



CBRL ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



WELCOME



Over the past year, CBRL returned to what we know and do best—welcoming our communities with open arms. As restrictions around the pandemic lifted, we were so happy to resume the number of programs and opportunities for learning and connection. Our circulation statistics and patron visits are rising again and finally beginning to look normal. If that's not reason enough to celebrate, this year we launched Same Page - a brand new and improved library experience allowing our patrons limitless access to materials across Nova Scotia. Same Page reduces barriers to library services, and we are excited about its endless possibilities.

Reflecting on all that we accomplished over this last year, a theme emerges: is that CBRL is making a real difference in people's lives. Our services and programs help people address real-life issues like reducing non-essential spending or learning a new language. The following pages show how our libraries provided connection and community-building opportunities in a fun and relaxed environment.

Our libraries buzz with positive energy, and you don't have to look too far to find the source. It's the staff. CBRL is a workforce of 60 plus employees who each play an essential role in delivering forward-thinking, responsive and innovative library services. It is a privilege to work alongside them.

CBRL is grateful for our many partnerships within our communities and acknowledges that our endeavors would not be possible without these meaningful collaborations. To the staff at Provincial Library, CBRM and Victoria County, thank you for your continued support.

Lisa Mulak,
Regional Librarian | CBRL

CBRL BOARD 2022-2023

Victoria County

Terry Murray (from March 2020)

Councillor Barbara Longva (from December 2020)

Cape Breton Regional Municipality:

Councillor Eldon MacDonald, Chair (from November 2022)

Douglas MacLennan, Vice-Chair (from March 2023)

Councillor Glenn Paruch (from November 2022)

Councillor Steve Gillespie (from November 2022)

Kathy MacIntyre (from March 2023)

Province of Nova Scotia

Murdoch Moore (from August 2020)

Michelle Smith (from May 2021)

CBRL BRANCHES

Louisbourg

Sydney

Reserve Mines

Main-a-Dieu

Ingonish

Sydney Mines

North Sydney

Baddeck

Florence

New Waterford

Dominion

Glace Bay



CBRL BRANCHES

The Cape Breton Regional Library Bookmobile

The Bookmobile serves many rural areas, offering convenient access to those who cannot visit one of the library's 12 branches. It visits over 50 locations across Cape Breton and Victoria Counties.



Victoria County Outreach

Victoria County Outreach provides library services to Alderwood & MacLeod House in Baddeck. Outreach staff also appear at special events throughout Victoria County and arrangements can be made to have Outreach staff visit local organizations, businesses, or school groups.




2022 - 2023

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



30,000

people reached
with programs &
outreach



SamePage.


That's

4,674

NEW Library
members!!

23,470

Library
members



After years of hard work and planning, Same Page was launched on April 21! Same Page is a partnership between eight regional libraries from across Nova Scotia. This partnership has given patrons easy access to over 1,000,000 items held within 60 public library branches.



2022 - 2023

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



12,312

New items added to the collection

338,000

Checkouts & Renewals



207,565

Items in CBRL's Collection

2022 - 2023

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



140

visits to schools,
daycares, &
assisted living
centers.



2022 - 2023

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



17,035
seed packets
packaged by library
staff & volunteers

130,000
digital items
borrowed



Library digital downloads are increasing. CBRL offers access to a multitude of streaming services, including **Libby, Kanopy, Hoopla, and PressReader** for digital ebooks, audiobooks, movies, TV shows, newspapers and magazines.

DIGITAL CONNECTIONS

In the past 2 years
we've gained

5000 followers

130,000 likes



Since 2010, CBRL has used social media to share and connect with our patrons and communities in a meaningful and authentic way. The biggest trend we saw this year was a major increase in the popularity of video content, as short-form video has become the dominant form of content on social media. Creating TikToks and Instagram reels adds a new creative dimension to the library's social media content that engages audiences, helps us stand out, and captures people's attention.

We look forward to coming up with new and fun ideas to entertain and inform our audience and continue to grow our platforms!



CBRL's 2022-23 social media campaign included a Staff Spotlight series that promoted engagement and strengthened bonds between staff and patrons across CBRL's 12 branches.

BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY



In April, the multi-year accessibility plan developed by the Interregional Advisory Committee for Library Accessibility (IACLA) was approved by the CBRL Board of Directors. Through continuous training, collection and policy development, the IACLA will play a vital role in recognizing, preventing, and removing barriers for individuals with disabilities across programs, services, initiatives, and facilities. The committee's work is crucial to ensuring that our libraries are welcoming, inclusive, and accepting public spaces to all people.

[Download the Library Accessibility Plan 2022 \(PDF\).](#)



Close-up of Mary reading a picture book Braille/print format. The book shown is “Mortimer” written by Robert Munsch and illustrated by Michael Martchenko.

Mary (left) and Heidi (right) are reading “Mortimer” by Robert Munsch and illustrated by Michael Martchenko in Braille/print format.



CBRL added new accessible formats to the collection in 2022-23, including 70+ Playaway Audiobooks, children's books in AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication), and a complete refresh of the Large Print Collection.

“When people discuss the benefits of inclusion, they often focus on how great it is for children with disabilities. Inclusion is just as valuable and beneficial for families of the child with disabilities. Inclusion and acceptance help us educate people who ask us questions about caring for children with disabilities and provide input to those who facilitate inclusive programs and strive to have inclusive community settings.” -Jenn



Jenn and her daughter Janie are reading the "Want to Tell You" book series at the children's area in the McConnell Library in Sydney. The series helps children connect to the world and people around them using multiple language modalities, including photos, soundboard audio, and American Sign Language (ASL).



LIBRARY OF THINGS

Our library of things has grown! Throughout 2022-2023 CBRL added many useful tools for our community to support learning, inclusion, growth and exploration. We look forward to a world of possibilities as this collection continues to expand!

1. Bicycle repair kits

2. Cubetto Kits

3. iPads & Chromebooks

4. Crochet & Loom Weaving kits

5. Wifi hotspots

6. Blu-ray/DVD players

7. Portable DVD players

8. Home film projectors

5. LIBRARY OF THINGS: highlights

CBRL partnered with @NS Community Technology to offer loans of mobile hot spots with unlimited data. The hot spots connect to your tablet, smart phone, laptop or any other wireless-capable device. The devices operate on the Bell mobility network in any area with access to cellular network service.



BORROW
A WIFI HOTSPOT
FREE INTERNET ACCESS ON THE GO!



2.

DROP IN!
STEAM LEARNING
NORTH SYDNEY LIBRARY



Saturday, October 29th
10 am - 11:30 am
Coding, robotics,
microcontrollers, and
more!

brilliantlabs.ca sarah@brilliantlabs.ca 1-888-220-2735

With Funding From
   



Jessica MacDougall, CBRL STEAM Kit Project Developer, demonstrates Cubetto to a group of children from Island Martial Arts Centre. The library offers science, technology, engineering, arts, and math kits for loan to members. The project was supported by Nova Scotia Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage through the Library Development Fund.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION PRACTICE



This biweekly, drop-in gathering is open for all international community members to meet and practice conversational English. Participants enjoy friendly conversations, play board games, and more! Over the last year our English conversation groups have grown significantly. Currently our groups gather in Glace Bay, Sydney Mines and Sydney.



"As a newcomer, this program has helped me a lot. Not only did I get a chance to practice English, but I also made a lot of new friends. I am so grateful to the library for this program. I will definitely continue to participate."

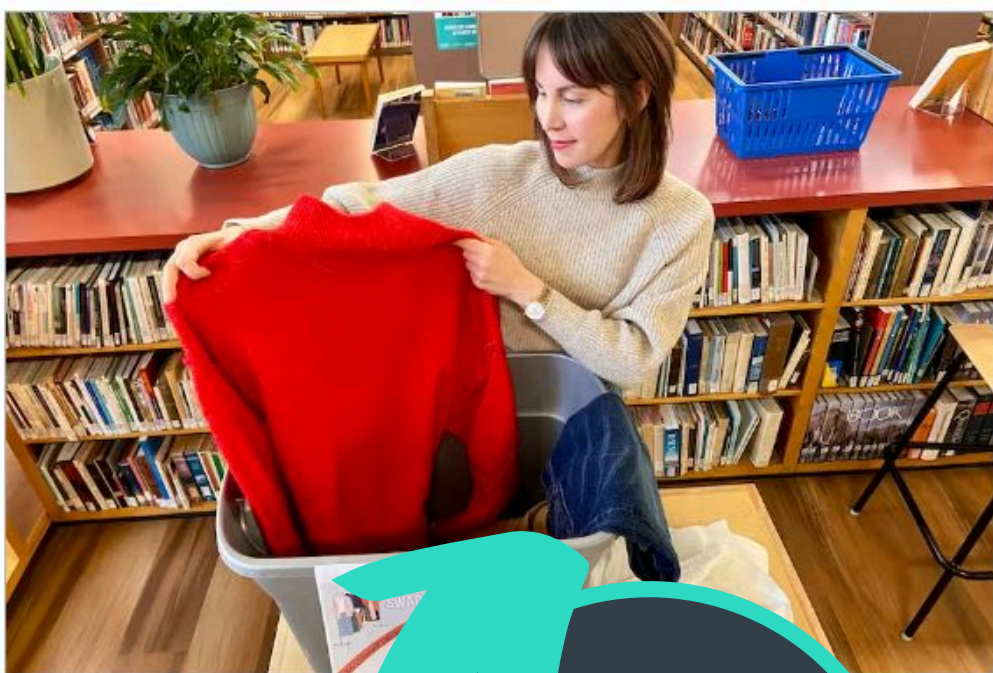
CLOTHING SWAPS



Atlantic Canada > News

Swap shop: Sydney library on to a thrifty idea

Barb Sweet | Posted: Jan. 25, 2023, 5:15 p.m. | Updated: Jan. 26, 2023, 6:41 a.m. | 3 Min Read



Jannette Vusich holds up an item of clothing dropped off at the Sydney branch of the Cape Breton Regional Library, the Sydney branch of the Cape Breton Regional Library.

The Cape Breton Regional Library organized an adult clothing swap to support sustainable initiatives and a sharing economy. Participants could bring up to 10 items and receive a voucher for the same number of pieces. The event was promoted through social media and local media, and over 200 people attended. All additional items were donated to local charitable groups. The clothing swap built community, encouraged civic engagement, and provided an equitable shopping experience for all.



STORYBOOK WALK

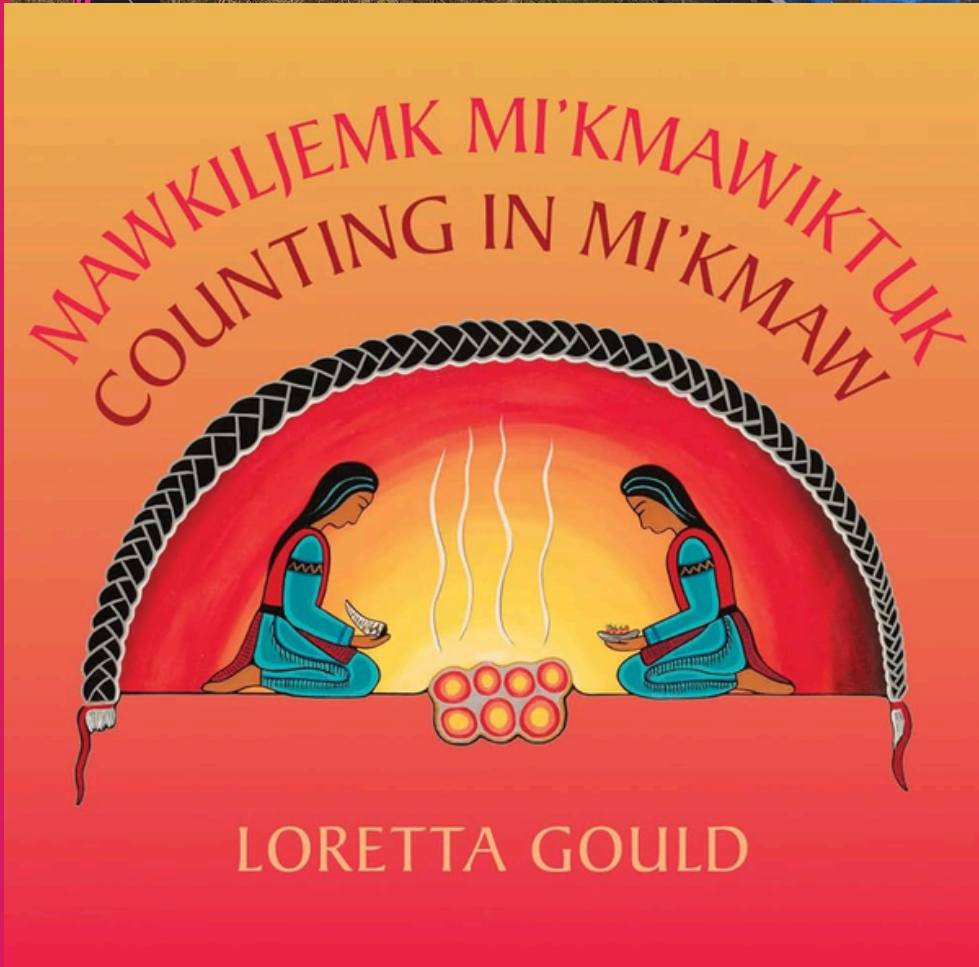


A new CBRL storybook walk was taken to public parks and trails this year. A storybook walk combines literacy with physical movement. Participants can follow the path from page to page and experience a story in the great outdoors.



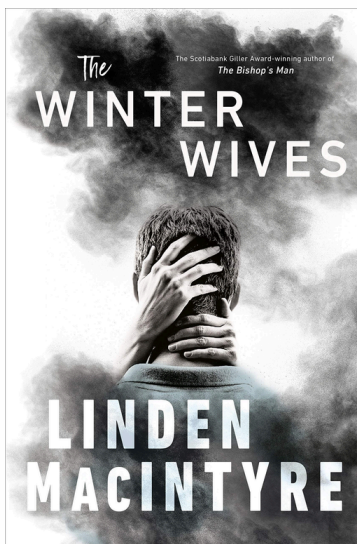
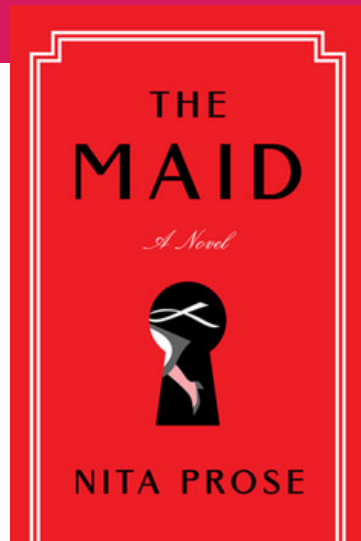
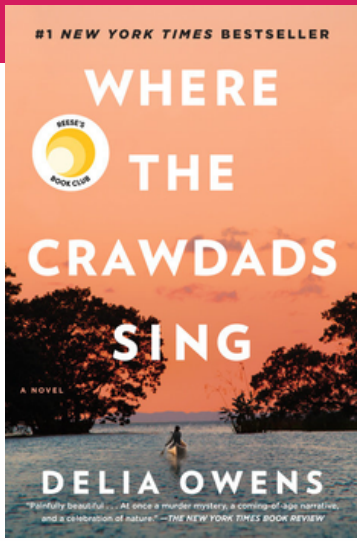
This year's featured story was Loretta Gould's "Counting in Mi'kmaw / Mawkiljemk Mi'kmawiktuk". Mi'kmaq Artist Loretta Gould is a multimedia artist from the We'koqma'q First Nation.

Pictured here is the Elementary class from the John Bernard Croak School in Glace Bay who enjoyed a storybook walk on the Coal Town Trail.

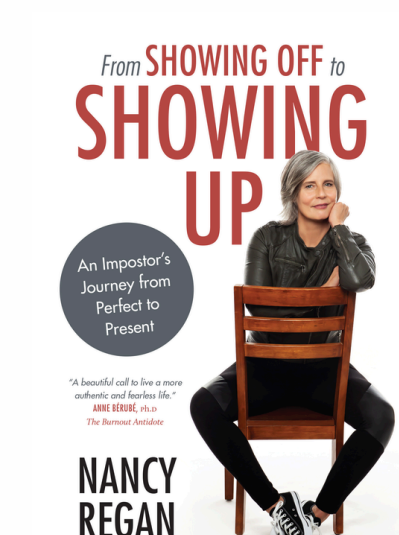
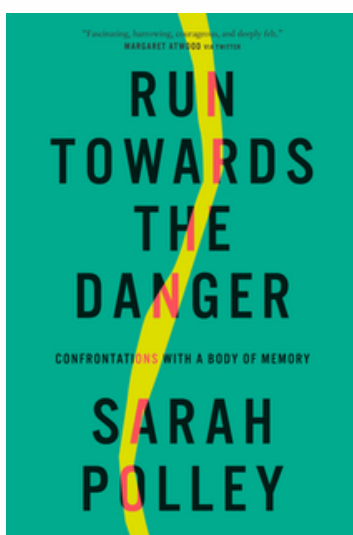
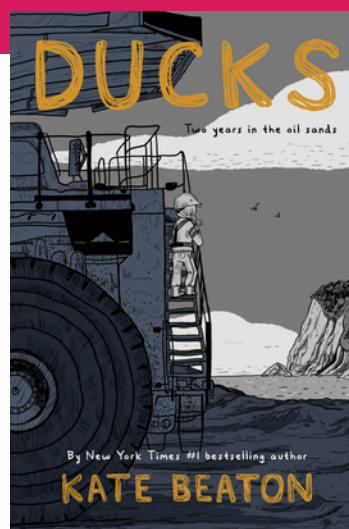


Check out Loretta Gould's art at : mikmaq-artist.com/

2022-23 TOP FIVE FICTION



2022-23 TOP FIVE NON-FICTION



GRATITUDE REPORT

Cape Breton Regional Library would like to thank all of the generous individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, and community partners who contribute their time, voices, and monetary donations to support the work we do.

A big shout-out to our growing group of Friends of the Library for their volunteer work, as they continue to help increase library awareness and assist with fundraising initiatives to support library programs and services. A special note of thanks to CBRM, the Province of NS, and the Government of Canada for investing in our public library system and special projects throughout the region.

ADOPT-A-BOOK DONORS (\$11,028.00)

Baker Hughes

Terry Murray

St. Joseph's CWL

Diane Smith

Martine Remillard

Katherine Robinson

Hans & Marlene Pietschmann

Chiyo Shimizu

Shane Gallant

St. Mary's Polish Parish

Rev. Rickie Robinson

North Sydney Garden Club

Dr. J.P. Martin

Mary Levangie

PayPal Giving Fund

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Frances McClure

Margaret Ann MacKinnon

Margaret Tubrett

Rick & Gloria Farmer

Annie Abdulla

John J. MacNeil

Chrisanna Doyle

GRATITUDE REPORT

Anne Glover
Canadian Federation of
University Women

Ken Heaton
Wayne & Miriam
Almon

*As well as many others who would like to be recognized as
Friends of CBRL*

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Jackey Stubbert, IMO Roddie Stubbert
Island Breast Friends of New Waterford, IMO George Campbell
Peter MacIntosh, IMO Ian MacIntosh
Theresa & Walter Pelley, IMO Ian MacIntosh
Fenton & Gayle Isenor, IMO Ian MacIntosh
Jan Palmer, IMO Ian MacIntosh
North Sydney Garden Club, IMO Yvonne Johnstone
North Sydney Garden Club, IMO Georgie Astephen
Majorie Wilson, IMO Steve O'Brien
Donna Dinaut, IMO Lina Sodys MacDonald
Donna Dinaut, IMO Judy Quinn
Mary Jane Vonnegut, IMO Verne MacIntyre
St. Mary's Polish Parish, IMO Delores Starzomski
A. David Luker, IMO Alec & Margaret Luker
Heather Sanderson, IMO Keith Sanderson
Maureen Grover, IMO George & Theresa Turner
Rotary Club of Sydney-Sunrise, IMO Ian MacIntosh
Shauna Akerman, IMO Sister Madeline Connolly
John & Dorothy Malcom, IMO Lynn Farmer
Elanor & Kenneth Yazer, IMO Doug McGee
Vicki Lynds, IMO Doug McGee
Hazel Kokochi, IMO Pauline "Dolly" Peters
Janet Kokochi, IMO Pauline "Dolly" Peters
Karen Sharpe, IMO Paul Thorburn
Margaret MacDonald, IMO Ruth MacDonald

GRATITUDE REPORT

Judith Webber, IMO Eugene “Binner” Binns
Hazel Kokochi, IMO Eugene “Binner” Binns
Alice Lawson, IMO Brenda (Lawson) Boudreau
Barry & Heather Hopkins, IMO Gloria DiCaesar McDougall
Audrey Hopkins, IMO Gloria DiCaesar McDougall
Margaret MacDonald, IMO Gloria DiCaesar McDougall
Christine Reynolds, IMO Margie Katikos

LIBRARY LEGACY DONORS (\$1600.00)

Many thanks are extended to CBRL’s Library Legacy donors for their generous support for collection development. With a minimum donation of \$500.00, CBRL will purchase a title each year in the donor’s name for life. A Library Legacy Donation is a unique way for an individual, family, business, or organization to make a lasting contribution to their community to help ensure that generations to come will have access to new library resources.

Thank you to our 2022-23 Library Legacy Donors:

R.Howard Webster Foundation, Montreal at \$1100.00
John & Denise McCaull, IMO George Brown at \$500.00

COMMUNITY PARTNER DONATIONS (\$8153.00)

Thank you to our 2022-23 community partners for supporting the work of libraries in CBRM and Victoria County!

Baddeck Lions Club	Jeanne MacDonald
Baddeck Building Supplies	John & Jeanne Eyking Family Foundation
Cape Breton University Library	New Waterford Credit Union
Cheryl and Wayne MacNeil	PayPal Giving Fund
CityPrint+	Ricky Hanes
Elizabeth Calabrese	Sydney Credit Union
ICR Limited	Tom & Sarah Steele

THANK YOU!

