



CAPE BRETON REGIONAL LIBRARY
Highlights – December 13, 2021

Regional Librarian's Report:

The Library staff and patrons have successfully transitioned to Phase 5. At the onset of Phase 5, Public Health included libraries where the general public would be required to show proof of vaccination for admittance. This was subsequently changed, requiring patrons to only verify their full vaccination status for in-person programs held at the Library. Public Health provided several resources as we transitioned to this new phase that helped develop library procedures. In addition, feedback from library staff has been crucial as we work through the many scenarios of yet another COVID-19 outbreak.

Since the onset of COVID-19, there has been a 13% decrease in circulation over the last two years. Monthly statistics are, however, on the rise. And the usage of EBooks has increased by 35%. We have returned to in-person programs, and popular programs like Babies and Books are resuming.

We were sad to see some of our long-time staff retire, but we wish them all the best in this next phase of their lives:

- Leona Stockley has worked in the Ingonish Branch for 28 years. Her last day of work was November 19th. A gift of appreciation will be presented to Leona.
- Dale Weatherbee, CBRL's Bookmobile driver, is our longest-serving staff member. She has been with CBRL for 44 years. Her last day of work will be December 17th.
- A retirement party was held for Chris Thomson on October 17th. It was a lovely evening celebrating Chris and the "110%" that Chris gave to CBRL over the years. Chris was instrumental in launching our Community Knit-a-thon, CBRL's Seed Library and many more programs.
- Cynthia McNeil, New Waterford Library, had planned to retire in October. When I visited with Cynthia on her last days of work, she expressed how much she would miss her work; she has since decided to cancel her retirement plans and is now working part-time at the Library.

Staff In-service:

CBRL held our first in-service in 2 years. All library branches are closed for the day. Staff were grateful for the opportunity to come together and share in a relaxed environment.

Same Page/One Card Nova Scotia

We are in the final stages of planning our move to a shared library system and discovery layer. The eight regions outside Halifax have consolidated our circulation policies to provide seamless

and barrier-free library services for Nova Scotians. Under the Same Page model, patrons will be able to use their library cards throughout Nova Scotia, guaranteeing the same level of service and greater access to resources. Work is underway on testing the new system, and staff training has begun. Same Page is expected to launch in February.

Programs:

Book Launch:

Goose Lane Editions Publishing House reached out to the library to host a book launch for *Waterfalls of Cape Breton* by Benoit Lalonde. This was a very popular program and had a wide audience appeal. The launch took place in early November, with 58 people in attendance. Staff member Jonathan Manley attended as an avid hiker and was able to contribute two neat library tie-ins for participants: first, the library's loaning of GPS kits, and second, that the library has original copies of the maps from the 1800s that Benoit Lalonde referenced!

Partnerships:

NS Health offered two wellness series at the McConnell Library this fall. The sessions were run by a Primary Healthcare team and included the following talks: "Be kind to yourself & reduce stress", "Food & mood", and "Meals during the holiday season".

Conversational English:

We continue to recruit newcomers and volunteers to help with 'Conversational English'. The group in Sydney has enjoyed a few get-togethers in our program room, but the conversation piece hasn't moved to in-person for this group yet. A few newcomers have been meeting regularly in North Sydney for conversation practice.