

News from Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries

Sarah Bartlett, Regional Librarian, Eastern Division

Murder Mystery Night at St. Lawrence Public Library

By Emma Curtis, Library Technician I

The St. Lawrence Public Library has hosted two murder mystery nights and, due to popular demand, we are preparing for our third. This fun-filled event was brought to our attention by a board member who grew up with her parents hosting murder mystery evenings for family and friends. Our librarian was able to find free online murder mystery scripts, and we are presently working on one that is specific to our Newfoundland and Labrador culture. To participate in the murder mystery, each person registered is given detailed background information about their assigned character, as well as an overview of the crime committed. The goal is for the players to take on



the identity of their assigned characters by dressing and acting as that person. They develop spontaneous dialogue and offer clues based on the information they have, and players attempt to solve the murder. Patrons are invited to watch, and find the antics and performances of the players very entertaining! They also get an opportunity to put their detective skills to the test by declaring who they think is guilty of the murder. Midway through the evening everyone takes a break for a cup of coffee and a snack, then it's back to figuring out who done it!

Bonavista Public Library Celebrates 80 Years of Community Service

By **Samantha Rolls**, Library Technician I

The Bonavista Memorial Public Library first opened its doors on March 17, 1945, in the surgery of Dr. C.A. Forbes. Eight decades later, the library marked its 80th anniversary with a celebratory open house on March 22, 2025, in its current building.

The celebration featured a lovely storytime for children, where they enjoyed a song, a story about a library, and a bookworm craft activity.

In the spirit of community and creativity, together, the library and local library board held a friendly competition involving both schools in the town. Elementary students took part by designing potential mascots for the library. The winning mascot was created by Grade 4 student **Jordan Dalton**. Meanwhile, high school students submitted poster designs celebrating 80 years of the library, with Grade 12 student **Jada Moulard** taking 1st place.

A special moment during the celebration was the ceremonial cake cutting, performed by mother and daughter **Brenda Wilton** and **Samantha Rolls** —librarian and substitute, respectively, two of three generations of women who have worked at the Bonavista Public Library.

The open house drew many visitors from the community, including members of the local library board, and Bonavista's Mayor **John Norman**, making the event a true celebration of the library's legacy and its continued impact.

