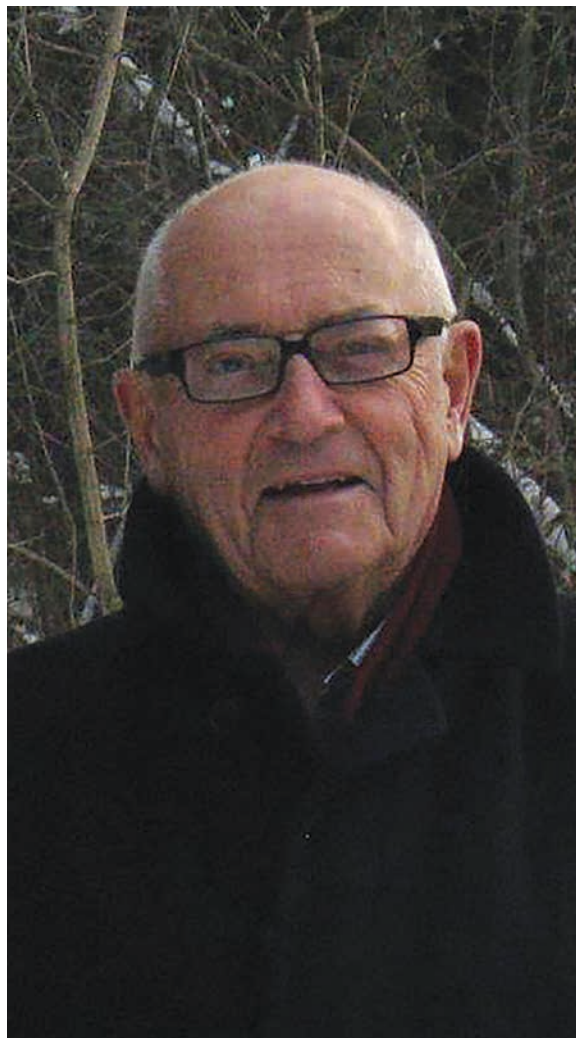
It will be good if students, professors, and others, over the years, come to know more about Indigenous peoples and their ways of life. It will also be good if other donors emerge in support of our fine libraries at McMaster.

## Why do you give to the Library?

I give to the Library because I know that it is a direct, fundamental source for the bodies of knowledge and the mental and imaginative processing of that knowledge that are essential to the intellectual reality of the University. The print, microfilm, digital, and even cursive materials housed in the Library underlie, and make possible, the courses that we teach and the research that we do.

## What would you say to donors considering a gift to the Library?

I would say, and have said numerous times in the past, that McMaster's exceptional stature depends entirely on the critical inquiries of its students and faculty members, and that the two major physical instruments making those inquiries possible are our libraries and laboratories.



## donor profile

In his role as President and Vice-Chancellor from **1980-1990**, and his involvement in fundraising campaigns, Lee continued to demonstrate his belief in the importance of the Library. During the Centennial Campaign from **1987-1989**, in which **90 million** dollars were raised, he was instrumental in securing **21 million** dollars for the renovation and expansion of Mills Memorial Library, completed in **1994**.

In recognition of his many contributions and untiring support, Lee was the first recipient of the Library Advocate Award in **2001**.



# 21st century tools provide students with a window into life during the Great War

What was it like to be in the midst of an artillery barrage? Or to be a single woman living alone on the edge of a war zone?

An innovative new course is helping students combine digital technology and archival materials to better understand and share the experiences of those who fought and lived through the First World War.

Developed by a team of interdisciplinary instructors from the Library and the Lewis and Ruth Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship, *HUMAN 2DH3: Introduction to Digital Humanities* teaches students to use modern research technologies like mapping and text analysis software, to study and present historical scholarship in a new way.

"Digital humanities encourages people to think very actively about how to make research accessible in a visual sense, and make it available to a broad audience,"

says Paige Morgan, a postdoctoral fellow at the Sherman Centre and one of the course instructors.

Students worked in groups to create a digital story map that examined different aspects of WWI told through the archival materials of four individuals who experienced the war: John McCrae, Mary Augusta Ward, Bernard Freeman Trotter ([library.mcmaster.ca/archives/findaids/fonds/t/trotter.htm](http://library.mcmaster.ca/archives/findaids/fonds/t/trotter.htm)) and Mildred Aldrich.

To create their projects, students fused text, images and multimedia content with maps from the Library's extensive WWI maps collection ([library.mcmaster.ca/maps/ww1/home](http://library.mcmaster.ca/maps/ww1/home)).

Students were introduced to a range of digital techniques including map and aerial photo interpretation, geo-referencing, video and image editing, text analysis tools, and web design.

Lauren Karrys is a third year gerontology student whose group was asked to create a story map featuring McMaster alumnus, poet and soldier, Bernard Freeman Trotter.

Karrys says the experience taught her the impact that digital technologies can have on scholarship and provided an opportunity to interact with archival material in a meaningful way.

"We were taught a wide range of digital technologies to explore large information and text corpuses, and we were able to see recurring trends that may have taken months to uncover had we done it manually," says Karrys. "It was also powerful to research Bernard and go down to the archives and hold the last letter he'd written home before dying in France during the war. It was a fascinating discovery process."

The course was offered for the first time this winter and will be offered again in 2016.

Explore the digital story maps created by the students in *HUMAN 2DH Introduction to Digital Humanities* at: [library.mcmaster.ca/news/32133](http://library.mcmaster.ca/news/32133)







# WWII photo archive captures the realities of the world at war

**December 6, 1943-** A hole blasted through a hill-top wall in Italy gives this Canadian a vantage point from which to observe enemy movements while men of his unit move into a new position. This image is just one of the thousands of WWII photos recently donated to McMaster University Library by *The Hamilton Spectator*.

70 years ago on May 8, 1945, Germany surrendered to Allied forces, ending five long years of war in Europe.

McMaster University Library is now home to a collection of photos that capture that tumultuous time and bring the war years vividly to life.

*The Hamilton Spectator* has donated its extensive World War II Photo Collection ([library.mcmaster.ca/archives/findaids/fonds/h/hamspecphotos.html](http://library.mcmaster.ca/archives/findaids/fonds/h/hamspecphotos.html)) to McMaster University Library's William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections.

The collection contains thousands of black and white photos taken by the Associated Press and other news wire services that illustrate the pivotal battles, political events and human tragedies that took place during WWII.

"We are very grateful to *The Hamilton Spectator* for the donation of this remarkable collection," says Vivian Lewis, McMaster University Librarian. "This photo archive visually documents some of the most significant events of the last hundred years. We are so pleased to house this collection at McMaster and ensure that it is preserved for current and future generations of students and scholars to help them better understand the realities of world war."

The images in the collection capture the seminal events of the war including the German invasion of Poland, the fiery aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the D-Day invasions.

They also provide insight into Canada's involvement in a number of key campaigns, including a set of photos that illustrate the experiences of Canadian soldiers as they fought their way through Italy.

"*The Hamilton Spectator* is very proud to have its World War II photo archive at McMaster University," says Neil Oliver, Publisher of *The Hamilton Spectator*. "Our job is to tell stories – to report on events and help our readers make sense of their world. Photographs are a powerful tool in this quest. As the community's newspaper since 1846, *The Hamilton Spectator* wanted to collaborate with our community's university to allow students, faculty and researchers access to these stories for both scholarship and for preservation. We are so proud to have created this legacy with McMaster University."

Lewis says the collection complements McMaster Library's extensive World War I and II archives which include personal diaries & letters, top secret maps and stories of survival in concentration camps, among many other materials.

The collection contains

**6,078**  
black and white photos

“  
*The Hamilton Spectator* wanted to collaborate with our community's university to allow students, faculty and researchers access to these stories for both scholarship and for preservation.  
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## JUNOs exhibits showcase Hamilton's musical legacy and digital future

In celebration of JUNO Week in Hamilton, the Library's William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections mined our holdings to create exhibits that featured prominent Hamilton-based or JUNO-winning musicians.

The displays included original artifacts and awards, sheet music, vinyl albums, diary entries, artwork and photographs belonging to Bruce Cockburn, renowned conductor Boris Bott, local blues great Jackie Washington and award-winning singer/song-writer Ian Thomas.

The exhibits were on display on the main floor of the Hamilton Public Library, Central Branch, and at LiUNA JUNO House (28 James St. N. Ground Floor).

### "Making" music at the JUNOs:

Some may know the theremin as the instrument used to create the other-worldly soundtracks in films like *The Day the Earth Stood Still* and *It Came from Outer Space*, but very few of us have had the opportunity to play one.

The Lewis and Ruth Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship brought this and other fun and creative electronic instruments from our maker-space to the JUNOs. Members of the public had the opportunity to build, and experiment with a variety of electronic instruments including a "Fruit Salad Piano," miniature synthesizers, and the classically creepy sounding theremin.

This exhibit was at the Blame it on Hamilton event on Friday March 13th and at the Junior JUNOs on Saturday March 14th.



A suit belonging to Ian Thomas was just one of the items on display during Juno Week in Hamilton.



# The Art of the Book: Rabbi Bernard Baskin, book collector

Rabbi Bernard Baskin is a household name in Hamilton. He is known both for his many years of service to the congregation of Temple Anshe Sholom, the oldest Reform Congregation in Canada, which he joined in 1949, and in the broader Hamilton community as an avid reader, speaker, and columnist.

Perhaps less well known is his longstanding support for the McMaster community. For nearly 30 years, the Rabbi and his late wife, Marjorie, have been generous donors to the University, giving some 1,000 books and manuscripts and 200 pieces of art to the University Library and the McMaster Museum of Art.

Last fall, the University Library and the Museum of Art were, therefore, especially pleased to collaborate on a joint exhibit that honoured the Rabbi's patronage of literature and the arts at McMaster.

*The Art of the Book: Rabbi Bernard Baskin, Book Collector*, curated by archivist Renu Barrett, displayed some of the finest and most interesting books and art donated by the Rabbi. Highlights included Egerton Ryerson Young's *By Canoe and Dog-Train Among the Cree and Salteaux Indians*; first editions by Dylan Thomas, Ernest Hemingway, and Mark Twain; volumes on typography and printing; and manuscripts and early printed books, including a 1640 edition of *The Workes of Benjamin Jonson*.

Augmenting the book collection were many works by the artist Leonard Baskin, brother of the Rabbi, who was also the founder of Gehenna Press, for over fifty years one of the most successful private presses in North America.

The exhibit ran from September until December 20, 2014. On September 18, a special event was held to honour Rabbi Baskin and his generosity to McMaster.



Photo: The Hamilton Spectator

## Celebrating our Freedom to Read

Have you ever read a banned book? Odds are, you have.

If you've ever spent hours reading *Harry Potter*, pored over the literary classic *The Great Gatsby*, or devoured the *Hunger Games* trilogy, you may not realize it, but you've read a banned book.

From February 22-28, we celebrated Freedom to Read Week ([www.freedomtoread.ca](http://www.freedomtoread.ca)), a nation-wide commemoration of the thousands of books that have been banned, challenged, or censored for any number of reasons, including sexuality, coarse language, racism, or religious objections.

During the week, libraries, bookstores and schools across Canada hosted events encouraging Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom.

At McMaster, Library co-op students Elysha Ardelean and Laura Trabucco organized a thought-provoking display of books from our collections covered in plain brown wrappers with hand-written teasers hinting at reasons the books had been challenged.

The vast selection of challenged, banned or censored books may surprise you. Read through a list of 100 controversial books on the Freedom to Read *Challenged Works* database ([www.freedomtoread.ca/censorship-in-canada/challenged-works-list/](http://www.freedomtoread.ca/censorship-in-canada/challenged-works-list/)). You can also borrow many of those books here on campus by visiting McMaster Libraries.





## Upcoming exhibits:

William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections presents:

### MAY 2015-AUGUST 2015

**New Literary Acquisitions**, an exhibit showcasing some of our recent acquisitions of literary and cultural significance. The exhibit contains materials from Canadian writers Robert Sawyer, Trevor Cole, Terry Fallis, Juan Butler, David Freeman and Basil Johnston, as well as poetry published by the Poem of the Month Club (UK), and materials relating to the poet Hugo Sonnenschein (Sonka).

### SEPTEMBER 2015-DECEMBER 2015

**Early medical books**, selections from our rare book collection, 18th century and earlier, including "home" or natural remedies.

Below: Selections from Robert Sawyer archive. Right: Selections from Terry Fallis and Poem of the Month Club (UK) archives.



## McMASTER LIBRARY NEWS

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## Highlights of new archival collections that we have recently received:

**Pierre Berton.** The 16th accrual of the archives of one of Canada's most popular writers, including a story written by the 12-year-old Pierre Berton, dozens of letters written to his wife in the 1940s, copies of *The Pipeline*, a hand-produced newsletter written and illustrated by Berton in Yukon, 1939-40, and much more. *Donated by Janet Berton.*

**Austin Clarke.** The 9th accrual of the novelist's archive, including manuscripts of his Giller prize winning *The Polished Hoe*. *Acquired from Austin Clarke.*

**David Freeman.** The archive of the award winning playwright, who, upon arriving at McMaster University in 1966, became the first university student in Canada who suffered from cerebral palsy. *Bequest of David Freeman.*

**The Hamilton Spectator World War II Photograph Collection.** Over 6,000 photographs compiled by *The Spectator* relating to WWII and other 20th century conflicts. *Donated by The Hamilton Spectator*

**Basil Johnston.** First Nations writer from Cape Croker, Ontario. Includes manuscripts and material in the Ojibway language. *Donated by Basil Johnston.*

**Charles Hamilton Mitchell.** A very rare archive of a Canadian First World War intelligence officer. *Donated by Stephen Traviss.*

**Gordon William Parkinson.** A poignant First World War archive made up of over 100 letters written by Private Parkinson to his family, many of them from the Western front where he was killed on October 1, 1918. *Most of the archive was donated by Parkinson's niece, Catherine Cook, with additional material donated by Robert Parkinson.*

**Robert J. Sawyer.** An extensive archive of the award winning science fiction writer, including manuscripts of his novels in multiple drafts, stories written as a child, and much more. *Donated by Robert Sawyer.*

**Valerie Tryon.** The internationally renowned pianist's archive includes newspaper clippings, photographs, concert programs, and other ephemera. *Donated by Valerie Tryon.*



## Notable new online resources:

**Criterion Pictures.** Over 1500 feature films – from 1919's *Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* to recent Oscar-winners – available online for classroom use or private viewing.

**Association of Canadian University Presses e-books.** Online editions from Canada's university presses, covering the best in academic publishing from 2014 onwards. A great supplement to our print collections.

**Business Expert Press e-books.** Concise, practical business books, purchased with our MBA students in mind.

**SAGE Research Methods Online.** Handbooks, full e-books, and reference articles to guide all levels in their research, from the beginning undergraduate to faculty.

**Indigenous Peoples: North America.** Digitized primary sources from Canadian and American collections, providing insights into the political, cultural, and social histories of Indigenous Peoples.

**IMF E-Library.** Data, reports, and working papers from the International Monetary Fund, giving insight into the world's economies.



## We would like to acknowledge the following donors:

- Class of 1950
- Class of 1953

A sincere thank you to all our donors for their generosity to the Library.

