

Cape Breton Regional Library

Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting

December 9, 2019

- The 2019 Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA) and Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (LBANS) conference held at the White Point Beach Resort in October was excellent. CBRL sent 6 staff members and 2 board members to the conference. Staff who attended the conference reported that they were grateful for the opportunity to get to know each other better, network with staff from other regions, and to learn and grow – both professionally and personally. CBRL will be hosting the conference in 2020 at the Holiday Inn.
- We have welcomed a number of new staff to the CBRL team:
 - Nicky Duenkel, Victoria County Outreach Services
 - Madison Paulozza, Librarian Internship
 - Phyllis Smith, Glace Bay Public Library
- **In Memoriam**

Thelma Howley, a former CBRL employee passed away. Ian MacIntosh remembered her fondly “Thelma was working at the Glace Bay Library when I started here in 1982. She was a part-time employee and worked with CBRL for 15 years. Thelma was a grand person, kind-hearted and also full of fun”. The Board made a donation to Hospice Palliative Care in memory of Thelma.
- Year to date circulation is 204,643. In October 2018 our circulation was 217,000. The decrease would be a result of Glace Bay’s closure from May-September.
- Glace Bay Grand Opening took place on Saturday, October 5th. The event kicked off with a speech from Mayor Clarke and ribbon cutting ceremony. There were refreshments, face painting and a puppet show for the children. The afternoon wrapped up with a sing-along and stories with Anna and Elsa from the Frozen movie. The afternoon was a success! A special thank you to Steve Gillespie for finding sponsorships for the advertising and live broadcast of the Grand Opening.
- The Florence Library has been renamed the Wesley J. Stubbert Memorial Library. A new sign was erected and a dedication ceremony took place on Monday, October 28th. Library staff were unavailable to attend due to our in-service. A special thank you to the Board members who attended.
- Bill Conall, CBRL’s Storyteller in Residence has been busy making connections throughout our region offering an ‘Evening of Storytelling’ program at the Louisbourg Playhouse, Glace Bay and Baddeck library branches. Bill will also visit the Ingonish Library this December to meet with their Book Club.
- One very popular new addition to McConnell Library’s fall programming is ‘Music for Tots’. The Library was approached by Andrew Hamilton, a father with some musical teaching experience to offer his time and talent to host a musical drop in program. We’ve hosted five sessions over the fall and have had between 40 – 60+ participants at each. Parents and children love this program.
- Nimbus organized a book launch for Lesley Crewe’s latest book ‘Are You Kidding Me?!’ at the Glace Bay Library. Lesley was pleased to be one of the first programs hosted in the new Glace Bay branch.

- Mi'kmaq poet Rita Joe was the subject of a wonderful evening event in early November. Francis Sylliboy (one of Rita Joe's daughters) shared some of her mother's poems and memories of Rita Joe as a mother, poet, activist, elder and inspiration. This program was sponsored by NSPL.
- Ron Caplan and Bonnie Thompson launched their sixth volume of Cape Breton's Christmas Stories – always an evening of heartwarming memories and stories.
- The Library continues its fundraising efforts with book sales, adopt-a-book, and some future events such as the annual escape room and The Great Big Book and Bake Sale
- New Horizons For Seniors - On October 29, through the support of Government of Canada's New Horizons for seniors, CBRL contracted a program coordinator to organize and facilitate fifteen programs for seniors at New Waterford Library and Glace Bay Library starting early December.