

## News from Prince Edward Island

Juanita Rossiter, VP PEI

### News from [Robertson Library, UPEI](#):

In the fall of 2025, librarians **John Bayhi** and **Kim Mears** welcomed the inaugural cohort of medical students to the recently completed [Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Centre](#) at UPEI. This group of twenty Prince Edward Island students have since traded the jitters of orientation for the rhythms and rigour of life in this wonderful new learning and research environment.



**Kim Mears (Medical & Knowledge**

**Synthesis Librarian) and John Bayhi (Clinical Librarian)  
Photo credit: Spencer Merz-Wood (Library Technician)**

While the program currently operates under Memorial University's accreditation, it represents an important step toward UPEI's long-term vision of a medical school that is "made in PEI for all of PEI," which is to feature a unique-in-Canada joint Doctor of Medicine degree.

As these future physicians settle into their state of the art academic home, Robertson Library has begun evolving alongside them. The library now has an official Research Data Management and Knowledge Synthesis (RDMKS) unit, which has spent these past months building up its medical collections and integrating high-level learning and research support into the program. This work has unfolded in close collaboration with the Memorial Health Sciences Library.

With no abatement of excitement, the librarians and staff at Robertson Library have been cherishing these new opportunities, and are immensely proud to support this cohort as they continue on in their journey from the classroom to the clinic.

## News from [PEI Library Services](#)

### Black History Month Family Storytime Events:



The Summerside Rotary Library had 30 children and 11 adults for its recent Black History Month Storytime event. This craft that was undertaken is called [Kente Cloth](#).

Photo credit: Minerva Gamble-Hardy  
(Regional Librarian)

**Michaela Kryger** is the Children’s and Teen Services Librarian with the PEI Library Service at the Charlottetown Library Learning Centre. She has organized the Black History Month (BHM) Storytime Events across the Island, which have taken place at the [Summerside Rotary Library](#), [Kensington Heritage Library](#), [Stratford Public Library](#), [Cornwall Public Library](#), [Montague Rotary Library](#), and the [Charlottetown Library Learning Centre](#).

These BHM storytimes are part of provincial library service’s regularly scheduled Read, Sing, Play preschool programs. Kryger says “What makes this one special is having guest readers from the [Black Cultural Society of PEI](#) visit to read one of the stories. It’s so wonderful to be able to host these visits across the island, especially in some of the smaller municipalities who don’t get as many opportunities for storytime special guests.”

Additional system-wide events for Black History Month, include a scavenger hunt and take home craft kits that include a craft, recipes, and book list.



Reequal Smith from the Black Cultural Society of PEI read the story [Like So](#) by Ruth Foreman and [Don't Touch My Hair](#) by Sharee Miller.

Photo credit: Minerva Gamble-Hardy (Regional Librarian)

## [Summerside Rotary Library](#)

### [Seniors Café:](#)

A drop-in group where seniors are invited for a cup of tea or coffee and a snack, the Seniors Café is held at the Summerside Rotary Library on the second Friday of every month.

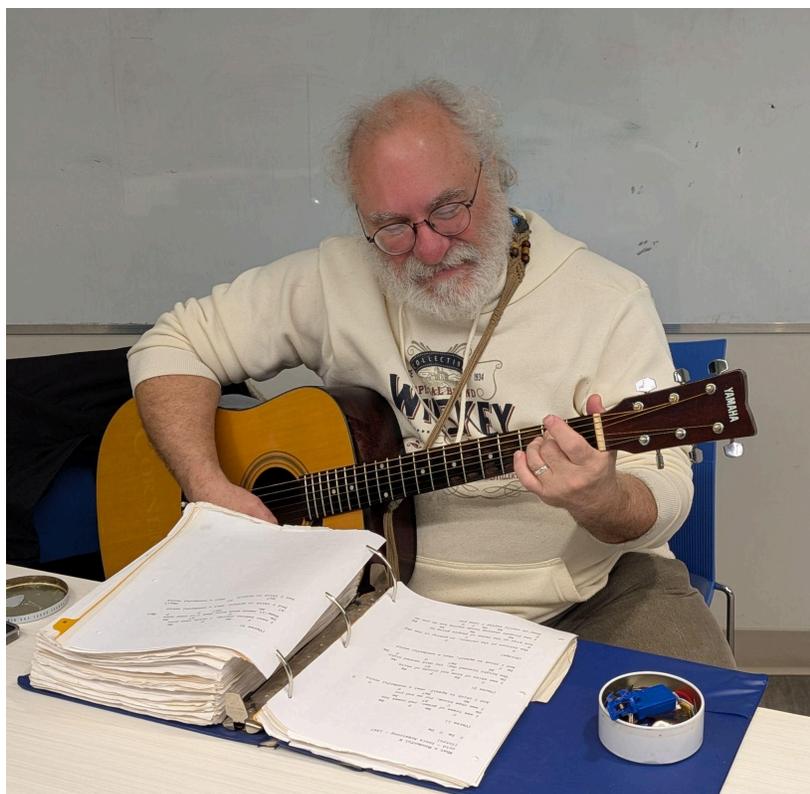
Regional Librarian **Minerva Gamble-Hardy** says, “Each month we either have an activity or a speaker. This month **Howard LaChapelle**, from Culture Summerside, will be speaking on the services at [MacNaught History Centre and Archives](#). He will be discussing the addition of Bishops, upcoming Spring/Summer scheduling and answering questions.”

Other examples of guest speakers were **Shelley King**, from Alzheimer Society of PEI, who came to discuss brain health, as well as an informative session on clocks with **Wendell Feener** in December. “Wendell brought in part of his collection, which participants really enjoyed,” says Gamble-Hardy.

### Jam Session:

A volunteer-led program held at the Summerside Rotary Public, these jam sessions offer a place for individuals to come with their own instrument or borrow one from the library. **Minerva Gamble-Hardy** says “We have a collection of instruments available through our Sunlife Musical Instrument Lending Program. The instruments in the collection include acoustic guitars, keyboards, banjos, violins, ukuleles, mandolines, and a variety of drums.”

The group meets monthly at 6:30 pm, with the next meeting on Monday, February 9th, 2026.



**Eddy Schwartz, leader of the jam session**

**Photo credit: Minerva Gamble-Hardy (Regional Librarian)**

## Montague Rotary Library - Paws to Read Event:

Having begun at the Charlottetown Library in fall 2013, the Paws to Read program offers kids aged six to twelve an opportunity to boost their reading confidence by reading to certified therapy dog, **Hawkeye**. These sessions are in-person and need to be booked ahead as registration is required.



Two young readers took part in the Paws to Read event at Montague Rotary Library this month.

