



## **Cape Breton Regional Library**

Highlights - December 14, 2020

### **Regional Librarians Report**

#### **Library Services amid COVID**

There have been significant changes to how our programs and services are offered since March 2020. This time last year library staff were planning our annual Gaudy Night program knowing full well to expect large crowds that would likely exceed our program space. Fast forward one year later, large and small public libraries across the country have removed furnishings, installed barriers and now enforce capacity limits. These measures are proven strategies to help decrease the spread of COVID. Despite these limitations, library staff are busy finding innovative ways to engage with our communities. We are not strangers to change. In my opinion library staff are champions of innovation and always rise to the challenge of reinventing our spaces and programs.

#### **Programs**

'Grab & Go' craft kits remain popular in a number of CBRL branches – since starting this craft initiative in the summer we are close to reaching the 5000 mark in bags given out.

The weather this fall co-operated into early October and allowed Fibre lunch programs in Sydney and North Sydney to continue outdoors in community parks and the Sydney Library organized a 4-week beginner chair yoga series at the Bandshell in Wentworth Park.

To help seniors get comfortable with the technology that helps to connect us, especially in this strange time the Sydney library has hired a part-time student to teach tech training one-on-one and Baddeck Library staff have partnered with Victoria County Home Support Service and Victoria County Senior Safety to share devices and training with seniors in their community too.

'Kids in the Kitchen' is a food program that we are piloting thanks to provincial funding support. The program idea was created by Halifax Public Libraries. It's an idea that can be shared with families to do at home. It is ideal in this time of limited numbers in public places. We registered 20 families and Tara and Chris from the Sydney Library have had a weekly routine of grocery shopping on Mondays and delivering to the 20 families on Tuesday.

On a smaller scale, but following the idea of 'Crafts to Go' the McConnell Library has offered "Snacks to Go" and plans to broaden this offering to all CBRL branches this winter. "Snacks to Go" at the Sydney Library was just as it sounds – Program staff shopped for healthy, non-perishable snacks; brown bagged them and placed them on a table for anyone to take.