

CAPE BRETON REGIONAL LIBRARY

Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting September 19, 2011 & October 24, 2011

- The official opening of the North Sydney Culture and Heritage Centre was held August 17. Minister of Justice Rob Nicholson officially opened the Centre.
- Cape Breton Regional Municipality has awarded a tender for a Feasibility Study of the James McConnell Memorial Library to Trifos Design Consultants. The study is expected to examine several areas: the physical building ‘envelope’ (with consideration of expansion/renovation possibilities); present use of the facility and trends that will likely impact the future delivery of library services. Results of the study are expected late November/early December.
- Funding towards the purchase of an AED for the Baddeck Public Library was received from the Baddeck Public Library Society and East Coast Credit Union (Baddeck Branch). The Regional Library covered the remaining costs of the purchase.
- Funding received from Bereaved Families of Cape Breton allowed for the addition of a number of books around the topic of grief.
- Use of downloadable audio and e-books continues to rise, with close to 4000 items circulated via download since the first of April. A greater percentage of the downloads are for e-books.
- A pilot project with Membertou and Eskasoni Elementary Schools got underway on October 13. Four classrooms will have Library books delivered each month for in-classroom use. The Regional Librarian reported that First Nations Schools throughout the Province have expressed interest in learning more about the project.
- The Library participated in the Lumiere event held in downtown Sydney on October 1. The Cape Breton County Bookmobile was opened until 9:00pm; and the Library made available the outdoor space near the garage doors & power supply for local bands to set up for performances.
- A spaghetti dinner fundraiser held September 30 raised more than \$1400.00 for Library activities.
- The Library participated in Celtic Colours again this year. Four lunch hour (and very well attended) workshops were held at McConnell Library. CBRL’s Storyteller-in-Residence Ken Chisholm participated in an International Festival Ceilidh which featured music and storytelling.

- Library patrons can now view a new ‘staff picks’ feature on the CBRL website.
- The Library Board approved a new Social Media Policy.
- Tom Urbaniak will replace Claire Detheridge as CBRL’s representative to the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia.
- The age at which parental consent is no longer required for using internet access at public library branches was lowered to 18 years.
- Another successful Summer Reading Programme was held. In June, Library staff visited 51 Grade Two classes to promote the Programme. This year the Library registered more than 100 children over last year. A total of 32 programmes were offered, and were attended by 626 children. More than 8000 books were read in conjunction with the Programme. The Library appreciates the kind assistance of Adopt-a-Library and local area businesses in providing prizes for the Programme.
- The Baddeck Public Library hosted another successful ‘Summer Welcome Series’ in July/August. A total of eight programmes featured a variety of topics, including Beinn Bhreagh; Wildflowers of Cape Breton; The Fiddle Tree; and more.
- Friends of McConnell Library held the Read-a-Thon in Wentworth Park on June 18. Funds raised are in support of Library activities.
- Reading Together Clubs, in partnership with the Adult Learning Association of Cape Breton County, started up again in September in Glace Bay, Louisbourg, and Sydney. This programme is made possible through funding provided through the Family Learning Initiative Endowment Fund.
- Library staff participated in the Raise-a-Reader fundraiser on September 28.
- Used book sales were held in Baddeck and North Sydney. The next booksale will be held at McConnell Library from November 16-19.