

## 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
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## 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](http://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
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