



KnitFit Community Knit-a-thon 2018

Hello Everyone!

This will be our **11th Annual KnitFit Community Knit-a-thon!**
The event will take place at the McConnell Library in Sydney on **Sat Feb 24th**
from 10 am – 5 pm. (Snow date will be Sat March 3rd)

Here are some answers to frequently asked questions about the event:

WHAT IS IT?

- 1) The **KnitFit Knit-a-thon** is a fundraising charitable event where knitters and crocheters can donate their time and talent to help Cape Breton families and support children's literacy programs at the library.
- 2) This year we will celebrate at the **McConnell Library** in Sydney **from 10am to 5 pm on Saturday, February 24th, 2018.** There may be smaller gatherings at individual branches as well.
- 3) Before Christmas 2017, **over 450** knitted/crocheted items already collected were donated to charities that provide free clothes to families in need in Cape Breton and Victoria Counties, including the Salvation Army "Clothe-a-Family Campaign", the Every Woman's Centre (Adopt-a-Family), Transition House, the Cape Breton Regional Hospital Neonatal and Mother & Baby units, Loaves and Fishes, the Men's Homeless Shelter, and the Access 808 Youth Resource Centre in Sydney.
- 4) We will donate collections received by the end of March 2018 to these and other local charities that provide free clothing to the community.
- 5) Participants are asked to get friends and family to sponsor their efforts at the Knit-a-thon. A registration/pledge sheet is available at each branch and online at www.cbri.ca. All money donated will be used to support **Children's Literacy programs** at the CBRL. This could include the Summer Reading program, Story time library programs for different ages, teen programs and other children's programs we'd like to offer.

WHO CAN COME? ANYONE!

- 6) Knitters and crocheters are welcome to come for all or part of the day. We are encouraging both **new and experienced knitters** to attend. Several experienced knitters will be on hand to help new knitters learn with simple projects. Members of the public who would just like to see what is going on are welcome to come as well.
- 7) Any finished items or supplies that you would like to donate can be dropped off at any library branch before the Knit-a-thon, or brought to the Knit-a-thon on Feb 24th.

HOW DO I JOIN IN?

- 8) Pick up a **Pledge form** at a local library branch (or download one from www.cbri.ca), then ask friends and family to sponsor you. These funds will be used for Children's Literacy programs at library branches in Cape Breton and Victoria Counties.

**If you do not wish to collect pledges, you are encouraged to make a donation of your choice to participate.*

- 9) Come to the McConnell Library between **10 am and 5 pm** on **Feb 24th** to knit or crochet. Donated yarn and needles will be available to use or you can bring your own project.
- 10) Participants can start knitting an item on the Knit-a-thon day, bring one in progress, or bring finished items. Or you can come and watch, cheer the crafters on, or sponsor another knitter.
- 11) Participants are asked to please note on the form whether or not each sponsor requires a **charitable tax receipt**. If so, please include a **full address on the form, including postal code**. Receipts can be issued for donations of \$10 or more.
- 12) If unable to come on Feb 24th, you can still participate by donating finished items, supplies, or pledges through any library branch before the Knit-a-thon.

- 13) If there is a bad storm, we will reschedule to Sat March 3rd 10am–5 pm.

Your branch will be notified on Friday Feb 23rd if we will be rescheduling.

DO YOU HAVE TO BE A KNITTER TO HELP OUT? No!

- 14) As we said before, both **knitters** and **crocheters** are welcome to come for all or part of the day, and the public is welcome to come and observe.
- 15) We are encouraging both new and experienced crafters to attend.
- 16) **Anyone** can support the Library and the Knit-a-thon by donating money to the branches (*please make sure to obtain the donors full name and address including postal code), and yarn, needles, or finished goods in the Donation Box provided to each branch **before** the Knit-a-thon date.
(good chance to clean out your closet!)
- 17) **Anyone** can donate money, yarn, needles, or knitted goods **at** the Knit-a-thon, as well.

WHAT ELSE WILL BE GOING ON?

- 18) The regular McConnell **Saturday Storytimes** will be held at 10:30 am, and at 2:30 pm. Families are encouraged to observe, join in with the knitting and/or expose their children to the craft.
- 19) A **light lunch** (sandwiches and finger food) will be provided from 12:00 to 1:30 for participants. Lunch will be provided through the generosity of the **NSCC Culinary Arts Department**. Afternoon tea will also be provided.
- 20) We receive many donations of **door prizes** for participants from yarn stores and producers, as well as local businesses and generous patrons. You have to be in attendance and participating on the day of the Knit-a-thon to be eligible to win a door prize. If you know of anyone who wishes to donate a door prize, please contact Chris at 902-562-3279.
- 21) Participants don't have to be really quiet in the library today! This will be a fun day, so conversation and sharing with other knitters and interested patrons will be encouraged to create a buzz!
- 22) The crafters will congregate in the open **Program Room** and the adjacent part of the Children's Library. There will also be areas for knitters around the library if numbers warrant.

23) Members of the **Unspun Heroes** spinning group and the **Sydney Weavers Guild** will be on hand to demonstrate hand spinning and weaving as well.

24) The **Nova Scotia Room** at McConnell will be used for the light lunch. The registration table, donated yarn and tea will be set up in the **Program Room**, and prize draws will occur there later in the afternoon.

We ask participants to keep food and drink in these two rooms.

25) If projects are not completed during the day, participants are encouraged to finish them at home, bring them to the library when completed and put them in the large trunk by the program room.

WHO'S IDEA WAS THIS ANYWAY?!

26) The KnitFit Knit-a-thon was the idea of two young knitters from Sydney, Carrice (Suomu) Koffman and Sidney Reid. It began as a challenge from the website www.ravelry.com when one person offered to send out a ball of yarn or fibre a day so long as the recipient used the yarn to make something for charity. Carrice took up the challenge and decided, "Why stop there!" And here we are...11 years later!

The Cape Breton Regional Library, Every Woman's Centre, the NS Dept of Community Services, Loaves and Fishes, Transition House, the Salvation Army, Access 808 and several other local charities who have received the products made by Knit-a-thon participants, thank Carrice and Sidney for their vision!

Sadly, Carrice passed away unexpectedly in 2013, but our team of volunteers intend to carry on Carrice's vision as long as we can!

If you have any questions, please contact:

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