

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Activity

| Library Visits by Location 2015/2016 | |
|---|---------|
| Antigonish | 175,050 |
| Books-By-Mail | N/A |
| New Glasgow | 63,908 |
| Pictou | 28,028 |
| River John | 11,700 |
| Stellarton | 17,784 |
| Trenton | 4,212 |
| Westville | 20,956 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Population Served | 65,519 |
| Total Holdings | 145,867 |
| Summer Reading Program Participants | 489 |
| Number of staff | 54 |

| 14/15 Income | | 14/15 Expenditure | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Provincial Grant | \$ 1,124,900 | Salaries/Benefits | \$ 1,502,850 |
| Municipal Grant | \$ 510,193 | Books & Materials | \$ 116,693 |
| Board Income | \$ 293,057 | Administration | \$ 305,242 |
| TOTAL | \$ 1,928,150 | TOTAL | \$ 1,924,785 |

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Accumulated Deficit | \$ 154,898 |
|---------------------|------------|

Library Board

Province of Nova Scotia:
Mr. Jack Beaton
Mr. John Blackwell

Municipality of the County of Antigonish:
Coun. Mary MacLellan

Municipality of Pictou County:
Coun. Sally Fraser, Chairperson

Town of Antigonish:
Coun. Sean Cameron

Town of New Glasgow:
Coun. Troy MacCulloch, Chairperson

Town of Pictou:
Coun. Cam Beaton

Town of Stellarton:
Coun. Judith MacLellan

Town of Trenton:
Coun. Steve Cotter

Town of Westville:
Coun. Charles Sutherland

Library Management Staff

ERIC STACKHOUSE
Chief Librarian/ Board Secretary

TRECIA SCHELL
Community Services Librarian

GREG HAYWARD
New Glasgow Library Supervisor

FERN MACDONALD
Manager of User Services

MELANIE PAULS
Community Access to
Technology Coordinator

KRISTEL FLEUREN-HUNTER
Children's Services Librarian

REGIONAL LIBRARY

Annual Report



April 2015 – March 2016

www.parl.ns.ca

Major Sponsors

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

Chairperson's Report 2015/2016

In January, Communities, Culture, and Heritage released the much anticipated Funding Review Report to the regional library boards for comment. With no new provincial funding it will be difficult to advance. A final decision will be made by Minister Tony Ince in late spring.

Advocacy at the provincial level was once again a priority. This being the sixth year of little or no funding increases to the Library Board, there was no choice but to communicate to users and municipal partners the seriousness of the situation. It is hoped, as the financial situation improves with the Province of Nova Scotia, libraries will be embraced by government as valuable community-based assets for literacy, personal development, independent learning, and inspiration.

Due to the continued frozen funding and the reduction of funds available through the Community Access Program the Board had no choice but to keep salaries at their current level. Even with these measures, and the elimination of positions recently vacated by retirement, increasing costs have made it difficult to balance the budget. However, it is hoped that a positive resolution to the funding issue will come about in the near future.

There were, however, many bright points for library service this fiscal year. Designs for a new Pictou Library, to be combined with the deCoste Centre, are moving ahead. Several public consultations took place in November and ideas were put forward. Over 300 people of all ages took part and overall excitement was high. The Pictou Library Project Committee anticipates a report will be forthcoming in June 2016.

The Board would like to thank the many municipalities, organizations, and businesses supporting public library service. These include the Adopt-a-Library Literacy Program, the Friends of River John Library, and the Friends of Antigonish Library.

I would also like to take this moment to personally thank all Library Board Members for their dedication in ensuring quality public library service is offered to all citizens of Antigonish and Pictou.

Cllr. Sally Fraser, Chair
June 2016

Chief Librarian's Report 2015/2016

Overall use of public library services remained constant this fiscal year. Number of active users and library visits remained steady while internet bookings and program attendance jumped significantly. The only negative statistic was in materials borrowed, which is caused partially by the low book and e-book budget but could also reflect ways in which we promote titles, genres, and subjects to the general public.

New to the annual report are NovaStory visits for Antigonish and Pictou Counties. Unique to this Regional Library, NovaStory is our digital collection of books, pamphlets, maps, photos, and other items related to local history and culture. The visits for 2015/16 were 53,950.

As one of the Council of Regional Librarians (CORL) representatives I served on the Funding Review Committee. While working with colleagues is always interesting, I have my concerns as to the usefulness of these select committees. As change is needed more and more, I believe the process must be made more inclusive from the start. Without it, there is likely to be less and less ownership of the process and the results.

I stepped aside as the Nova Scotia Community Access Program (NSCAP) Chair early in the new calendar year. After 16 plus years as Chair it was time to encourage another person to take on the challenge of guiding the program through the many ups and downs of this valuable service.

Trecia Schell continues to serve on the working group for the developing Canadian Federation of Library Associations. The Federation is expected to replace the Canadian Library Association.

Regional library staff continues to show amazing creativity and innovation in delivering services and programs. This and their dedication to the individual needs of the public have made for a successful community responsive service. With over 20,000 people attending library-led programs we are better finding our niche and responding to citizen's interests and learning needs. To all regional library staff I say thank you.

I would also like to thank all of supporters, volunteers, and even our critics! It is with their help we develop our service. While strategic plans and evidence-based decision-making are important, they only help so far. Listening, being approachable and open to ideas from the community is what raises a service from average to excellent. A responsive library will be a valued library well into the future.

Finally, thank you to the library board members for supporting us as staff through these uncertain financial times. It is appreciated greatly.

Eric Stackhouse, Chief Librarian and Board Secretary
June 2016

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Activity

| Library Use | 2014/15 | 2015/16 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Materials Borrowed | 279,533 | 249,900 |
| Active Users | 20,455 | 19,618 |
| Library Visits per year | 308,226 | 315,413 |
| Information Questions | 27,110 | 35,977 |
| Virtual Library Visits | N/A | 187,321 |
| Electronic Database Sessions | 64,908 | 41,408 |
| Internet Bookings | 48,913 | 60,751 |
| Internet Training Programs | 687 | 1,643 |
| Library Programs | 1,676 | 2,053 |
| Library Program Attendance | 15,972 | 20,173 |
| Items Borrowed from Other Libraries | 4,672 | 4,924 |
| Items Lent to Other Libraries | 3,767 | 4,116 |
| Nova Story Page Views (Ant. & Pic.) | N/A | 53,950 |

| Materials Borrowed by Location | 2014/15 | 2015/16 |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Antigonish | 78,962 | 74,400 |
| Books-By-Mail | 7,789 | 7,993 |
| New Glasgow | 67,359 | 62,921 |
| Pictou | 37,205 | 34,101 |
| River John | 10,882 | 11,108 |
| Stellarton | 20,707 | 19,946 |
| Trenton | 3,166 | 3,257 |
| Westville | 13,584 | 16,999 |

| | | |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| Overdrive | 20,294 | 18,903 |
|-----------|--------|--------|