

Cape Breton Regional Library

Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting

September 17, 2012

- Renovations to the W. W. Lewis Memorial Library are coming along nicely. New siding, windows, and steps are included in the renovations.
- The official launch for the Breast Cancer Resources Project was held at the McConnell Library on September 6. Representatives from Breast Cancer Action Nova Scotia, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, and the Nova Scotia Provincial Library attended. Joy MacInnis was guest speaker. This Region was chosen as the site for the launch in recognition of the initial work undertaken by CBRL that led to the Province-wide project.
- Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey has approved funding to hire a library assistant for the Library in the Classroom Project. The funding will allow expansion of the project into additional classrooms throughout the 2012-2013 school term.
- The Library was pleased to welcome Bill Greenlaw, Executive Director, NS Dept. of Communities, Culture and Heritage; and Jennifer Evans, Provincial Librarian, for a visit to the McConnell and Wilfred Oram Centennial Libraries on June 22.
- A partnership with the Victoria County Active Living Strategy led to the delivery of a 'Learning Adventure' programme through the Victoria County Bookmobile. A County summer student met the bookmobile for five community stops, during which staff showcased a healthy living book collection, provided healthy snacks, and conducted games and activities to promote healthy living.
- A Teddy Bear Sleepover held at the McConnell was very successful - over 100 people turned out for the event.
- The Summer Reading Programme, with the theme 'Imagine', was very successful. Staff members visited Grade 2 classrooms throughout the area to promote the program. Over 900 children registered for the programme.
- Science Fun Programmes were included in the line-up of activities for Branches this summer. A Young Canada Works grant allowed the Library to hire a Cape Breton University biology student to organize and present science programmes at all Library Branches. Topics included DNA extractions from strawberries; separating hydrogen peroxide into oxygen and water using yeast as a catalyst; density experiments; and more! A Science Career Fair is being organized for September 22.
- Baddeck Public Library hosted another successful 'Summer Welcome Series' during July and August.

- Friends of the McConnell Library held the sixth annual *Read-a-Thon in the Park* on June 16. The Library greatly appreciates the support of the Friends.
- A used book sale was held in Ingonish in July. A used book sale will be held at the McConnell Library in November.
- A hand-knitted alphabet baby blanket was donated to the Library by Martha Hood. Tickets are being sold for a Baby Reading basket, including the blanket. The draw will be held October 4.
- A grant received from New Horizons for Seniors was used to upgrade computer systems in the Gates Lab and to purchase 3 iPads. Computer training programmes for seniors are being developed.
- The Library will hold a spaghetti dinner as a fundraiser on Friday, September 21.
- There will be music...it may be loud...and it will definitely not be business as usual at the McConnell Library during the evening of September 29. The Library will participate in *Lumière* by hosting a variety of musical acts from the local community. The program is being made possible through a grant from Nova Scotia's Dept. of Communities, Culture and Heritage.
- The Board approved new Purchasing Guidelines and reviewed and amended the Vacation Leave Policy.
- In recent years the funds available to allocate to the Library Materials Budget have decreased. The Regional Librarian explained that this comes at a time when the Library needs to purchase materials in various formats (print, audio, e-book, dvd, database, etc.). The cost of purchasing e-books has risen significantly in recent months and this is significantly impacting the Library's purchasing capability. The Board approved additional funds be used from the Book Reserve Fund to supplement the budget.
- The Regional Librarian presented information received in response to a request regarding a quote for an evaluation of the Library Board's Employee Pension Plan. The Board directed the Regional Librarian to make further enquiries, following which the Board will decide whether or not to pursue the option presented.