



## CAPE BRETON REGIONAL LIBRARY

Highlights – June 13, 2022

### **Regional Librarian's Report:**

#### **Annual Statistics:**

Our fiscal year closed on March 31 with a total circulation of 306,493. Circulation includes e-book circulation, which has seen a 38% increase since the pandemic started. Annual circulation of materials is on the upswing despite a period in 2021 when branches were closed to the public. Membership has increased since the pandemic began, and Program attendance has seen an increase, too, since the restrictions were lifted.

#### **Same Page Launches**

Same Page has officially launched, providing library patrons across the province with a “smart and new” library catalogue. The new system makes finding materials easier and is a more efficient way of borrowing across the province. As of April, loans between regions have increased by 645%.

#### **NSLA Conference 2022**

This year's conference will be at the Holiday Inn in Sydney. Each year a region takes its turn to plan and host the conference. CBRL was scheduled to host in 2020, but due to COVID-19, the conference was postponed. The conference is aimed at library workers and board members. Currently, the conference planning team is in the process of finalizing the schedule.

#### **Programs:**

March Break 2022 arrived this year with some public health restrictions easing, making a few in-person, registered programs possible at the McConnell Library. Two examples were a puppet show and a sing-along story time. Library staff around the region also planned for some drop-in, passive programs during the week of March Break; these activities included an art cart station, Lego creation kits, and sensory bin play for preschoolers.

Other programs over the spring included: Beginner Gardening, three paint workshops at the New Waterford Library, a Book Launch for 'Mining Country: A History of Canada's Mines and Miners, a 'Lone Poet' program to celebrate Poetry Month, and two library

branches participated in Nova Scotia Walks Day (May 13) by leading leisurely walks around their respective library branches.

The Baddeck Library's Letter Writing Social has been attended by a small but enthusiastic group, and the participants have been so grateful for the dedicated space. The Drama Queens play reading group continues to meet weekly, and the French Conversation Circle has returned to the library, along with Tuesday and Thursday night films and documentaries. Other programs offered through Baddeck Library include Lively Larks (weekly children's programs) and Resilience and Regeneration (gardening program).

### Seed Library:

We launched our 2022 Seed Library on March 29th. This program has been offered for three years running and has needed to be adjusted each year for a variety of reasons: COVID-19 restrictions, funding, etc. One main difference to this year's roll-out was that patrons would visit library branches for their seeds whereas in the last two years there was an online ordering system with a mail-out option.

Seven of our CBRL branches were set-up with self-serve stations; each receiving pre-packaged seeds, signage, sign-up sheets, small shelves to help organize the seeds, and all the supplies needed for someone to package any bulk seeds at the self-serve station. Over 400 people picked up seeds in library branches during the first week of the Seed Library program.

Staff are happy to be back to in-person programming, as we started in April, and the library is definitely feeling more "alive" again!