

At the Library, for the week of August 16, 2018

By Holly MacLean, Community Outreach Assistant for Pictou County

The Art of Using Your Imagination

If you walk into the New Glasgow Library during the month of August some may be surprised to find art on the walls of their community room. I am not. Our communities at large and the stories we share inspire us to do amazing things. Maybe it's the Maud Lewis-inspired mural of Pictou that the Pictou Library, local artist Carolyn Vienneau and others have created, or the knitted treasures that groups in most libraries are working on. Whatever the case may be, the library is a great place to find inspiration and share it too!

Inspiration through art

For the month of August, the New Glasgow Library's Community Room will be featuring artist Curtis Botham's collection titled 'Effluence.' This collection explores the past and present of Nova Scotian coal, lumber and steel industries. These large drawings make use of charcoal, gesso and conté as well as coal dust taken from local sites. They were inspired by his on-site observational sketches, historical photos and archived newspaper articles. Curtis Botham is a graduate of NSCAD University. He is an award-winning fine artist who primarily works with charcoal and ink. Over the past year, he has been hosted in New Glasgow's studio residency program, where he became interested in drawing local industrial sites. This exhibit is open to the public to view during open hours, when the library's community is not being used. For more information, call (902) 752-8233.

Creating something unique...for your cat!

Miss last week's "Build Your Own Cat Castle" program? Never fear, there are plenty of resources at the library to make a cardboard cat house purrrrrfect for your feline companion! On our shelves we have *Cat Castles: 20 cardboard habitats you can build yourself* (Quirk Books, 2016), written by Carin Oliver. This DIY construction guide includes fun and easy instructions for making cardboard trains, ships, food trucks, rockets and other hideouts for the kitties. Also included are tips for climbing towers and scratching pads that they'll use to stay sharp, and the projects are quick to assemble requiring inexpensive and easy-to-find materials.

Looking to create something a little smaller, try *Cats in Hats: 30 knit and crochet hat patterns for your kitty* (Running Press, 2015). This book gives those who have a knack for knitting and crocheting the opportunity to deck their cats out in hats that suit their many personalities! Try the "Punk Mohawk" for edgier cats, maybe "The Cat in the Hat" for any cat that loves great literature. Either way, there is a pattern in this book for every feline friend in your home complete with a breakdown of skill level and method of working (knit or crochet), suggestions for yarns, and written patterns and charts where necessary.

Upcoming programs

Coming up on Friday, August 17 at 11:00am in Westville (902-396-5022) and Saturday, August 18 at 11:30am in Stellarton (902-755-1638), there will be a question and answer session about Facebook with Emma. Please call the hosting library to register.

On the week of August 13, Ainslie will be helping people preserve their memories digitally through the Pictou Library's Memory Lab on an as-needed basis. If individuals need help with the digitization of their keepsakes, like photos and such, please call (902) 485-5021 or drop into the library to make an appointment. In the New Glasgow Library for Techie Thursday on August 16 at 11:00am, drop in as Abby hosts a session on Stopmotion animation!

For more information on upcoming library programs, special events and services, please drop by your local library branch, follow us on *Twitter*, find us on *Facebook*, or visit us online at www.parl.ns.ca.