

Cape Breton Regional Library

Highlights of the Annual General Meeting

June 13, 2016

- Newly-elected Chair Michael Milburn presented the Board's report for 2015-2016. Mr. Milburn noted that over the past year there are many examples of the ways in which Libraries have made a difference in the lives of individuals and families. Renovations at the New Waterford Urban Centre have provided a new look to the exterior of the building and a refresh to the interior of the Library. The results of the Feasibility Study for a new central Library clearly indicated that a new facility is needed. Mr. Milburn extended thanks to the many individuals who support the Library, and to the staff at Regional Library Branches and Headquarters.
- Christopher Edwards, representing MGM & Associates, provided an overview of the Financial Statements.
- The Regional Librarian provided her report, noting that there was an increase in use across a number of areas of library service over the past year, including attendance at Library programmes, public use of community rooms, and wireless use. Several branches noted an increase in circulation. She noted that public libraries are an essential component of the culture sector. She also noted that operational funding has been frozen for a number of years, and has resulted in difficulties meeting service demands.
- The Regional Librarian highlighted planned projects and work for the coming year. This includes exploring ways to further market and promote library services, work towards improvements to Library facilities, and identifying options for fundraising to meet the Board's fundraising obligations. Work will continue on the Melvin S. Huntington Diaries project and the Peter S. Fraser music collection. Several storytelling projects are underway or in the planning process. She noted that the British Science Museum recently requested permission to use a photograph held in the Katharine McLennan collection for an exhibit. A museum curator located the photograph in a digital collection completed a few years ago.