

## A New Library for CBS

Andrew Lockhart

Division Manager, Eastern Division

In exciting news for library patrons and the community of CBS, ground has been broken on the new Conception Bay South Public Library. The official ground-breaking was held by outgoing Mayor Terry French on August 3rd, 2021.

The new library will be a single-story building beside the existing recreation centre across from the Conception Bay South Town Hall.

The library's plans have been finalized: it will be a roughly 8,000 square foot structure, with dedicated programming areas, a makerspace, a green energy project with solar panel system, and an outside reading garden. The interior space will be open, bright, and flexible.

Preparation of the site, including connecting services and pouring the foundation, started in the summer and will continue until winter 2022. Work on the structure will begin in the spring. The library is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

We're very excited about this new building and look forward to serving Conception Bay South and the surrounding area with what promises to be a beautiful addition to the community.

Deidra [Howlett, LA] and I are so excited for the new library to be finished. We've been waiting a long time for a new space that will allow us to offer so much more to the community in terms of programming, events, and just becoming a hub for our continually growing town.  
--Rebecca Stone, CBS  
LTIIA



A 3D Rendering of the new CBS Public Library



Former CBS Mayor Terry French, Bonnie Morgan, Andrew Hunt, Susan Prior, and Andrew Lockhart.



The construction site of the new CBS Public Library

A 3D rendering and tour of the future Conception Bay South public library can be found on Youtube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzCcTGd1QWA>

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*What to read next?*

**FIND YOUR NEXT GREAT READ!**

Remember to check out our What to Read Next Libguide, at [guides.nlpl.ca/ReadNext](https://guides.nlpl.ca/ReadNext)



Some of the HQ staff dressed up for Halloween and collected donations for their local SPCA.

2022

# NL READS

4 Books ■ 4 Opinions ■ 1 Winner



## NL Reads 2022

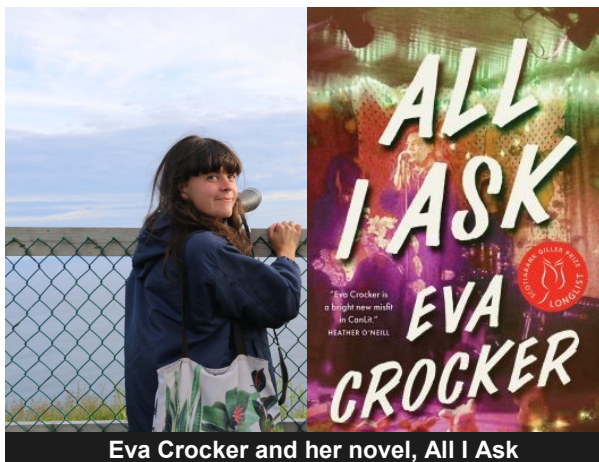
### Emily Gushue

Newfoundland & Labrador Collections Librarian

We are so excited to announce the launch of our 2022 NL Reads competition. NL Reads is our annual celebration of Newfoundland and Labrador books and authors. We feature four books, each with their own reader advocate, and the patrons will get to decide which will be named the must-read book of the year by popular vote. This year's slate of books is a great one and we're excited to see which one the public votes as the NL Reads winner at the end of February. Each month leading up to the NL Reads event we will feature one of the four contending titles by promoting them on social media and offering simultaneous access to them in our eLibrary.



Some People's Children and author Bridget Canning



Eva Crocker and her novel, All I Ask

Kicking it off in November, we have "Some People's Children" by Bridget Canning, published by Breakwater Books. The reader advocate will be Sarah Bartlett, Eastern Region Librarian for NL Public Libraries.

Our December title is "All I Ask" by Eva Crocker, published by House of Anansi Press. This is her first novel after a successful collection of short stories. The reader advocate for this book is author, cultural historian, and multidisciplinary artist Ainsley Hawthorne.

## NL Reads 2022

In January we are featuring “The Stolen Ones” by Ida Linehan Young, published by Flanker Press, and the reader advocate is Martin Jones from the CBC.

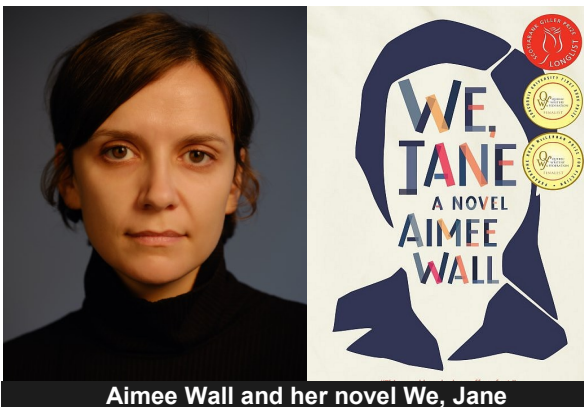
February’s featured book is “We, Jane” by Aimee Wall, published by Book\*hug Press. The reader advocate is MUN Political Science professor, Amanda Bittner.

This year will feature the same online content as last year’s NL Reads, with videos such as Ten Quick Questions with each author published



The Stolen Ones, and author Ida Linehan Young

on our YouTube channel each month. If you or your patrons want to know more about these titles or the authors and reader advocates, our NL Reads Libguide is live on our website and can be found at [guides.npl.ca/nlreads](https://guides.npl.ca/nlreads). Here you can find author readings, interviews, advocate videos, information on voting and much more.



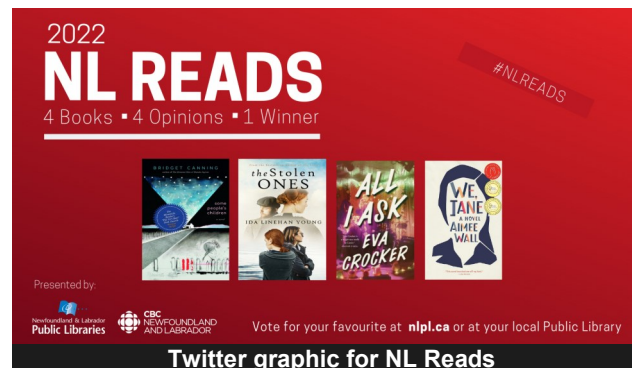
Aimee Wall and her novel We, Jane

One of the best things about NL Reads is that it allows us to offer simultaneous access in the Digital Library. This means that for each book, in the month that its featured, you can access the

ebook with no holds, and no waiting. Patrons can just download the book through the Libby app on their computer, tablet, or phone or through our eLibrary website.

This year you can vote online through a link in our Libguide, or in person at your local branch. The winner will be announced on March 1st and voting ends on February 28th at noon.

What can you do in your library branch to promote NL Reads? Share our Facebook posts or the Libguide so your patrons can keep up to date on the latest videos and information. A poster and ballots for in-house voting have been sent out to your Regional Librarian. You can do a display of favourite local books in your branch to promote loving our local authors as part of your NL Reads promotion. And most of all, remember to tell your patrons about NL Reads! Together we can make this a great year for this event, and thank you for being a part of NL Reads!



# Indigenous Art at the Corner Brook Library

Natasha Wells

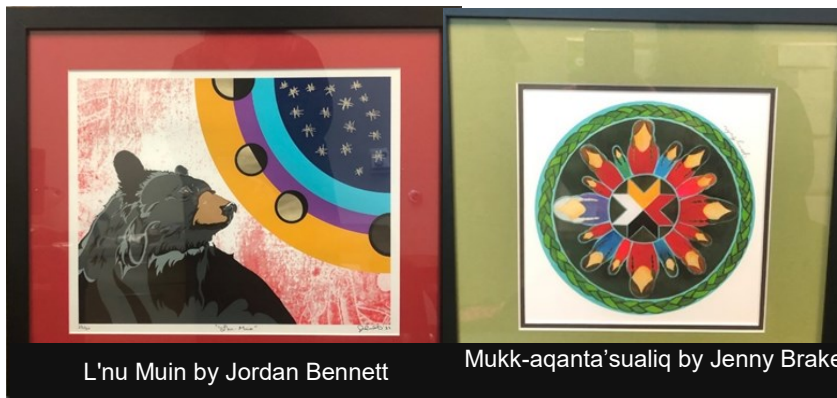
Regional Librarian, Western Division

Thanks to local Mi'kmaq artists, and to staff member Annette Hynes' connection and dedication to the Mi'kmaq community, the Corner Brook Public Library is honoured to add works of Indigenous art to the library's public space.

Mi'kmaq Artists Marcus Gosse, Jenny Brake, and Jordan Bennett, all hailing from the west coast of Newfoundland, have generously loaned their works of art to the library to display.



As the public enters the library's space they are greeted by three large canvas paintings by Marcus Gosse. Each painting incorporates ancient Mi'kmaq star, Mi'kmaq petroglyphs, hieroglyphs, and various double curve designs into the landscapes and each one reflects on the culture and history of the Mi'kmaq people. Soon to be featured alongside Gosse's art, will be prints by Jenny Brake and Jordan Bennett, shown below. Each print provides an opportunity for reflection and thought to the histories of the Mi'kmaq Nation and other Indigenous communities.



The addition of Indigenous art, along with the recently launched Indigenous Collection, shows NLPL's commitment to "strive to reflect diverse Indigenous values, ways of learning and worldviews." It also serves as Corner Brook Public Library's commitment to continue to connect and support the local Mi'kmaq people.

## New in the eLibrary for patrons who love Libby!



# You Never Know What You'll Find at the Library

Marianne King

Corner Brook Public Library

Every day is different when you work at a library. You never know what each day will bring. In July, a person visiting the city came into the Corner Brook Public Library saying they had found a budgie bird outside and was wondering if there was a box to put the bird in. A staff member quickly brought a box out and the very friendly bird was safely transferred to the library. She spent the morning in the supervisor's office, where she flew from place to place and spent some time on the supervisor's shoulder...and head...and glasses. By lunchtime, a local small animal rescue organization was able to come and get her. Her owner was never found, but she did get adopted afterwards.



# Pride Paint Night

Patricia Care

Mount Pearl Public Library

I love Pride anything. Pride is very near and dear to me and I want all of our patrons to be included and to feel like they have a place to call their own at the library. I wanted to plan a special program to reflect this and decided on a Pride Paint night at the Library. To advertise, I posted on our Facebook page: I was hoping we would get a few families with children. Due to Covid, I had to limit registration to 15 people, which was five families. We ended up with five adults and 10 kids, which was a great turnout! I bought the wooden PRIDE/rainbow signs at Michaels, along with rainbow fans and pins. I had a bunch of songs saved to a pride playlist which we played while painting and everyone was chatting and laughing. Everyone had masks on the entire time and we had a great time! We planned the program for a Wednesday evening in July. Everything was set up before the participants arrived, and the tables were all distanced. A great time was had by all and a paint night was a really good draw for patrons.



# Small Spaces for Kids in the Library

Emily Blackmore

Children's and Youth Collections & Services Librarian

People often visit the library for the first time when they're kids. Our patrons come to us as children, then hopefully grow up and take their own children to the library. The importance of having a welcoming space for children to visit at the library cannot be overstated. While the size of your library dictates how much space you can give to a children's area, there are things you can do in spaces of any size to accommodate the needs of our youngest patrons.

A good example of creating a small and welcoming space for kids can be found at the Marjorie Mews Public Library, where they've recently created a nook for kids to visit. A shelf in the corner contains a bunch of magazine holders repurposed to hold alphabetized easy readers. A small bench sits in the corner with a smaller bookshelf next to it holding board books, with more board books on the flat display above it on the wall. Just around the corner they've placed grab-and-go kits on command hooks attached to the wall. This is a great use of a small space repurposed to be appealing to children (the bench is low, the books reachable and easily accessible to small kids). This corner has brought new life to the library with little cost and has already attracted many children to sit and read.

Some things to keep in mind while creating space for children when library space is at a premium:

- What do you already have that you can use? Bins, labelled with various topics of popular kids' books (such as trucks, superheroes, and nature) can be easily placed at the end of shelves.
- Empty walls can be a home to display units or hooks to hang things on.
- Keep things colourful and uncluttered where possible so as not to overwhelm.
- Make sure books and materials are easy to reach for patrons of all sizes.
- Think about placing well-used and often-looked-for books together and in the open where children's eyes will see them.



Children's spaces at the Marjorie Mews Public Library

# Latvian Ambassador Visits A.C. Hunter Library

Emma Craig

Regional Librarian, PRL Division

The Latvian Ambassador to Canada, H.E. Karlis Eihenbaums, visited the A.C. Hunter Library in August to make a presentation of books about Latvia and Latvian culture to the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries.

The Republic of Latvia is a small country (slightly larger than Nova Scotia) of around two million people. It is situated on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea, between its two Baltic neighbours Estonia and Lithuania, and borders Belarus and Russia to the east.



The books on Latvian culture donated to the library system by the Ambassador of Latvia, H.E. Karlis Eihenbaums

H.E. Karlis Eihenbaums has been the Latvian Ambassador to Canada since 2016 and is from the city of Riga. He was accompanied by his wife, Ināra Eihenbauma, and Peter Fitzgerald – Chief of Protocol. He was introduced by Bonnie Morgan, Director of Library Operations, and Myrtice Alpen from the Provincial Library Board. Executive Director Andrew Hunt and many staff from the A.C. Hunter Library were on hand for the presentation and meet and greet afterwards.

We are honoured by this generous donation, and look forward to making the books available to patrons across the province after they are catalogued.



Above, L-R: Bonnie Morgan, H.E. Karlis Eihenbaums, Myrtice Alpen, Andrew Hunt, and Inara Eihenbauma; H.E. Karlis Eihenbaums presenting the collection of books he generously donated to the NLPL.



# APLA Games Week

Julia Mayo

A.C. Hunter Public Library

APLA Games Week is an annual Atlantic Canadian Library event. Here in Newfoundland for the last two years we have gone online with our games due to COVID, but it has worked out great, because now we can all participate together across the whole province. The Atlantic Provinces Library Association funds the prize every year and this year the draw is for a \$175 online gift card from EB Games.



ENTER TO WIN A \$175 ONLINE EB GAMES GIFT CARD

So, what do games have to do with libraries?

Well, anything that encourages literacy and brings people together in a fun and positive way is right up our alley. Board games have made a really big comeback in the last few years and the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries received a generous donation of board games from our friends at TimeMasters. This donation, as well as the ongoing donations from patrons has given us a very nice collection of games for all ages. We have also started a video games collection here in St. John's with donations from patrons.

How can your library participate? Some libraries in the past have made their own games to highlight library services, literacy and their collections. Some have hosted games nights for families and even had mini golf in the stacks! Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, due to COVID we have had to get creative and think outside the board game box. This year and last we used our social media to bring the game to the patrons. Last year was trivia facts and Guess the Game Name. This year I was trying to think of a twist when I came in to work at the reference desk and there was a game piece on the desk. I asked the other staff where it belonged and none of us knew. We even did a Google image search! Then I thought: "Hey this could be a fun game." So "Guess the Game" using the game pieces was born and that is the game you have all seen going around our Facebook pages. APLA Games Week is now over for this year, but it is not too early to think about next year. I cannot wait to see what everyone thinks up. Happy Gaming!

*Guess the Game!*



Ever find a single game piece and wonder...Where did that come from?  
Well let's test your game knowledge.

*We will post a picture of game pieces each day.  
A new game each day.*

*Guess the Game!*



**DAY #2**



Facebook promotional images for APLA Games Week at the A.C. Hunter Library

# Celebrating the GSA in Ramea

Ann Cutler

Ramea Public Library

St. Boniface All Grade school in Ramea formed its first Gay Straight Alliance this year. Because the public library is in the school, to show our support the staff at St. Boniface All Grade School decided to renovate the library and make it more welcoming and warmer. They also decided to paint a diversity tree on the wall which has been an excellent place to display diverse books! Myself, the students, and my patrons love the changes and positive image we are representing.



Diversity Tree and renovated space at the Ramea Public Library

# Ray Guy Memorial at Arnold's Cove Library

Beverly Best

Arnold's Cove Public Library

On August 23, 2021 the Arnold's Cove Heritage Foundation held a ceremony to unveil a memorial bench and display at Arnold's Cove Public Library. Ray Guy, who was born and raised in Arnold's Cove, is well known for his satirical expositions on groups, especially politicians, and his humorous writings on outport life in Newfoundland. He published several books, including "That Far Greater Bay" for which he won the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humor in 1977. He was a columnist, wrote TV commentaries and plays, and acted in CBC-TV series "Up at Ours". His play "Young Triffie's Been Made Away With" was made into a movie in 2006. He is a part of the literary heritage and legacy of Newfoundland and Labrador and is known throughout Canada and the world. His writing has inspired a new generation of authors, journalists, and politicians. He will certainly be remembered and honored by his hometown of Arnold's Cove.

"In a village you are thoroughly known" – Ray Guy



Ray Guy Memorial Shelf and Bench at the Arnold's Cove Public Library

# A Retirement Interview with Vicki Murphy

## Natasha Wells

Regional Librarian, Western Division

Next month, after 38 years with Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries Vicki Murphy is retiring! To say she's made immense contributions to the foundation of the NLPL is an understatement. Many of us have had the pleasure of working for or with Vicki at some point because she's worked in all regions, except Central. Although, she did present computer training to staff there. Vicki has traveled extensively across all regions, both solo and with other colleagues. I've been along for some of those rides and it isn't unusual for her to stop and take pictures of caribou or interesting sites. Of course, that can also get you stuck on the side of the road in winter (definitely not speaking from experience). Before Vicki heads out on the open roads and trails, I thought we'd get to know her a bit more. Here's a few questions my inquiring mind wanted to know.



### **Where did you go to school and has it always been your goal to work in libraries?**

I went to McGill University in Montreal for both my B. Sc. in biology and for the MLS degree. I always loved visiting libraries when I was young. Our family would make an outing to several libraries in Pointe Claire, and we would be there for hours just browsing and reading. Anytime we visited a city, we always went to look at their main library. But I loved nature, and thought I might want to become a biologist. But studying biology academically diminished my enthusiasm for the idea. I knew I'd probably have to go on to get a Master's degree in biology to get a job, and I didn't want to do that. So, I applied to the MLS program. I have never regretted it.

### **How many years have you worked with NLPL? What was your first position and where?**

I started working for the NLPL in 1983 as Regional Librarian of the Bonavista-Burin Region. I had worked part-time at the Botany-Genetics Library, while I was getting my MLS degree but I never had to supervise anyone before. So, it was a bit intimidating. They flew me down for the interview and I remember driving out from St. John's in a snow storm with Diane Rose, who was the equivalent of the Director of Library Operations now. I think she was afraid that once I saw how small Clarenville was I'd turn it down, because they had another applicant before me from Calgary who did that. But I stayed there for seven years.

### **What's the biggest difference from your first year on the job to now?**

The biggest differences are with the technology that we use now. It makes me feel like I started working in the Dark Ages. We literally had no computers at all back then, just typewriters and telex machines at the regional offices. Everything was typed on multi-part forms with carbon copies and mailed. There was no email, no Horizon, no NLPL website, no eLibrary, no social media. It's a different world now.

### **What's the most involved project you worked on during your time with NLPL?**

The most involved project was the first automation project with Dynix back in 1992. When the St. John's Library Board and the Provincial Board decided to jointly share the cost to automate the A.C. Hunter Library and the branches with Dynix, I was asked to coordinate that project. I remember receiving a bunch of cartons with about ten large binders of procedures, and I almost panicked, thinking that all that information had to somehow get into my brain. But the Dynix people were great and very well organized and stepped me and our committee through it all.

**Do you have any big plans for retirement? What’s your dream scenario for retirement?**

At this point with COVID-19 still on the go, I have no concrete plans. I’d like to travel, but I’ll restrict it to camping in Canada until things improve. I took a six-month self-funded leave in my late 20s and spent six months travelling around North America, Australia, New Zealand, the Cook Islands, and Tahiti, and I’ve been to Britain and Italy and Greece, so I can’t say I really have a dream scenario to travel internationally at this point. My dream scenario is waking up after a snow fall at a reasonable time with no alarm clock ringing, and no pressure to clear a driveway to get to work. Snow clearing at my own schedule will be nice.

**Many of us know that you love the outdoors. Is there one hiking trail you’d love to do once you retire? And, of all the places you’ve visited what has been your favourite?**

In Newfoundland, I wanted to repeat the Gros Morne hike, but I’m not sure I’m up to it now. So, I don’t have any desire to hike a really long hike. Australia was my favourite. Even though New Zealand had more beautiful scenery, it seemed less wild than Australia. There are no animals that can kill you in New Zealand. Plus, I was on a group camping tour in Australia and the group was a lot of fun.

*Happy Retirement Vicki and thank you for your years of service!*

## Employee Wellness

Did you know that there are resources available to you as a staff member of the NLPL related to wellness? Under the Staff Tools tab on the Intranet you’ll find a section labeled Employee Wellness that has links to resources on the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), the Harassment Free Workplace Program, the Respectful Workplace Program, and Musculoskeletal Injuries.

**Employee Assistance Program:** The EAP is available to all NLPL employees and their immediate family members who are experiencing personal problems which are affecting, or have the potential to affect work performance. The services offered are professional, confidential and readily available whenever the need arises. (<https://www.psc.gov.nl.ca/psc/eap/index.html>)

**Harassment Free Workplace:** NLPL employees are entitled to perform their duties in work environment that is free from personal harassment. Info on the Harassment-Free Workplace Policy can be found here: (<https://www.exec.gov.nl.ca/exec/tbs/working-with-us/harassment-free-workplace.html>)

**Respectful Workplace Program:** A service whereby employees can access confidential support and guidance on how to constructively respond to situations of conflict and/or to explore avenues of resolution. (<https://www.psc.gov.nl.ca/psc/rwp/index.html>)

**Preventing Musculoskeletal Injuries:** Contains tips and information to help you prevent injuries at work, including instructions on how to adjust your workstation. (<https://workplaceni.ca/site/uploads/2019/06office-ergonomics-20180104.pdf>)

# You Can Contribute to Insights, too!

Have a cool program at your branch you want to share with other staff? Is there something you would like to learn more about? Reach out to your Regional Librarian and they will be sure to bring all ideas for future Insights to the editing team!

Your contributions to Insights are greatly valued and appreciated, so please let us know what you have going on at your location!

## Submissions for the next Insights Newsletter can be sent to:

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Newfoundland & Labrador  
**Public Libraries**