

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Activity

Library Visits by Location		
	2019/2020	2020/2021
Antigonish	156,859	57,299
Books-By-Mail	N/A	N/A
New Glasgow	67,661	32,174
Pictou	41,049	17,163
River John	12,038	4,161
Stellarton	19,032	13,174
Trenton	4,966	4,019
Westville	18,956	10,548

Population Served	64,369
Total Holdings	147,740
Summer Reading Program Participants	360 ballots 2,100 complete activities
Number of staff	61

20/21 Income		20/21 Expenditure	
Provincial Grant	\$ 1,383,800	Salaries/Benefits	\$ 1,590,990
Municipal Grant	\$ 581,663	Books & Materials	\$ 150,400
Board Income	\$ 50,360	Administration	\$ 213,371
TOTAL	\$ 2,015,823	TOTAL	\$ 1,954,761

Accumulated Deficit	\$ 248,553
---------------------	------------

Major Sponsors

Adopt-A-Library Literacy Program
 Friends of the Antigonish Library
 Friends of the River John Library
 Our Communities

Library Board

Province of Nova Scotia:
Ms. Tammy MacLaren
Mr. John Blackwell, Chair

Municipality of the County of Antigonish:
Coun. Mary MacLellan
Library Boards of Nova Scotia representative

Municipality of Pictou County:
Coun. Deborah Wadden

Town of Antigonish:
Deputy Mayor, Willie Cormier (-Oct.'20)
Coun. Sean Cameron (Nov. '20 -)

Town of New Glasgow:
Coun. Clyde Fraser

Town of Pictou:
Coun. Dan Currie

Town of Stellarton:
Deputy Mayor Simon Lawand

Town of Trenton:
Coun. Steven Stewart (-Oct.'20)
Coun. Nicole LeBlanc (Nov. '20 -)

Town of Westville:
Coun. Lynn MacDonald (-Oct.'20)
Deputy Mayor, Meghan Bragg (Nov. '20 -)

Library Management Staff

ERIC STACKHOUSE
 Chief Librarian/ Board Secretary

TRECIA SCHELL
 Community Services Librarian

GREG HAYWARD
 Technical Services Librarian

KAREN MACNEILL
 Office Manager

JEAN ROZEE
 Finance Manager

JESS DAVEY
 Manager of Web Services

MELANIE PAULS
 Community Access to
 Technology Coordinator

KRISTEL FLEUREN-HUNTER
 Children's Services Librarian

REGIONAL LIBRARY

Annual Report



April 2020 – March 2021

www.parl.ns.ca

Chairperson’s Report 2020/2021

It has been a challenging year for the regional library board and our communities. But with financial help from local, provincial, and federal organizations, we responded with creativity and caring. At the end of the fiscal year, the pandemic was still with us, but the regional library is stronger than ever and ready to take on the challenges that lie ahead.

During the stay at home period from March to June 2020, the board was able to pay all staff and ensure all benefits were available. While at home, staff assisted with online support, reached out and helped partner agencies, took part in training, and much more. A reopening plan was approved and on June 16, 2020 all locations reopened to the public with shortened hours, but in compliance with all public health guidelines. Not only did our staff members provide much-needed materials and services, they connected personally with individuals to ensure they were safe and valued. The board also offered a safe summer reading program for families and adults.

In November 2020, the board implemented its Safe to be Social plan, which expanded open hours, reintroduced in-person programming, and created safe groupings of furniture for the public. This plan carried through to the end of the fiscal year, but produced good results, with materials circulation returning to pre-COVID numbers. Online programs and author readings were also popular as staff members learned new skills to engage the public.

Financially, the board ended the year reasonably well, despite having very little ability to fundraise. Administrative staff were able to access many COVID relief measures, allowing safe barriers to be installed and personal protective equipment to be purchased, without taxing the budget or requesting assistance from overstretched municipalities.

There is no doubt that this has been a year everyone will remember. But for our board, and our staff, we will remember we provided leadership and caring for everyone in our community.

John Blackwell, Chair

Chief Librarian’s Report 2020/2021

All library branches and headquarters were closed across the region in April and May 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Staff members quickly pivoted to our online services of the virtual library, adding more e-books, newspaper and magazine databases, digital learning platforms, and online programming. A two-stage plan was prepared for reopening that would comply with public health guidelines and offer the widest range of services possible, given the new conditions. Funds provided through the United Way allowed for the installation of acrylic shields, the purchase of protective equipment, crowd barriers, outdoor furnishings, and more.

June 16, 2020, libraries reopened with restricted hours, but full-service, including navigators at each entrance and contactless pickup of materials. All staff members were creative in their approach to serving the public, showing compassion and caring for each person. As mandatory masks were introduced in July, library locations helped distribute over 30,000 masks to the public, supplied by the Province of Nova Scotia.

In November the regional library took a further step and introduced a third stage of the plan that aimed to open up limited in-person programming, the creation of safe social spaces, and more activities that could help with social isolation. New Glasgow Library opened Mondays for the first time and, in January, Antigonish Town and County Library opened Sundays. The two libraries are now open to the public 7 days per week. The regional library, working with local community health boards, also carried out an online conference regarding social isolation, highlighting the many programs and opportunities in the area. This third stage plan is intended to last until pandemic conditions end.

During this time, work continued with the One Library Card project. The pandemic interrupted some work and the new integrated library system and discovery layer is expected to be live in February 2022. Efforts to realize a new Pictou Library also forged ahead with fundraising, government presentations, and grant-writing. And the 2-year Partnerships Project wrapped up in January 2021. Despite Covid-19, the project was deemed a success, building many new partnerships and initiatives and demonstrating the leadership role the regional library has in the community.

Finally, I would like to thank the board, managers, branch assistants, and all staff members for their help. This year proved more than any other, the best resource the library has are its people.

Eric Stackhouse, Chief Librarian and Board Secretary

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Activity

Library Use	2019/20	2020/21
Materials Borrowed	256,404	176,150
Active Users	16,928	16,300
Library Visits per year	320,561	138,538
Information Questions	28,811	16,876
Virtual Library Visits	122,433	136,507
Electronic Database Sessions	11,942	27,798
Internet Bookings	48,079	20,938
Internet Training Programs	736	404
Library Programs	2,414	722
Library Program Attendance	25,573	10,582
Items Borrowed from Other Libraries	5,935	3,737
Items Lent to Other Libraries	6,447	4,301
Nova Story Page Views (Ant. & Pic.)	93,779	* 64,577

*Reflects loss of statistics due to move to cloud server

Materials Borrowed by Location (Renewals excluded)	2019/20	2020/21
Antigonish	67,120	45,577
Books-By-Mail	7,141	5,899
New Glasgow	58,272	31,643
Pictou	32,651	18,527
River John	10,127	5,747
Stellarton	19,377	11,290
Trenton	2,979	1,606
Westville	11,750	6,140

Digital Materials	24,890	40,155
-------------------	--------	--------