

News from New Brunswick

News from New Brunswick Public Library Service

Kate Thompson, Head of Public Services Development

In November 2024, the New Brunswick Public Library Service (NBPLS) was saddened by the passing of **Julia Stewart**, Library Director of the Fredericton Public Library, following a short illness. Julia was a beloved member of the community, as well as a passionate advocate for libraries and various other causes. She was posthumously awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her contributions towards making the city a welcoming, inclusive and vibrant place. She will be greatly missed.

Sarah Aaen, former Head of Young Adult and Adult Services at Fredericton Public Library, has been appointed as the new director. In an interview on CBC Radio's *Information Morning – Fredericton*, Sarah talked about her desire to continue moving Julia's vision for the library forward and to cement the library as the city's "place to be." We wish Sarah the best as she honours Julia's legacy, while putting her own stamp on the library and its services.

The **Chatham Public Library** in Miramichi was closed from November 16, 2024, until January 28, 2025, due to issues with the facility which resulted in a move to a new temporary location. A former coffee shop was repurposed to temporarily house the library until a more permanent solution can be found. It was a major project that involved a coordinated effort on the part of the City of Miramichi, the library board, and the provincial library system. Many thanks to the staff from the Chatham Public Library, the nearby Newcastle Public Library, the York Regional Office, the Collections Management Unit, and NBPLS Provincial Office for the work you put into making this project a success.



NBPLS is gearing up for the launch of **Summer Reading Club (SRC) 2025**. This year's theme is Space, and the slogan is *Limitless Reading / Lire à l'infini*. Young astronauts-in-training will explore the cosmos to learn about planets and stars and wonder at the mysteries of the universe while reading and taking part in fun activities.

