



CAPE BRETON REGIONAL LIBRARY
Highlights – March 13, 2022

Regional Librarian's Report:

Covid-19 and Library Services

Since the Omicron variant took hold in mid-December, Public Health tightened restrictions, including reduced capacity and social distancing in libraries. As a result, all programs and room bookings were put on hold.

Rapid Test Kits:

Public Health identified libraries as community distribution points for rapid test kits in early December. Approximately 9000 test kits were given out by library staff in just five days. In January, we held an outdoor pop-up distribution for test kits. Following the Public Health directive, the libraries opened at full capacity in March, with masks to be worn at all times when indoors.

In Memoriam

Donnie Ward, a former Reference Librarian with CBRL, passed away on January 25, 2022. Donnie retired in 2008 after 32 years of service. Those of us who worked with Donnie treasured his friendship and knowledge.

Same Page/One Card Nova Scotia:

While initially expected to launch in February, this date has been pushed to April 22nd. Same Page will launch with a new logo and library card on April 22nd.

Programs:

Branch staff have been very creative with passive children's programming over the last few months, offering a wide variety of 'Crafts to go' kits, including activities that help teach (i.e. 'Random Acts of Kindness' display and activity and crafts for African Heritage Month).

In early December, library branches throughout CBRL hosted a program called 'Spread the Love' of books. It was a perfect activity leading into the holiday season, with stations set up at branches with wrapping paper and new children and youth books. Anyone could choose a book to wrap and give to a friend, sibling, grandchild, etc. The 'Spread the Love' of books program was a nice way to get new books to youth.

Winter Reading challenge:

Library staff organized another online Winter Reading Challenge. We had over 150 readers signed up, including babies, children, teens, and adults! The Winter Reading Challenge ended on March 31, 2022.

Online:

The library's TikTok account was created in June of 2021. We were the first public library in Nova Scotia to join TikTok, and it quickly became our fastest-growing social media platform. Currently, we have 1275 followers, and our videos have received 13 000 likes. Our most popular video, which announced Dale's retirement and introduced Mary as the new bookmobile driver, has been viewed over 62,800 times to date. Our second most popular video, which shared that rapid test kits were available for distribution at public libraries, was viewed nearly 19,000 times. TikTok is a great way to promote the library and engage with our audience in a creative, authentic, and fun way.

Seed Library:

We are preparing for our third annual seed library.