

Fire Destroys Canadian Library, Archive

The July 6 derailment of a train carrying crude oil caused fires that killed an estimated 47 people and destroyed dozens of buildings in the Canadian town of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. Among the casualties is the Lac-Mégantic library and its collection, which included more than 60,000 books, CDs, and DVDs and a local history archive.

“It’s devastating,” said Kelly Moore, former executive director of the Canadian Library Association (CLA). “The building, the collection, the archives, the irreplaceable documentary history—it’s gone.”

Lac-Mégantic’s library, which opened in 1991, employs five staffers, including one librarian. There are also several dozen part-time volunteers. The library was preparing to move to a larger building, which was to open later this year.

The library was open about 35 hours a week, has more than 2,700 members (almost half of the town’s nearly 6,000 residents), and in 2011 boasted over 36,100 visits and 84,200 loans. However, it was perhaps best known for its unique archival collection. The library began gathering historical documents

and personal effects from residents in 1996, and the collection had since grown to include everything from local social club records and the earliest known photos of the town to information about Donald Morrison, a notorious 19th-century Lac-Mégantic outlaw.

According to Quebec Public Library Association executive director Eve Lagacé, the extent of the loss may be literally incalculable: “The library had only recently received many historical and personal archives; not everything had been cataloged,” she said.

REBUILDING & RECOVERY

Library president Diane Roy estimated that the fire cost the library about \$2,467,000. On July 22, the federal government allocated \$60 million to Lac-Mégantic for recovery efforts, and, Lagacé said, “Lac-Mégantic will receive money from the government of Quebec; we hope that some of this will go to the library.” Furthermore, “The Ministry of Culture and Communications here in Quebec will be able to help in some way,” said Lagacé, who added that money from the ministry will likely be earmarked for facilities, including refurbishment and maintenance. Roy also noted that the municipal government will supply funds. (The archive, which

was a private effort and not affiliated with either the municipal or provincial governments, was supported by donations and the Friends of the Lac-Mégantic Library Foundation.) According to Lagacé, the majority of financial aid for the library will come from insurers, but, as yet, the extent of the insurance payout is unknown.

Meanwhile, librarians and publishers are eager to provide other kinds of help. “A lot of publishers have begun to collect new books to give to the library, and members of a local library network are preparing to give second copies of titles they have to Lac-Mégantic,” Lagacé said. The English Language Publishers Association of Quebec (AELAQ) has also asked its members to donate books. CLA will partner with organizations in Quebec and coordinate support, according to Moore.

Though the archival material cannot be replaced, Lac-Mégantic residents have expressed an interest in creating a new local history collection. “Many people called to say, ‘We didn’t give you the archives when you contacted us before, but we still have them, and we will give them to you now!’” Roy reported. “And archives in other cities are offering to send us what they have about our region.”

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LEAD THE CHANGE

Coming to Phoenix, Arizona

On September 10, B.A. David Company founder David Bendekovic and local library innovators will lead attendees through exercises to develop

an action plan for leadership at any level. For more information and to register, visit: www.LibraryJournal.com/LeadTheChange

Interview

Darynda Jones and Lorelei King

Darynda Jones (below, l.), author of *Fifth Grave Past the Light*, and Lorelei King (r.), who narrates the Macmillan audiobook, discuss the ins and outs of writing and narrating.

LK: Is it hard to hear someone else's interpretation of your work?

DJ: Not for me personally. I am always amazed at things you pick up on that I didn't pay much attention to, at how you interpret something and give a scene a different life, a unique twist. It made me hyperaware of how salient the role of interpretation is.



DJ: What kind of preparation is involved in recording an audiobook?

LK: I read the book through once, making a cast list and a words-to-be-looked-up-for-pronunciation list as I go. I do very little marking up of the script itself, unless there's a particularly tricky passage where the word stress isn't obvious. If there's a "stage direction" (for example, "he said angrily"), I'll circle that adverb so I see it before I say the line. With a series book, I'll also dig out my old cast lists to make sure the voice is consistent for any returning characters.

DJ: How do you come up with voices?

LK: The author will often give you clues as to the kind of voice a character should have. If there are no clues, I use my imagination—and my ears are always on alert. If a friend or acquaintance has an unusual or quirky voice, they're bound to turn up in one of my readings sooner or later!

DJ: Do you have to do many takes while recording an audiobook?

LK: I'm reasonably fluent, so we don't have to stop too often. My eyes and brain are always a couple of lines ahead of what my mouth is saying, so I know what's coming up. If I stumble, I do the retake immediately.

There is one piece of good news: the new library building was not affected by the explosions, and it should be ready to open in November as originally planned.

More Kentucky Libraries Challenged in Court

Two more Kentucky districts were targeted by lawsuits challenging their right to raise tax revenue without voter approval and seeking massive spending rollbacks. Libraries in Anderson and Montgomery counties find themselves part of a growing voter backlash, spearheaded by members of Kentucky's Tea Party and others, that could eventually change the way the majority of Kentucky's 106 library districts have done business for decades. The most recent litigation brings the total number of such cases in the state to five.

If the plaintiffs ultimately get their way, tax rates could be rolled back dramatically in every Kentucky library system originally created by petition: 79 of the state's 106 districts. Tax rates would then have to be set anew each time they changed through separate petition drives.

The first two court rulings, in Campbell and Kenton counties—handed down in April—sided with the plaintiffs. Both rulings have been appealed. No court dates have been set for the Montgomery and Anderson cases; the fifth case, Boone County, has been filed but is currently "on hold," attorney Brandon Voelker, who represents plaintiffs in all five cases, told *Hotline*.

The six plaintiffs in the Campbell, Kenton, and Boone County cases are all members of the Northern Kentucky Tea Party. Harold Todd is the lone plaintiff in the Anderson County suit. He is described in the filing only as a resident and property owner. Four plaintiffs filed the Montgomery County suit on behalf of Citizens for Fair Taxation, which describes itself as a "grassroots group

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
Library Journal & School Library Journal

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www.libraryhotline.com/sub

Outside U.S.

Phone: 515-247-2984

LIBRARY HOTLINE (ISSN 0740-736X) (RPUSA 123397467) is published weekly (every Monday except on the two Mondays nearest to the year-end holidays) by Library Journals, LLC, 160 Varick Street, 11th floor, New York, NY 10013. Randy Asmo, Chief Executive Officer; Ian Singer, VP, Group Publisher. Library Hotline is a registered trademark of Library Journals, LLC. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. SUBSCRIPTION: \$119.99 per year, Canada \$159.99, Other (incl Air) \$159.99, Single Copy (U.S.) \$5.95, and Single Copy (all other) \$10.00. POSTMASTER: Please send change of address to: Library Hotline, PO Box 5881, Harlan, IA 51593-1381 Telephone 800-588-1030. Outside U.S. 1-515-247-2984.

Printed in the U.S.A.

founded to address wrongful taxes” by Kentucky’s special taxing districts.

AT ISSUE

Libraries argue that under a state law passed in 1979, known as House Bill 44, they have the power to enact small annual tax increases not subject to voter approval. Plaintiffs contend that any library network originally created by a petition drive cannot raise taxes except by gaining a 51 percent majority through a similar petition drive. A 1978 state law known as KRS 173.790, Voelker claimed, is the overriding statute. So far, Circuit Court judges in Kenton and Campbell counties have agreed with him.

The Montgomery and Anderson County lawsuits, mirroring the first three cases, ask that library taxes revert back to the rate charged when the districts were first formed.

- In Anderson County, the current tax rate of 8.6¢ per \$100 of personal property value would drop to its original 1967 figure of 2.5¢.
- Montgomery County would see its tax rate of 10.22¢ per \$100 sink to 3¢ if plaintiffs are successful.

Melissa Smathers-Barnes, library director for Montgomery County, said a loss in court would force one of the system’s two branches to close and the roster of 26 employees to be shaved to seven FTEs.

Anderson Public Library director Pamela Mullins said she believes her system was sued because it currently has a \$2 million surplus in the bank to go along with a \$1.3 million operating budget. At least part of that surplus, Mullins added, would be spent on an expansion of its one branch in Lawrenceburg. “I wouldn’t say the plan is completely on hold, but things have slowed down dramatically,” Mullins said of the expansion plan. She said her district has not raised the tax rate since 2009.

Tom Underwood, executive direc-

tor of the Kentucky Library Association, said a successful outcome by plaintiffs would have a “swift and catastrophic” effect on libraries, including budget refunds that would force

branch closures, staff cutbacks, and loss of services statewide.

“Our belief is, the library districts have acted properly under the guidance they were given in 1979,” Un-

Greenpoint Branch, Local Artisans Create Crafting Circle

Twelve people gather around a table to transform used bicycle tubes into fashionable pouches or change purses. Next month it could be knitting—or making bracelets from printer cables. The Greenpoint branch of the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) has tapped into the New York City borough’s thriving artisanal community to create a popular monthly workshop for 12 to 15 adults.

Kure Croker, branch manager and program coordinator at Greenpoint, teamed up with Kim Grassie Konen and Julie Schneider, both sellers on artisan website Etsy, to create what has become Greenpoint Hand Skills. According to the group’s Facebook page, Croker and Konen met in Denton, TX about ten years ago. Croker approached Konen regarding the idea for Hand Skills, and Konen proposed to Schneider that she join her in creating the workshop. Konen works at Etsy headquarters as well as selling her crafts on the site, which is how she knows Schneider, who runs Etsy’s weekly craft night.

The crafting program meets the first Saturday of every month and covers a variety of crafts. Croker ties the program into the library’s collection by providing a curated selection of titles to match the monthly theme. Schneider and Konen conduct the workshops on a volunteer basis; they purchase supplies up front and are reimbursed by the library or the Friends of the Greenpoint Library group.

Robert A. Simic, Greenpoint neighborhood library supervisor, told *Hotline*, “Adults can be an especially difficult demographic to crack program-wise, especially 20- and 30-year-olds (unless they’re parents), which is what I think makes the success of the Hand Skills program so impressive.” Schneider told *Hotline* that she, Croker, and Konen got the program off the ground via press campaigns with local blogs and newsletters such as Brooklyn Based, Greenpointers, and NonsenseNYC. Each month, the women reach out to local blogs to promote that month’s workshop. They also post flyers around the neighborhood and the library. They promote on Facebook and Tumblr, and Hand Skills gets a boost from its leaders’ participation in in-person events such as Brooklyn Craft Camp and Brooklyn Etsy LabsMeet and Makes.

Hand Skills isn’t the only Greenpoint program creating a buzz. The library also offered a watercolor course for seniors and a hands-on gardening program and frequently hosts musicians and authors. “We try our best, despite budget, staffing, and space issues, to be a part of the thriving Brooklyn artisanal culture, even if it is in a small way,” explained Simic.

Though the narrative around library Maker spaces often focuses on providing access to high-tech equipment, BPL and the artisans behind Greenpoint Hand Skills tie their antecedents to the Maker movement as much as to older traditions. “Greenpoint Hand Skills carries on a tradition of sharing creativity and knowledge in a community setting that can be traced through history with things like quilting bees, knitting circles, potlucks, and DIY skill shares,” explained Schneider. “As such, it fits right in as a piece of the DIY and Maker movement that is carrying handmade skills and pursuits into this present digital age.”



Photo by Kim Grassie Konen.

derwood told *Hotline*. “I’m very concerned about the potential fallout from these suits.”

“The issue is the people have a right to determine how much of a library they want in their community,” Voelker

said. “So quit the doom and gloom and take your case to the public.”

NEXT STEPS

Attorney Ben Crittenden, who represents the Anderson Public Library,

said the lawsuit was filed in May. No court date has been set, but Crittenden said he is considering asking the judge to hold the case in abeyance until the appeals process in Campbell and Kenton counties have been resolved. “It’s the same issue,” he said.

But that may not be an option. Jeff Mando, attorney for the Montgomery County district, told *Hotline* that the parties in the Montgomery County case are due in court in early September for a discovery conference. (Mando also represents the Campbell County district.)

“I see this case going to the [Kentucky] Supreme Court, no matter what,” said Mando. He told *Hotline* that this summer, in an effort to expedite the appeals process, he petitioned the State Supreme Court to hear the appeal next, bypassing the Court of Appeals, a request Voelker confirmed he did not oppose. But the high court recently denied that motion, leaving the matter in the hands of the appeals court, which has not yet scheduled a hearing.

Miami’s PL Cuts Detrimental to Students

Draconian cuts to Miami public libraries—nearly 45 percent of its branches shuttered and more than 250 staff positions lost—stand to impact Miami’s schoolchildren, as well as the larger community, severely.

“The worst-case scenario is 22 libraries would have to be closed,” said Lisa Martinez, senior advisor in Miami-Dade’s Office of the Mayor, who oversees its library department. “The mayor has charged us to bring that number down.”

At issue is a budget cut proposed by Miami-Dade mayor Carlos Gimenez, and approved by county commissioners, set to go into effect October 1. Lawmakers are trying to reduce the number of branches that may have to close before that deadline, and Martinez be-

Branching Out



On June 24, the **Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons** (pictured) opened at Grand Valley State University (GVSU), Allendale, MI. The 150,300 square foot facility replaces the 1969 library, which served 2,700 students. Today, GVSU has a student population of 25,000. The \$65 million project includes a Knowledge Market, where students confer with peer consultants; an Innovation Zone of reconfigurable furnishings and cubicles; two learning labs; bridges connecting book stacks with more active areas; 19 group study rooms; a 20-foot-long fireplace; an Argo Tea café; a rooftop deck with a reading garden and quiet study spaces; and 27 varieties of seating. Designed and built by architects SHW Group, civil engineers FTC&H, and Pioneer Construction, the structure is targeting the highest Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL), Parma, OH, has turned 90 years old and celebrated with the opening on August 3 of the new

North Royalton Branch. Following a one-year construction effort (see *Hotline*, 8/13/12), the new 30,000 square foot library doubles the size of the original 1978 building. Among the amenities and upgrades to the \$11.7 million project, part of CCPL’s Facilities Master Plan, are an energy-efficient design, a full-service drive-up window, an interactive children’s area, a dedicated teen space, community meeting rooms, and a café. The building was designed by Richard Fleischmann + Partners, with Ozanne Construction Company.

The Clearwater Public Library System, FL, will hold the final design meeting on September 19 for the **Countryside Branch.** The new \$6.4 million facility, designed by Harvard Jolly Architects, replaces the existing 16,000 square foot 1988 building with one that measures 22,500 square feet, located in Countryside Community Park. The new building will include an expanded children’s section, a new young adult space, and an open, welcoming appearance that makes the most of its park setting.

The groundbreaking for the renovation and expansion of the main facility of the **City of Palo Alto Library** took place on June 25. The original 26,300 square foot library, which houses a 5,000 square foot basement, opened in 1958. The current project, which concludes a three-part construction plan funded through Measure N bonds, includes a 4,000 square foot addition for high-tech activities, group study space, a teen center, and site improvements that focus on historic restoration and sustainable upgrades per LEED requirements. The \$17.7 million effort is designed by Group 4 Architecture, Research + Planning, with construction management by NOVA Partners, Inc., and contractor S.J. Amoroso.

Send information on groundbreakings and ongoing and completed building projects to blfox@mediasourceinc.com

lieves she is close to bringing that number to 16. Still, they pose a monumental loss of service to Miami's K–12 students, particularly because some of the libraries slotted to shut down are near Miami-Dade County public schools. For example, West Kendall Regional, a 39,000 square foot facility and one of the original 22 tapped to close, is a ten-minute walk from Felix Varela Senior High School and on the same block as Hammocks Middle School.

In the coming weeks, Martinez is analyzing schedules, community needs, and the geographic locations of the branches in an attempt to stretch library resources and save some of the endangered branches. She's also looking at partnerships to offset costs, possibly reducing hours, and considering ways the library funds services.

School libraries may also be potential partners, said Albert Pimienta, instructional supervisor of library media services for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, who said public school personnel are expecting to meet with the mayor's office and the public library "on what the impact may be," he said.

School libraries do work with the public libraries in Miami-Dade by cross-promoting events and encouraging students to get public library cards, among other activities, he said. But school libraries are not meant to support public needs, added Pimienta. While 343 of the city's schools have libraries, not all are staffed with certified media specialists. Some have clerical staff members who handle circulation duties but sometimes for just a few hours a day.

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JSTOR has partnered with Swets to make its ebooks available through the latter's Swets-Wise service. The agreement gives users access to over 20,000 ebooks from the Books at JSTOR collection.

The Ames Free Library, North Easton, MA, received a \$40,000 grant from the State of Massachusetts. The funding will support its learning hub at the 19th-century mansion Queset House, which is owned by the library.

Auto-Graphics, Inc., installed its VERSO integrated library system (ILS) at 95 Tennessee libraries. The project contributes to the 2011 initiative to create a statewide ILS and allows patrons access to all participating branches.

Credo now allows Homework Help (HH), a virtual classroom, to be purchased as a stand-alone service, in addition to being included in its Literati solutions packages. Additionally, HH now includes a widget that can be embedded into any website.

Backstage Library Works and the University of Pennsylvania have partnered to catalog the Gershwind-Bennett Isaac Leeser Digital Repository, which features the personal

papers of Isaac Leeser, Jewish lay minister, author, translator, editor, and publisher. The collection contains more than 2,100 letters and can be accessed through full-text searches.

The Motion Picture Licensing Corporation (MPLC), an independent copyright licensing agency, has partnered with EGEDA, which represents Spanish and Latin American producers, through the MPLC Umbrella License. The deal allows MPLC legally to exhibit more than 50,000 Spanish-language productions from EGEDA.

The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) published the fifth edition of *Information Services and Use: Metrics and Statistics for Libraries and Information Providers—Data Dictionary*, which assists in the collection and interpretation of statistical data on American libraries. The dictionary is available in open access format on the NISO website or as a downloadable PDF.

Correction: We previously published a list of honorees in the article White House Honors Library Champions (*Hotline*, 6/24/13). Jamie Hollier, Project Manager for DigitalLearn.org, was also named a Champion of Change.

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"I don't think our intent is to serve the public at large," he said. "I would be hard-pressed to see how we could serve the public if it came to that."

Services Offer Ready-To-Launch Library Websites

Library web hosting provider LISHost this month launched Library CMS, a modular, Drupal-based content management system template tailored to the needs of library websites. The move follows the March debut of Prefab, a WordPress-based CMS template designed for libraries by user experience (UX) consultancy Influx. Both are offered in conjunction with web hosting and are positioned as affordable, comprehensive website re-

design services for individual libraries and small systems.

With Prefab, "The goal was to make a design that is as universal as possible for libraries, because so many small and medium-sized libraries are out there trying to solve the same design problems," said Aaron Schmidt, a principal of Influx and *LJ's* The User Experience columnist.

Sean Fitzpatrick, developer for LISHost, also saw an opportunity in the market. "In our custom end-to-end jobs [producing websites for libraries], we were hearing a lot of the same requests and tackling the same issues, so we thought, why don't we offer this as a package?" he explained. "Features like the online resource directory and the events calendar were common fea-

tures that we were developing over and over again. We just thought we could roll them into one CMS package.”

Both templates use responsive web design (RWD) techniques to optimize a site’s content for tablet or mobile access. Both also include features popular with library websites, such as events listings, news feeds, and resource directories. With WordPress and Drupal functioning as the back-end content management systems of Prefab and Library CMS, respectively, librarians won’t need to know HTML to add or remove content, link the sites to their ILS, or make minor modifications, such as swapping out images.

Both templates were also designed by librarians. Led by Fitzpatrick and LISNews.org founder Blake Carver, LISHost has offered hosting services to libraries and library-focused publications since 2002. And Influx is helmed by Schmidt, a former library

director, along with Amanda Etches, head of discovery and access for the University of Guelph, Ont.

Pricing is similar for both services. For Prefab, a \$1,500 setup fee and a \$500 per year hosting fee include initial setup, information architecture and navigation suggestions, domain setup help, back-end training, and email and phone support. Library CMS currently offers a similar package for a \$1,495 setup fee and \$450 per year hosting fee. The firm will negotiate lower prices for very small institutions. Additional customization and development are available from both providers on an à la carte basis.

UK Report: Pay Authors for Library Ebook Loans

Last year, the British government commissioned a review of e-lending in public libraries in England. Led

by William Sieghart, founder of the Forward Prizes for Poetry, the panel sought input from a broad spectrum of stakeholders to inform recommendations about library ebook lending. Among those who contributed to the review were the Society of Authors (SoA), Chartered Institute for Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), and *The Bookseller*, as well as the Publishers Association (PA).

The report was published on March 27. Unlike in the United States, where authors are only compensated for the first sale of their book, in the UK, authors are paid by the government when their books are borrowed at libraries under something called the public lending right (PLR). The Sieghart report recommended that the PLR be extended to include on-site borrowing of ebooks, and that legislative changes be made to allow this to be expanded to off-site lending as well. The report also recommended increasing the PLR pot to pay for these additions and that the life span of a library ebook be limited. The report did not, however, champion the PA’s 2010 proposal to prevent remote borrowing of ebooks, recommending that both remote and on-site e-lending be offered to patrons for free.

On July 9, culture minister Ed Vaizey confirmed that the government would be implementing the recommendation to extend PLR to ebooks borrowed on-site, affirming in a letter to the SoA that the implementation as to take place “in time for the PLR loans sample year beginning July 2014.”

In its response to the recommendations, the government agreed that the PLR should recompense authors for remote loans and called the needed law “an amendment we will seek to pursue in future parliamentary sessions.” However, so far, there has been no indication as to when this amendment will be added.

People

Beth Bidlack, Director of Columbia University’s Burke Library, New York, was elected President of the American Theological Library Association. She previously served as Vice President during the 2012–13 term.

Yvonne Davis, Library Acquisitions Coordinator at Francis Marion University, Florence, SC, received the Ethel Bond Memorial Consumer Award from the National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc., for bringing Health Care Partners, Inc., to her community.

Ian Demsky was named Web Content Strategist in the User Experience Department at the University of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor. He was previously Associate Director of Publications for the university’s medical school.

Amy Duernberger was named Electronic Resources Librarian at Newberry College, SC. She previously held the same title at South Carolina State Library, Columbia.

Kelly Moore has left her position as Executive Director of the Canadian Library Association (CLA). **Barb Clubb**, a Past President of CLA, was appointed Acting Executive Director until a replacement can be found.

Anna Perricci was named Web Archiving Project Librarian at Columbia University, New York. She was formerly a User Services Associate at ARTstor.

Eva Poole has been appointed Director of Virginia Beach Public Library, effective August 16. She was Chief of Staff at the District of Columbia Public Library.

Ann Wilson Snively retired as Director of Wright Memorial Public Library, Dayton, after 23 years with the library.

Joe Williams was named Director of Public Services at the University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill. He was previously Head of Access Services and Digital Media Commons at the Greensboro campus.

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