

## News from Prince Edward Island

### News from the Prince Edward Island Library Service

**Beth Clinton, Regional Librarian, PEI Public Library Service**

#### Staffing

There are so many staffing updates to report that it might be easier to list who hasn't taken a new position or retired!

-Grace Dawson, Regional Librarian, has accepted a one-year position as interim Library Director with Bruce County Public Library in Ontario. Grace's position is being filled by Ray MacLeod, and Ray's role as Adult Services Librarian has just been taken up by Jennie Thompson, previously with the Provincial Archives as a Records Analyst (and before that, a Branch Technician and Library Assistant with various libraries in the PLS).

-Lori MacAdam, French Library Services Coordinator has taken a one-year position as Bilingual Development Officer with Cultural Affairs. Lori's position will be covered by newcomer Robyn Gallant.

-Chloe Colwill has been appointed to a shared Branch Technician position covering 3 libraries—Mount Stewart, St. Peters, and Souris.

-Long time Library Assistant, Rita Sahajpal has retired from the Confederation Centre Public Library after more than 30 years of service. Her vacant position was filled by Susan Forsythe.

Jane McKinney, Branch Technician with the Stratford Library, retired in November 2018. Her position was taken by her associate Branch Technician (who also worked in the Cornwall Public Library), Ashley McCluskey-Douse. Ashley's position was filled by Virginia Reddin, formerly a Library Assistant at the Confederation Centre Public Library. Virginia's position has not yet been filled, but hopefully the domino effect will not continue too much longer, as we've all eaten too much cake at retirement and new position parties!

## Poet Laureate

PEI's 7<sup>th</sup> Poet Laureate was appointed in February. Julie Pellissier-Lush is our first Indigenous Poet Laureate and is a writer, actor and storyteller who works to preserve the history and culture of the Mi'kmaq for future generations. The role of the Poet Laureate is to celebrate PEI and its people, to raise the profile of PEI



poets, to promote a higher standard of literacy, and to raise public awareness of poetry and the spoken word. Julie has admirably filled this role in the short time she has held the position with library performances to celebrate Poetry Month in April, visits to writing groups and poetry circles, culture nights, school visits, and the creation of a Facebook page.

*Pictured above, Poet Laureate, Julie Pellister-Lush front and centre!*

## Gift of Reading

Libraries across PEI took part in the Gift of Reading campaign for the fifth year. Libraries collect donations of new and gently used children's and YA books in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The books are donated to food banks across the Island to be included in Christmas hampers. This year, twenty-four boxes of books were collected and distributed to families.

## East Prince Youth Development Centre

Summerside Rotary Library has developed a new partnership with East Prince Youth Development Centre. The Centre offers employment search assistance and skills training for local youth. The Centre has been bringing program attendees to the library to register for a library card and for a library tour with a focus on employment resources. Two participants in the program have completed week long job shadowing at the library, and library staff have helped the program by participating in mock interviews with participants.

## 3-D Printers

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## Canadian Agricultural Literacy Month

The PEI Public Library Service celebrated another Canadian Agricultural Literacy Month with story times and farmer visits across the Island. There was much excitement in the Charlottetown and Cornwall libraries when Island Hill Farms visited and read stories. Much of the excitement came from the fact that they brought goats and a bunny, but the story times were also wonderful.



*Local librarian bonds with goat  
at the Confederation Centre  
Public Library in Charlottetown*