

News from Nova Scotia

News from Cape Breton Regional Library

Tracy Wilson, Library Assistant – Programming, Cape Breton Regional Library

“Outlander” at the Playhouse

This fall, the W.W. Lewis Memorial Library (Louisbourg) was pleased to bring to life Diana Gabaldon’s time-travel/romance series “Outlander” at the Louisbourg Playhouse. Gabaldon’s series of books are beautifully written and you can’t help but get caught up in the story of Clare and Jamie Fraser.



The Outlander series, though fictional, helps us connect to our Celtic history as Cape Bretoners and Nova Scotians. Scott Moir, CBU Associate Professor of History, Culture, and Creative Studies was on hand at this program to help us understand the books’ historical background. Moir considers the W Network’s TV series adaptation of the novels quite accurate, as far as Highland culture and traditions are concerned. Moir also brought us into the world of weapons and the battle of Culloden, the last real attempt to maintain the Highland way of life in Scotland.

Ronald Labelle, CBRL Storyteller in Residence, shared his “time-travel experience” as well as the story of the MacLeod Fairy Flag, the only one of its kind in existence. An heirloom of the chiefs of clan Macleod of Dunvegan, the flag has mysterious origins and is said to have magical powers.

Elizabeth Campbell of Forrester’s Dancers captured the audience at this event with her precise and captivating sword dance in her beautiful blue tartan.

The program closed with an “Outlander-style” fashion show, including the designs of Deana Lloy of Red Label Kilts. The fashions depicted the styles of all walks of life from



eighteenth century Scotland, including dress and battle tartans, white-witch cloaks, the dresses of young maidens and the attire of noble Scotsmen.

Traditional Scottish treats of scones and oatcakes and tea were served as people stayed to chat about the evening and the books and television series that inspired the evening's program.

"Outlander" at the Playhouse was organized through the hard work of Tracy Wilson (CBRL, Program staff) with the support and assistance of Darlene Leahy (Louisbourg Library, staff).

Celtic Colors Conversation Series 2018

Tara MacNeil, Cape Breton Regional Library, Programs

The Cape Breton Regional Library has a longstanding and successful program partnership with the Celtic Colours International Festival, by hosting the Celtic Conversations Series each year during the festival. The series has grown in scale, like the Festival itself. But despite the growing audience size, which can range from 50-150 people, the free hour-long lunch events maintain a light-hearted and informal tone and move swiftly with stories, music, dance (on occasion), laughter, and Q&A.



Performers for the 2018 Conversation Series included, Scottish pipers Brighde Chaimbeul & Ross Ainslie; The Savoy Family Cajun Band; Book Launch "A Stone for Andrew Dunphy" (hosted by Celtic Colours Artist-in-Residence Paul MacDonald); and Acadian Singer/Songwriter Ronald Bourgeois.