

Bay Robert's Wins New TD Summer Reading Club Award

Nathan Hynes, Acting Eastern Regional Librarian

Last fall, Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries submitted the Bay Roberts Library's 2023 Summer Reading Club as our entry for TDSRC's annual contest, which recognizes excellence in public library programming across the country.

While we did not place in the top three, NLPL received word in late April that the jury was so impressed with the program Bay Roberts staff offered last summer, with two part-time staff and just over \$500, that they wanted to reward Laura Saunders' and Marilyn Clarke's impressive initiatives.

As a result, the committee created the Small but Mighty award, which recognizes excellence in summer library programming.

Laura and Marilyn of the Bay Roberts Library were the inaugural recipients of this national award, which was created as a result of their phenomenal work offering literacy programming to youth in their community. They received \$1,000 for their children's area in recognition of their hard work.



Bay Robert's TDSRC Patron

“The jury would like to compliment, recognize and shine a spotlight on the Bay Roberts Library as a wonderful example of the inventive, effective and creative literary youth programming that is possible on a shoe-string budget when produced by hearts full of literary passion.”

The jury told us that they couldn't leave their meeting without recognizing the Bay Robert's Library in some way, and were in awe of how much we can achieve here with a small budget and our current staffing level.

You can view the other winners here: <https://www.tdsummerreadingclub.ca/staff/library-awards#2023LibraryAwards>

The direct link to our video submission is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjcnSZLttAU>

They have a very lovely write-up accompanying the description of our program as well!

This year, the members of the jury were so impressed with what a very small library did with two part-time staff and zero budget that they wanted to reward them for offering such an

incredible TD Summer Reading Club program. After much deliberation, the Small but Mighty Award was created. This award will only be given out in exceptional circumstances to very deserving libraries.

The Bay Roberts Library (Newfoundland and Labrador) blew the jury away with their approach to the Summer Reading Club. This small but mighty library came up with terrific reading challenges for young readers. The jury admired how playful they were with decorating onsite, using “scoops” of paper ice cream and a giant bookworm that grew with the number of books read. In the end, Miles the Bookworm was over 250 feet long (averaging 10 books/reader). The appearance of Logan the Newfoundland Dog at the Toutons, Tunes and a Tale! event also made a special impression on the jury. The clever and engaging “Get Caught Reading” virtual challenge—in which parents posted pictures of their kids reading at home, outdoors and around town—was a great way to motivate kids to read anywhere and at any time.

The jury would like to compliment, recognize and shine a spotlight on the Bay Roberts Library as a wonderful example of the inventive, effective and creative literary youth programming that is possible on a shoestring budget when produced by hearts full of literary passion.

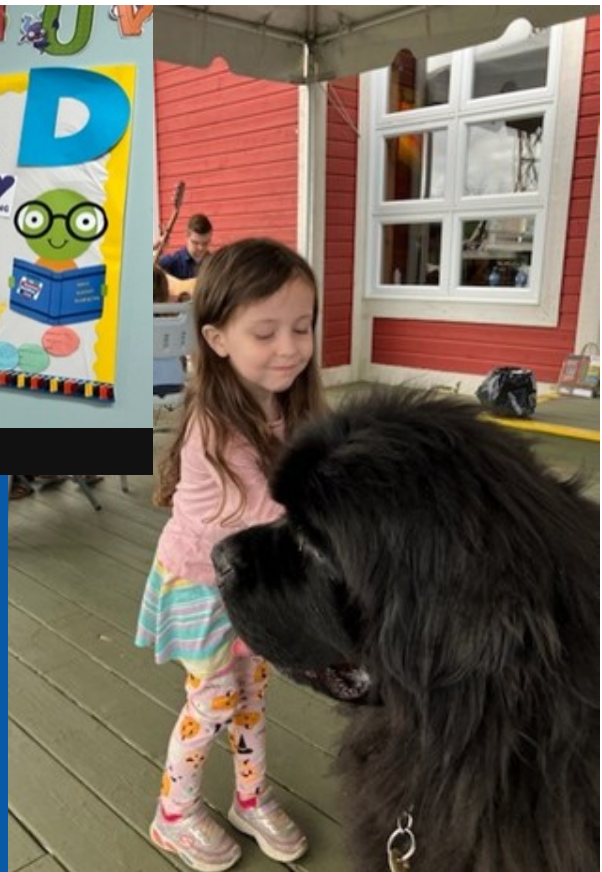
We are so proud of the accomplishments of our staff in Bay Roberts, and that their hard work will recognize other small libraries in Canada.



Summer 2023, Bay Robert's Public Library

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Bay Robert's patron and furry visitor

Overdrive Magazines

Kristian Brown, Adult Collections and Services Librarian

For several years now, NLPL readers have been depending on our Overdrive collection for eBooks and eAudio-books. As of June 17, 2024, we've introduced a whole new Overdrive collection: Digital Magazines! This format is not completely new to the NLPL Digital Library; until recently we provided them through a dedicated eMagazine platform called Flipster. Unfortunately, we could only provide a small collection of popular titles through Flipster and there was no way to bring that collection to our patrons' attention through the popular Libby app. Overdrive Magazines provided a solution to both of these issues at the same time.

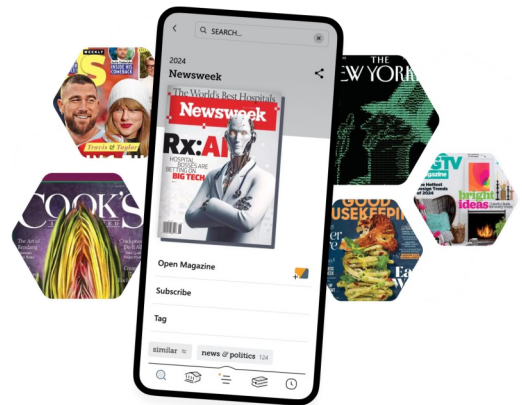
Overdrive's Magazine collection contains over 4,000 different titles, which represents a massive increase over what we offered previously. That means that we can now offer perennially popular household names like *The New Yorker*, *Hello!*, *Us Weekly*, and *Prevention*, as well as a wide range of special interest titles. You'll also notice an ample collection of titles for kids and teens including the young readers' versions of titles like *National Geographic* and *Sports Illustrated*. There are also over 100 French language titles in the bundle. In order to keep the large collection from becoming overwhelming, the titles are organized into convenient, browsable collections like News & Politics, Celebrity, Cooking, Home & Garden, Kids & Teens, and many more.

Offering an impressive collection only goes so far, however. Collections are only useful if patrons can discover and access them. The Overdrive Magazine collection has a built-in advantage in terms of discoverability by making it available through the Libby App. Libby has been very popular since it was initially introduced in 2017 and that popularity is partly due to how user-friendly it is. By streamlining the searching and borrowing process, Libby has played an important role in making our Digital Library less intimidating and more accessible than ever. The fact that our Digital Magazine collection is now available through Libby has massively increased its visibility to readers. We are hoping that more and more Libby users will spontaneously discover the eMagazine collection as they browse.

Libby's impressive popularity has resulted in long waitlists for eBooks/eAudiobooks in many Public Library systems; NLPL is no exception. The Overdrive Magazines collection works a little differently, however. NLPL readers will be pleasantly surprised to discover that all Overdrive eMagazines allow unlimited simultaneous use. The collection also has no circulation caps. This means that NLPL patrons can check out as many eMagazines as they'd like without holds or wait-times. This instant, unlimited access is one of the most exciting selling point for the new magazine collection.

The broad selection and convenience of the Overdrive Magazines collection has already made it a hit with NLPL readers. From June 17, 2024 until November 22, 2024, the new collection has seen over 5 times as much use as Flipster generated in an entire year. We're looking forward to usage numbers climbing even higher, especially as Overdrive Magazines continues to be promoted throughout NLPL's Divisions and branches.

If you have questions about Overdrive Magazines, please get in touch at kbrown@nlpl.ca. Haven't browsed the Overdrive Magazines collection yet? Check it out [here](#).



Children's Library Renovations

Jan Moffett, Branch Supervisor, A.C. Hunter Children's Library

The A.C. Hunter Children's Library is always a lively place to be. Children come to read, play, attend our numerous programs and enjoy a space that is all their own. However, older buildings have their challenges, and over the years the cracks and holes on the walls had been strategically covered with posters and decorations by our creative staff. The old blue, red and yellow walls had been around since the 90s, so it was time for an update!

Before the renovation started, staff spent time measuring and virtually moving the shelves to find a better layout for the library, including making sure our school-aged children have a space they can be comfortable in, two play areas for younger children, and highlighting our growing French language collection. We chose new colours for the walls and new carpet for our floor.

While the library was closed for a month, staff moved books into storage and worked hard on getting ready for the summer reading club. The library walls are now a beautiful fresh off-white with bright green doors and trim. The well-worn carpet has been replaced by sturdy carpet tiles, and older shelves replaced by movable units.

We are so grateful to The Friends of the St. John's Public Libraries, who used the funds raised by the Spring Book Sale to support the purchase of new artwork, and child-friendly furniture to cap off the new look.

One of the highlights of the change was a painting specially made for us by local author and artist, Lori Doody. She brought to life our favourite bird and mascot – the Puffin!



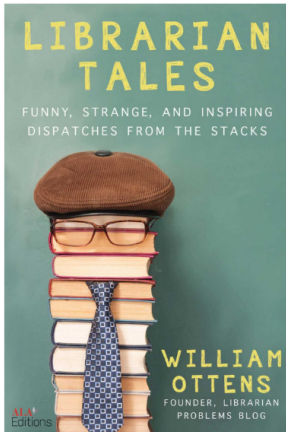
Lori Doody, along with Tracy and Emma from the Children's Library



- From top left:
- Play area before
 - Picture books before
 - Seating area after
 - Picture books after
 - Clarke's Corner seating area after

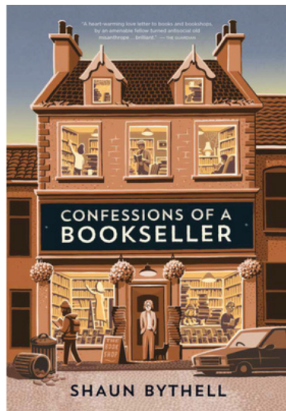
Relatable Reads for Library Staff

Books about working in Libraries & Bookshops

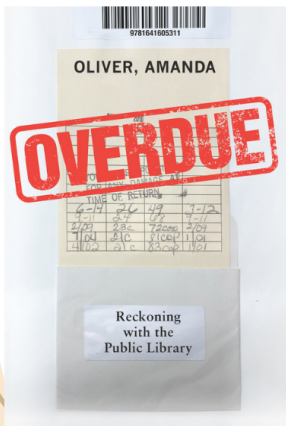


Here is the good, the bad, and the ugly of librarian William Ottens's experience working behind service desks and in the stacks of public libraries... [From the] strange things... found in book drops [to] weird and obscure reference questions... and more. Ottens... addresses misguided assumptions and stereotypes and shares... hilarious stories along the way.

One cozy, funny year with a Scottish used bookseller as he stays afloat while managing staff, customers, and life in the village of Wigtown... Shaun copes with eccentric staff, tallies up the day's orders, drives to distant houses to buy private libraries, and meditates on the nature of life and independent bookstores...



Who are libraries for, how have they evolved, and why do they fill so many roles in our society today? Based on firsthand experiences from six years... as a librarian in high-poverty neighborhoods... as well as interviews and research... Oliver... highlights the national problems that have existed in libraries since they were founded [as well as new problems]...

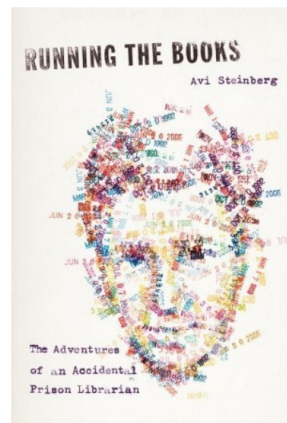
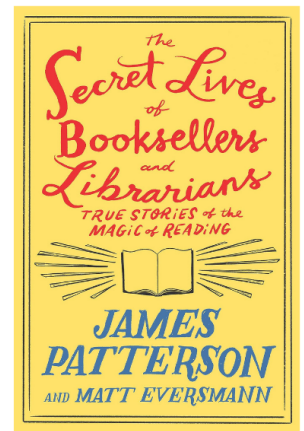


All books are available province-wide upon request.



Day in and day out... library workers... are doing much more than ensuring equal and equitable access to information; and their impact stretches far beyond the books, programs, and services they facilitate... this collection of... first-hand stories from across libraryland spotlights the countless ways in which library staff are making a difference for their communities...

Booksellers and librarians are superheroes... Here are their amazing, inspiring true stories... To be a bookseller or librarian... You have to play detective... Be a treasure hunter. A matchmaker. An advocate. A visionary. Meet the smart and talented people who live between the pages—and who can't wait to help you find your next favorite book.



Seeking direction—and dental insurance—Steinberg takes a job as a librarian in a tough Boston prison.... His new post attracts con men, minor prophets... and an assortment of quirky regulars searching for the perfect book and a connection to the outside world... Steinberg is drawn into the accidental community of outcasts that has formed among his bookshelves

NLPL in the News

Fred Whitmarsh, Director of Library Operations

There is so much great work being done across the system and it is no surprise that the media has taken notice of some of those initiatives. Below is a small sampling of some of the news stories NLPL staff have contributed to or participated in over the course of the past several months.

Writers in Residence

NLPL has hosted several different writers in residence at different locations and below are some news stories about just a few of them:

[Western Newfoundland Writer is Indigenous Storyteller in Residence at NL Public Libraries](#) (November 2024)

[October's Writer in Residence at the A.C. Hunter Library](#) (October 2024)

Programs and Events

NLPL locations host so many great programs and events over the course of a year, below are just some of the programs that caught the attention of the local media:

[Michael Crummey's The Adversary named N.L.'s Must-Read Book of the Year](#) (March 2024)

[Can't Find Solar Eclipse Glasses? Here's How to Make a Last-Minute Pinhole Camera](#) (April 2024)

[Un atelier d'écriture à T.-N. pour apprendre à décrire une scène de crime](#) (A writing workshop in NL to learn how to describe a crime scene) (November 2024)

Buildings and Spaces

So much work goes into maintaining welcoming and inviting spaces filled with interesting tools and resources for our patrons. Below are some stories highlighting some new and updated features in different locations:

[Launch of "Shed Labrador Inc. Makerspace" in Labrador West](#) (May 2024)

[Long Overdue: A.C. Hunter Children's Library Closes for a Month for Mini-Makeover](#) (June 2024)

Collections

Our collections are essential to the work we do at NLPL. Below are some articles about new items as well as some recommendations:

[For Families Coping with Alzheimer's and Dementia, Memory Kits Offer Help in a Tidy Package](#) (July 2024)

[Here are 5 Buzzworthy Black-Authored Books that Deserve your Attention: A Librarian in St. John's Shares her Picks on What's New and Popular](#) (March 2024)

[Your Community: Public Library Launchpads](#) (September 2024)

Introducing...

A segment to introduce new people and positions at the NLPL

We asked some of our new team members about their jobs, what led to them working in libraries, and to tell us a little bit about themselves in this new feature.

Coline Tisserand, French Language Services Specialist

My name is Coline Tisserand and I work as the French Language services specialist for NLPL. My position is provincial but I am based in St. John's. The scope of my position can be divided in three main objectives:

- Organizing and offering programs and events in French in different library branches for all ages (children, teens and adults), as well as supporting my colleagues who want to do so in their own branches
- Supporting our NLPL Selections team to develop the NLPL French-language collection for all ages that ranges from DVDs, boardgames, French books kits, Overdrive titles, picture books, novels, graphic novels, and more!
- Promoting all of those French-language resources through online communication, collaboration with the francophone federation and outreach events such as visiting French immersion schools, francophone schools and day-care to show them our resources and programs available in French.

What led you to work in libraries?

My background is in French Language teaching, I got my Teaching Certificate from Memorial University in 2020, and I taught to almost all ages and in very different contexts (in francophone schools, in French immersion classes, in tutoring group, with adults' group in Alliance Française and at the university). I also worked as the editor-in-chief of Le Gaboteur, the only francophone newspaper of Newfoundland and Labrador. These experiences allowed me to develop deep knowledge as well as connections with the francophone communities but also the English-speakers from different background that are interested in learning French and knowing more about the francophone culture of Newfoundland and Labrador. When I saw the job offer for my current position, it felt like this position was made for me, as its scope is a great mix of my interests (languages, cultural events, francophone literature, etc.) and skills (I am bilingual, and I am used to work with different public ages with various level of French), so that's why I decided to try this new adventure in libraries, a great adventure so far!

What's something you'd like people to know about the work you're doing for the NLPL?

I want people to realize that my work must take into account the needs of both French and English speakers using our libraries, meaning that I have to try to balance well the type of programs and resources to offer in French. For my colleagues in particular, I want them to know that I am always here to help them with anything related to French: translating a poster in French, providing books recommendation, ideas for French rhymes/songs or supporting the development of programs in French that they want to offer in their branch. Wherever possible, I can come into their branch to deliver a program in French that they would like to offer to their patrons! If it is not possible, I can offer it virtually! Don't hesitate to contact me!

What are your priorities for the role? What are some things you're excited to take on in the role?

My priorities are to answer our patrons' needs regarding French-Language and francophone cultures as well as offering programs and collections in French that allow them to discover the francophone cultures as well as to practice their French.

I am very excited about the role in its whole! This is a brand-new position that was created in May 2023 so there is a lot to do to develop our French services. It means that there are a lot of possibilities and ways to achieve the goals mentioned above and it is important to try and see what works and what doesn't work with our patrons and with the different staff regarding French resources and programs. I am also excited being able to collaborate with the staff from the different branches of the province, as well as the different francophone organisms so that our strengths can add up to give more space to the French language and francophone cultures in our province.

What's the last film you loved?

I really enjoyed the Japanese drama *Perfect Days* released in 2023. It won the Prize of the Ecumenical Jury and the Best Actor Award for Kōji Yakusho at the Cannes Film Festival 2023. The movie, following the daily life of a janitor, is full of poetry, lightness accompanied by a perfect soundtrack!

Do you have a favourite saying?

My favourite saying is from the French author Michel Déon: «Pour bien aimer un pays il faut le manger, le boire et l'entendre chanter.» (To love a country, you have to eat it, drink it and hear it sing.) That's a saying that has been always following me during all of my travels and in the countries I settled down.

Tell us about a hobby you enjoy?

Whenever there is no wind and the waves are not going crazy, I jump in my sea kayak to go on the ocean by myself or with friends. That's a great way to discover the rocky coast of Newfoundland. And a wonderful sport to make unique encounters with whales, sea birds (puffins), moose or caribou walking along the shore. In summertime, I also enjoy berry picking and I have my favorite spots dedicated to each berry (blueberries, cranberries, partridgeberries and bakeapples!)

Do you have a favourite meal or snack?

I really enjoy having a grilled bagel from my neighborhood bakery (Georgetown Bakery) with a bit of honey, cream cheese and good fresh salmon on top! Or any good and tasty cheese from Québec or France. And for a snack, I like dark and milk chocolate!

Stephanie Langdon, Early Literacy Training Specialist, Central Division

My position is healthy balance of working with library staff in my region and Storytime outreach. My central position covers the 32 libraries in Central Newfoundland. More specific, I support the libraries children's area (making sure every area has what it needs to be a welcoming and inviting space for families). I also support each staff member in their children's programming, planning and storytime training. I cheer them on in their success and am a support to listen to their struggles. The other half of my position is to provide quality storytime to childcare centers, family resource centers, schools, anywhere that has children. Children receive a storytime (consists of books, songs, felt stories, fingerplays, and more), and childcare staff receive a strong modelling of quality storytime practices.

What led you to work in libraries?

Being an Early Childhood Educator, the thought of working within a library didn't seem possible. When this position opened up I jumped on it! What better way of expanding my field of education then to work in the libraries as an ECE!

What's something you'd like people to know about the work you're doing for the NLPL?

The Early Literacy Team travels to childcare centers that are unable to visit the library. We offer Early Childhood Educators resources such as storytime kits, book lists and a community partnership within the area. Every time we visit an outreach, we are promoting the libraries and their weekly programs in hopes to bring more people through the doors.

What are your priorities for the role? What are some things you're excited to take on in the role?

One of the biggest priorities in my role was to visit all 32 libraries in my region. I wanted to meet all the library staff and physically be in each library. Meeting staff and having that personal connection with them is very important. Building the working relationship will have them feel more comfortable to reach out to me when they need any kind of support.

What's the last videogame you loved?

I do enjoy the occasional video game. The last one I truly enjoyed would have to be Hogwarts Legacy on the Xbox.

Tell us about a hobby you enjoy?

One of my hobbies is puzzles. I love doing puzzles. Anything from 300 pieces to 3000 pieces. I enjoy puzzles so much, I actually created an accent wall in my spare room of all puzzles glued together.

Do you have a favourite meal or snack?

Hands down... pizza is my favourite meal.

Nancy Barker, Central Regional Librarian

My role looks similar to that of other Regional Librarians so I am responsible for supporting library staff with things like programming, training and community initiatives and partnerships. In this role I also spend time travelling throughout the Region for in person visits to see the amazing work being done by our hardworking staff, attend community events and assist in things like weeding projects.

My journey to libraries is a life long one! My father was a career librarian and my mother worked as a library assistant for over 12 years. I was on my first library board at the age of 12. I was Secretary of the "Secrets of Reading" book club with 8 of my girlfriends and we established a classroom library comprised of our personal book collections. I joined the library Board at Harmsworth in 2014 and when a position opened in Point Leamington with NLPL I jumped at the opportunity. Working at a sole charge library in a rural community was full of unique experiences especially with an incredibly supportive Library Board.

It's been a few months on the job and I have settled in well. I knew the Regional Staff previously but staff at Gander Public Library, who were new to me, were warm from day one and made me feel welcome and at home.

Something I am working on for the new year is a series of Webex 'Regional Chats' wherein I will arrange and

set up small working groups with all staff in Central. These working groups, about 6-7 in each, will be themed with space for open ended conversation, brain storming and a question period. It's really about fostering comradery and support amongst staff.

A few of things about me: I love cooking and my go to comfort recipe is 'no knead' focaccia with Rosemary and Sea Salt and in warmer months I enjoy kayaking and being out on the land. My favorite place to kayak is the Badger Brook just west of where I live in Grand Falls-Windsor. My Great Grandfather, Louis John, was a Mi'kmaq hunting and trapping guide and the Badger Brook was one of his areas so I feel especially at peace there. As a member of Qalipu First Nation I also have settler ancestry and I am very proud of my Mi'kmaq culture and heritage.



New in the eLibrary for patrons who love Libby!



Librarian for a Day!

Jan Moffett, Branch Supervisor, A.C. Hunter Children's Library

As part of the Summer Reading Club at the three St. John's branches, children ages 9-13 are able to enter to win the chance to be Junior Librarian-for-a-Day.

This contest was first started in 2019 and has continued in 2023 and 2024. This contest has been a big hit, with 100 tweens entering this year! This year's winner, Carissa Gendron (age 11) came in to the library on August 23rd for a four-hour shift with staff.

Some of the highlights of her visit included checking out patrons, at the Children's circulation desk creating her own display of "Carissa's Picks", helping with button-making and getting a grand tour of the library. She was thrilled to find out that there is a basement with archives of newspapers, magazines and old books. Her eyes lit up when she saw the date "1901" on a stack of bound newspapers. There are items older than her grandparents, even than her great-grandparents! She even noted a gap in our collection – her favourite sport of Rugby didn't have a single book on our shelf. Our selections team was notified and are working to correct that, but Carissa was thrilled to be able to contribute and had an awesome day.

Congratulations Carissa on a job well done.



Carissa Gendron, Junior Librarian for a Day 2024

For Families Coping with Alzheimer's and Dementia, Memory Kits Offer Help in a Tidy Package

Michelle Stuckless, Library Technician III, Gander Public Library

Many people visit Gander Public Library seeking ways to support family members with Alzheimer's and dementia. It is heartbreaking to witness these individuals struggle to help their loved ones who are experiencing a decline in memory, cognitive skills, and motivation.

With this in mind, my co-workers and I decided to assemble a resource for families: Memory Care Kits. We applied for and received a grant from the Central Wellness Coalition and with these funds we assembled five kits that are now available for checkout at Gander Public Library.

These kits are filled with thoughtful and meaningful activities designed to engage both hands and minds. We carefully selected the contents, recognizing that these individuals are not children, even if they sometimes exhibit child-like behaviors.

We conducted research and collected information to inform our choices. The contents of the kits can be enjoyed independently by individuals with Alzheimer's or as interactive games shared with family members and caregivers, helping to keep their minds and skills active. Each kit includes a beautifully unique, handmade busy quilt. Users can twist, twirl, zip, pick, and engage with various activities. Additionally, the kits contain books for both caregivers and their loved ones, memory games, fidget tools, DVDs, music, and much more.



Gander Library staff with Memory Care Kits

This project has been a labor of love, both professionally and personally. Knowing that it circulates and helps families is a source of pride for all of us.

Book Tasting Café

Veronica Rogers, Library Technician I, Centreville Public Library

During a library visit with grade 3 students at Centreville Academy I noticed that the books they were choosing were either too juvenile or too difficult for them. I immediately recognized the need to show them how to pick books that they would enjoy and they could read independently. I approached their teacher, Mrs. Kayla Hicks about hosting a book tasting café with me. She thought it was a fantastic idea. We transformed the library into a café. During the event Mrs. Hicks, library board chair Trina Rogers and I dressed as servers. Each table had a variety of books with different genres for the children to view. When they found a book that appealed to them, they had to write down the details in their “menu”. The students were so enthusiastic and engaged. After they had a chance to move around to all four tables, the students, Mrs. Hicks and I felt that they were very much aware of what books interest them. They also became aware of what the library has to offer. Mrs. Hicks said “All levels of readers participated, even those who struggle to read. The readers who excel also learned to choose new genres. Everyone took something from the experience. I was amazed how well it worked. You could see them learning”. Of course, being in a “café” we ended off with a yummy snack. This program was a huge success!



Book Tasting table at Centreville Library

Discover the Night Sky

Sarah Keats, Library Technician I, Glovertown Public Library

On November 4th Terra Nova National Park hosted a family fun evening "Discover the Night Sky" at the Glovertown Public Library. The event had airbrush tattoos, treats, hands on activities and the unveiling of a new telescope for the Library. Attendees learned about the wonders of the night sky and how we can bring the universe closer to home.

Terra Nova National Park is the first Dark Sky Preserve in Newfoundland and Labrador and they have loaned the Glovertown Public Library a Sky - Watcher Dobsonian Telescope. This telescope will be housed at the library inside Grovetown Academy and Library patrons will be available for checkout with their FREE library Card this will allow them to experience a closer look at the night sky.



Sarah and TNNP staff

Book Boxes

Kay Stagg, Library technician I, Lumsden Public Library

Our Book Box program is always a fabulous success and I've been doing it now for 3 Summers. I use the theme for TDSRC and branch off for 5 weeks of mini themes from that. This Summer, for instance, I had "To the Stars", "Bedtime Stories", "Camping under the Stars", "Space", and "You're a Star". My board does fund-raising for the program which allows us to purchase little trinkets and durable plastic boxes. Last year, we purchased 18 boxes and this year added 6 more boxes to our collection! Great for re-using :) I give each family registered 1 box with enough supplies for each child in the family. This Summer, I had 21 families participating with 34 children registered! Each box contains 2-3 books based on the weeks theme, a simple craft to complete, a trinket or 2 based on the theme, and sometimes a treat! Every week, I wrap the books/trinkets/treats so it's a surprise when they open it to see what they have this week. My rule is that in order to receive your box refill, your box and books from the previous week must be returned. The kids absolutely love this and look forward to their boxes each week. I find in Summer it's hard to get kids/parents in the library. With the book boxes they can enjoy Summer reading/activities at their convenience during a downtime during the week. It's great for my program numbers and also a huge boost to my circulation! It's basically a win win for everyone! And . . . I enjoyed putting the boxes together as much as the kids enjoy receiving them!

This Summer, I actually started an adult version - Summer Reading Beach Bags! For the adults, I did 1 bag in July and 1 bag in August. Each bag contained 2 Summer/Beach theme adult reads and a little treat such as an ice tea or something simple. I did 12 bags like this and the adults loved them as well! I'm actually planning a Fall theme bag now for October. I'm giving 2 choices in book /bag contents - either "Pumpkin Spice and Everything Nice" (which will include a hallmark/romance kind of book) or "Murder, Thrills, and All the Chills" (which will include a psychological thriller/murder mystery kind of book)!

Did I mention that I love my job haha!



Youth Art Competition

Lori Luff, Library Technician III, Harmsworth Public Library, Grand Falls-Windsor

Harmsworth Public Library conducted a youth art competition and the winner's work is now featured on their new library tote bag. In early Spring of 2024 the Library Board at Harmsworth Public Library Board hosted an art contest open to students from Grade 4 – 9. The call for submissions was an original piece of hand drawn art and the inspiration for piece was the poem "I Met a Dragon Face to Face" by Jack Prelutsky.

The contest call was met with enthusiasm and we received over 170 entrants with some educators making submissions as an entire class. Choosing the winner was no easy task, Board Members, along with Supervisor at the time Nancy Barker, spent a wonderful evening adjudicating the entries. The winner of the contest was Riley Power, a grade 4 student at Sprucewood Academy and he received a Chapters Indigo Gift Card that was sponsored by the Board. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this project a success including Library Staff, Board Members and Educators at local schools in the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor. The bags are available to purchase at the library for \$10!



Riley Power, Youth Art Competition Winner

Holyrood Library Programming Update

Michelle Potter, Library Technician I, Holyrood Public Library

Holyrood Public Library, always motivated by its commitment to encourage participation at all ages, had numerous activities that kept everyone busy these last few months. While individual presentations by authors, as Jeff Blackwood whet our appetites for a new genre, information sessions from others, as the Golden Eagle Oil Refinery, (through the partnership with the Holyrood Museum) gave us a greater appreciation of the history of our town.

Art displays are a familiar sight at our library now. Artists (i.e Thomas Metcalfe, Roselle Doyle, Emilee Hickey, Jim Hart, Marg St. Croix) are very pleased with the reception they receive, the attendance at

their Meet 'n Greets as well as the sales of their work. And, the fact that the artwork and lovely displays enhance the welcoming vibes of our library is a bonus for us! The usual seasonal activities as the fall Spooktrunkular, Christmas visits from Tinsel and Santa as well as Easter egg painting with Emilee Hickey kept the little ones excited to be at the library.

All of the above take place amidst the day-to-day operations of the library and the regularly scheduled activities (i.e. Knitting Group, By Hook or By Crook Book-Club, Breast-Feeding Group, Senior's Teas and Chats, Book Sales, Adult Inclusion Group) run smoothly.

Our library is dynamic and bustling. We are looking forward to another busy year! And we are very fortunate to be able to do our work without the burden of fundraising because of the generosity of the Town of Holyrood.



A variety of programs and patrons , as well as art displays, at the Holyrood Public Library

Love Our Local Authors' Summer Reading Series at the Woody Point Public Library

Sandra Harnum, Western Regional Librarian

Woody Point Public Library hosted local author readings during the Writers at Woody Point Festival again this summer. The writers were: Floyd Spracklin, Tony Payne, Judith M. Doucette, and Gloria Field. For the first time, two local Children's authors (Gloria Field and Judith M. Doucette) were invited with much success. The Shed, a local coffeehouse, provided free lemonade to all attendees at Gloria's interactive reading of *Giselle's Ballet Wish*. Qalipu First Nation Chief Jenny Brake introduced Judith prior to her reading of *Poppa and the Sacred Kitpu*. After her reading, Patrons were overwhelmed with emotion during Judith's performance of her reconciliation song as she sang and played the drum. These readings were organized by Woody Point Public Library in partnership with the Writers at Woody Point Literary Festival. The festival happens every August in Woody Point, NL. For more information, please visit <https://www.writersatwoodypoint.com/home>

WritersNL – Writers in Residence in Western

Sandra Harnum, Western Regional Librarian

Western Division welcomed two Writers-in-Residence this Fall. Sara Tilley at the Melville Public Library Branch (Happy Valley-Goose Bay) and Douglas Walbourne-Gough at Corner Brook Library branch.

From October 7th to November 3rd, Sara Tilley was the Writer-in-Residence for Melville Public Library. Sara is the author of two novels: *Skin Room* (Pedlar Press, 2008) and, the Winterset award-winning, *DUKE* (Pedlar Press, 2015). She has also written various plays in her time. During her residency, Sara offered one-on-one writing consultations with local aspiring writers, led a co-writing group, as well as hosted a Halloween Open Mic. Through these consultations, many connections were formed and a positive impact made on the communities. It has been a pleasure to have Sara at the Melville Public Library.

From October 17th to November 21st, Douglas Walbourne-Gough was the Writer-in-Residence for Corner Brook Public Library. Douglas has published two collections of poetry: *Crow Gulch* (Goose Lane Editions, 2019) and *Island* (Goose Lane Editions, 2024). His work gives a raw insight around the Newfoundland Mi'kmaq experience. He has also published a chapbook of poetry titled *Colour Work* with Ansruther Press in January 2024. During his residency, Douglas offered one-on-one writing consultations as well as poetry writing workshops. It has been a pleasure to have Douglas at the Corner Brook Public Library.

For more information on the Writers-in-Residency partnership, please visit: <https://writersnl.ca/programs-services/yota-writers/>

Horseshoe Literary Festival at the Corner Brook Public Library

Sandra Harnum, Western Regional Librarian

Corner Brook Library participated in the Horseshoe Literary Festival as well as hosted the book Launch of *Preserving Petries - Three Local Histories* by Doris Butt this past Fall. This was an extension of an ongoing partnership between Horseshoe Press at Grenfell University and the Corner Brook Public Library.

On September 26th, Corner Brook Public Library patrons were treated to a fantastic book reading by one of their own creative writing group members, Doris But. She shared her locally published book, *Preserving Petries – Three Local Histories* with patrons. The book was published by Horseshoe Press and the cover was uniquely created using paper made from a local artisan, Purple Butterfly Paper. The event was live streamed on the Corner Brook Library branch Facebook page for those not able to attend in person. It was a wonderful evening of learning about the history of Corner Brook.

On October 25-26, The Horseshoe Literary Festival took place in the City of Corner Brook. On October 26th, Brittany Noseworthy, Corner Brook Library branch supervisor, led patrons of all ages in a foam printmaking session after a family story-time, in partnership with Horseshoe press. Patrons were taught how to make a stamp using foam printing plates and then left to create their own unique designs. Patrons brought home their unique pieces of artwork and had a great time at the event.

APLA Merit Award

Congratulations to our own Natasha Wells, Western Division Manager, on winning the 2024 Atlantic Provinces Library Association Merit Award, which was announced in June at the APLA OGM.

The APLA Merit Award honours an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to library services in the Atlantic Provinces. Some of the contributions that might be considered in selecting a person for this award are:

- leadership in library associations at the local, regional and provincial levels,
- contributions to the development, application and utilization of library services and library systems
- significant contribution to library literature.

In the letters of support sent in for Natasha, she was pointed out as an exemplary leader, a great mentor, a dedicated library worker, and a force in public libraries.

Natasha, thank you for the great work you do with us every day, and a hearty congratulations on an award well deserved!



No French? No problem!

Emma Tennier-Stuart, Library Assistant, A.C. Hunter Children's Library

With high demand for French-language programming from both Francophone families and the families of kids who are registered in French Immersion, we're always looking for ways to incorporate French material into our programming. Working at the A.C. Hunter Children's Library, we've been lucky enough to benefit from lots of programming led by Coline Tisserand, the NLPL's French Language Specialist. But we've also come up with a couple great ways to offer access to some French language content, even without the presence of a fluent French speaker!

French Storytime Content

One easy way to provide a small amount of exposure to early French learning is through storytimes. I incorporate one French song or rhyme into every storytime, often going over the song a few times to provide everyone a chance to learn the words and practice the pronunciation. In my experience, this does not need to be specifically advertised, and can simply be introduced as a regular or special segment of your normal storytimes.

Coline has created a series of short French song and rhyme videos, which are available through the NLPL YouTube page, here: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLboYxlqTjYlrH2HQ5EBvVjgHLGdoAZJpH&si=sx1s1anqqsLErEQr> If you're looking to dust off your school French, these songs are easy to learn and then share with your storytime group. And if French never was your favourite subject, you could simply show one of these videos during your storytime!

Bilingual Programs

Our other French-language success has come from taking a popular, pre-existing program, and making it bilingual. At the A.C. Hunter Children's Library, we took our Crafternoon program (an hour of guided craft-making, for ages 5-9) and added a small discussion and French vocabulary section to the beginning. Coline and I have led most of these together, and, full disclosure, I did go through the French Immersion program, so do speak some French. When doing this program together, we provide all of the instructions in both English and French, sometimes read a picture book in English and French, and then have an English-language discussion of the day's theme, where we encourage participants to use a few key French words. The majority of our participants are English-speakers, or English-speakers in French Immersion, though we do have some Francophone families join.

When running this program on my own, I simplify the French content. I always start with a themed vocabulary matching game, and sometimes read a very simple book in French. I also encourage the participants to use the vocabulary words in French during our discussion. When we have participants who are already comfortable speaking French, they're welcome to speak in French, though I may either translate what they've said for the group, or ask them to repeat what they've said in English.

Both of these are easy ways to provide just a little bit of French-language content outside of a school setting, and can be easily adapted for any level of staff comfort with the language. The storytime approach has been appreciated both by families who are thinking about enrolling their young children in French Immersion in the future, and by bilingual families. And making an older kids' program bilingual offers kids an opportunity to learn and practise their French skills outside of school.

You Can Contribute to Insights, Too!

Do you have an interesting program or initiative 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, please let us know what you have going on at your location.

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