

Cape Breton Regional Library

Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting

December 7, 2015

- **Renovations – New Waterford Library**

Renovations are near completion at the New Waterford Library. Circulation is expected to be significantly impacted for this fiscal year, due to the renovations which have been ongoing throughout the summer and fall months. With the main entrance closed, and with areas of the Library not accessible and programmes cancelled, the number of visits and library use decreased.

- **New Central Library – Feasibility Study**

A feasibility study for a new central library is underway. A series of focus groups, a public consultation session and staff workshop were held in October. More than 100 people attended the public consultation session. Results are expected near the end of January.

- **Cape Breton Island Learning Communities Initiative**

The Cape Breton Island Learning Communities Initiative (comprised of founding members representing Cape Breton University, New Dawn Centre for Social Innovation, Adult Learning Association of Cape Breton County and the Cape Breton Regional Library) held its inaugural meeting with various community organizations on November 6 in Wagmatcook. The Committee will be reaching out to a broader base of organizations to foster learning initiatives across the Island.

- **Huntington Diaries**

Twenty-six of the Melvin S. Huntington diaries are now available through CBRL's website.

- **One Book Nova Scotia**

CBRL welcomed One Book Nova Scotia author Darren Greer to the Region on October 14.

- **Community Access Programme**

The CAP Society of Cape Breton County recently disbanded their office in Sydney. The Coordinator now works out of McConnell Library, Sydney, for 15 hours per week.

- **Social Economic Conditions**

The Library sees firsthand the social and economic struggles that our community deals with and how difficult it can be to overcome these challenges. A recent report on child poverty found that the riding of Cape-Breton Victoria has the highest rate of child poverty in Nova Scotia. The Library is a very important community asset that provides programmes and services at no charge to the user – including reading materials, children's programmes, and public computer access.

- **Fair eBook Pricing**

Canadian Public Libraries for Fair eBook Pricing (of which CBRL is a member) has formed to raise awareness of high eBook prices charged by multinational publishers. Libraries are often charged unreasonable and much too high prices for digital content by publishers, and the intent of this campaign is to raise awareness around the restrictions this creates on content available to the public. The tremendous strain this places on library budgets poses a long term challenge, and creates a huge barrier for public libraries as they try to provide universal access to content in all forms.

- **Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (LBANS)**

Information regarding LBANS was distributed to Library Board Members. The Board remains very concerned about the present funding level to the Regional Library.