

## **Cape Breton Regional Library**

### **Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting**

**March 19, 2012**

- The Library Board approved the operating budget for 2012-2013. Regional Libraries will operate at the same funding level as for 2011-2012. The Library is experiencing rising costs across a number of budgetary areas, for which funding has not kept pace. As the current funding formula uses population as the sole determining factor, this is of serious concern for this region as well as other Regional Libraries throughout the Province.
- The Regional Librarian informed Board members that more than 14,500 downloadable audio and e-books have been borrowed since the service was introduced. Some publishers have begun to apply restrictions for use of downloadable books, while others have significantly increased (as much as 300%) the cost for libraries to purchase. The impact of this on Library budgets is of concern.
- An assessment of the building in which the New Waterford Library is housed is being undertaken to identify the work/repairs which will be necessary to remain at that location.
- The Huntington Collection, held at the W.W. Lewis Memorial Library, Louisbourg, is being catalogued for addition into the Library's Integrated Library System. This will increase access to the collection. Due to space restrictions at the Branch, some items in the collection are being temporarily loaned to the Sydney & Louisbourg Railway Historical Society.
- Results of the Feasibility Study on the James McConnell Memorial Library were presented at a public meeting on January 24. While it was determined that the building could be expanded to approximately 35,000 square feet, the cost of carrying out this work would be significant. The majority of the 75 people present were in favour of exploring the possibility of a new site for the Library.
- A pilot project (Library in the Classroom) being carried out through a partnership between Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewy, Eskasoni Elementary and Middle School, and Membertou Elementary School is proving to be very successful. Ten classrooms are now participating in the project.
- Later this year the Library will host a Literacy Roundtable in Victoria County. Representatives from a number of community and government organizations will be invited to participate.
- Tom Urbaniak, the Region's representative on the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (LBANS), provided the Board with an update of LBAN's activities. Of particular note is work being carried out around the delivery of library service to rural communities. A meeting planned for April 11 will address project parameters and identify possible areas of

study.

- The Library recently replaced an older delivery vehicle with a Hyundai Elantra Touring. The vehicles are used to travel to Library Branches for deliveries and programmes.
- Friends of McConnell Library purchased three flat-screen monitors for the McConnell Library circulation counter. They have also provided a \$500.00 donation towards the Region's Adopt-a-Book campaign.
- Friends of McConnell Library, with support from the Regional Library, will hold a fundraising event (All Fool's Night) on April 14. Tickets are \$25.00.
- The annual Read-a-Thon in Wentworth Park will be held on June 16 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friends of McConnell Library are currently planning for this event.
- An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) has been purchased for the Martha Hollett Memorial Library, Sydney Mines Library. This was made possible through the generosity of the community of Sydney Mines and the Bank of Nova Scotia.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Knit-a-Thon, held February 25 at McConnell and March 3 at the Baddeck Public Library, was a success. Over \$1600.00 was raised for children's programmes, and more than 400 handcrafted items were donated to community organizations.
- The Adopt-a-Book Programme is now up and running. Further information is available at [www.cbrl.ca](http://www.cbrl.ca)
- The next used book sale will be held at McConnell Library May 10-19. The Regional Librarian reported that since launching the sale of books through an online site, the Library has sold an average of 1-2 books per day. Revenues will be used to support the day-to-day operations of the Library.
- The Teen Songwriting Contest had 12 submissions. Six finalists will be asked to perform their songs at a public event on March 29. This will be held at McConnell Library at 6:30 p.m. Judges are local singer-songwriters.
- Ken Chisholm, the Region's Storyteller-in-Residence, hosted six half-day Storytelling Workshops throughout the Region. The Library appreciates the support of the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage in making the workshops possible.
- The Baddeck Public Library will hold a series of Health and Wellness seminars for teens. This is being made possible through a grant from the Community Health Board in Victoria County.
- The Community Health Board in Central CBRM has granted \$1500 for healthy snacks for Library programmes offered over the next year.

- Family Literacy Day events were held in six Library Branches.
- Tween Games Night was introduced at the Glace Bay Library in the fall. Interest in this programme has been high.
- Eight branches held programmes in conjunction with March Break.
- Beginning the end of March, the Glace Bay Library will host a drop-in programme every second Friday for parents, caregivers and children between the ages of 0-6 years.