



# Cape Breton Regional Library

Highlights

March 9, 2020

## **Regional Librarians Report**

Year to date circulation is 290,090. Since April 2019 CBRL has held close to 2400 programs with an attendance of 31,300 people! Our program spaces are also heavily used by community groups throughout CBRL.

## **Service, Programs, and Operational Review**

The RFP for a third study of the New Central Library was advertised on Tuesday, Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. The application deadline is March 12<sup>th</sup>. It is expected that the contract will be awarded in April with a completion date of July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

## **Central Library Build Committee**

The Central Library Build Committee met on January 15<sup>th</sup> and February 18<sup>th</sup>. Effective December 2019, HRDL was given an 18 month extension on their proposal to build the Sydney Library on the waterfront.

## **Collections**

With the abundance of snow our winter gear collection has been more popular than ever. We currently have 100 sets of snowshoes in our libraries. They are incredibly popular with at times long waiting lists. We purchased 10 additional sets in the most sought after sizes to help with wait times.

We've added Light Therapy Lamps to our collection. The purpose of Light Therapy Lamps is to help alleviate the symptoms of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)

CBRL has had a twinning partnership with the Highland Regional Library, Inverness, Scotland for many years. Each year the Highland Regional Library sends us books published in Scotland, and we send their Region books about Cape Breton/Nova Scotia. Over the years there have been many unique titles added to our collection through this twinning arrangement. We recently received a large box of new books from Scotland. These are being catalogued and will be placed at branches across our Region.

### **Programing**

Family Literacy Day was celebrated at the McConnell, Glace Bay and New Waterford library branches at the end of January. Organizing partners for McConnell's event included the Adult Learning Assoc. of CB County and Family Place Resource Ctr. A gift of new books to giveaway was donated by CB Coalition for Social Justice and thanks to the funding support from Sydney Credit Union for Super Saturday programming, we paid for the talented Duncan Wells to kick-off the afternoon with a medley of favourite children's songs.

A New Horizons for seniors grant has helped to boost activities for seniors in both the Glace Bay and New Waterford Library branches. The generous grant has paid for an energetic and organized program coordinator, fees for presenters, money for equipment & supplies, and refreshments. The coordinator reported that the sessions were a little slow to take-off but after an article in the CB Post all sessions have been full (often with a waiting list too). Before developing the series the coordinator met with library staff in Glace Bay and New Waterford and a few seniors' groups in the area to get some input on what types of activities to include in the series. The programs to date have included, Christmas crafts; Christmas sing a long; Emergency Preparedness; Spa Day; Armchair Yoga; Cookie decorating; Beginner painting; Valentine Social and Healthy eating. The programs are about having fun and being active, and also seniors looking forward to the weekly activities ~ judging from the positive feedback and the numbers in attendance, it's a mission accomplished!

CBU's 'Let's Talk Science' series for ages 8-12 continues to be offered in four library branches (Glace Bay, New Waterford, North Sydney and McConnell). The activities and university student facilitators have been very engaging– creating excitement and enthusiasm for learning about science.

Our library spaces have been part of CBRM's 'Taste of Winter' campaign. A series called 'Songs & Stories' was offered in Glace Bay & McConnell and Wilfred Oram Library will host this evening program in March. A photography workshop was hosted at the McConnell Library and an animated short films program will take place at the Glace Bay Library during March Break.

Library branches continue to offer regular programs in their spaces – Book Clubs, Knitting & Crafting drop-ins, a variety of children's activities, films, workshops, lectures, etc. and when program spaces are not being used for library hosted events they are often booked by the community for meetings.

African Dance & Drum workshops (Baddeck, Glace Bay & McConnell) hosted in our Library branches but brought to us by the Maritime Centre for African Dance.