

## News from Nova Scotia

### News from Cumberland Public Libraries

Charlotte Gallivan, Community Engagement Librarian

#### **Budget Challenges - Staff Reductions and Hoopla Elimination**

At their February 5, 2026 meeting, our library board approved a 10% reduction in weekly hours for all full-time Headquarters staff. This change was deemed necessary, in light of ongoing financial pressures. The decision impacts eight (8) full-time employees, including our Library Director, Deputy Library Director, Community Engagement Librarian, Systems Manager, Youth Services Library Assistant, two Technical Services Library Assistants, and our Shipping/Receiving Clerk.

During this meeting, the board also voted to eliminate Hoopla as a digital borrowing platform.

#### **Staff Unionization**

On March 31, CPL staff voted unanimously to unionize, becoming Local 24 of the Nova Scotia Union of Public and Private Employees (NSUPE). The Union now represents 21 CPL employees.

Negotiations between NSUPE and the library have started, with a Collective Agreement forthcoming.

#### **Read Coast-to-Coast Book**

##### **Challenge**

From February 21 until April 30, Same Page libraries hosted a “Read Coast-to-Coast” Book Challenge. The goal of the challenge was to celebrate Canadian authors from across the country.

Readers were invited to explore books from five Canadian regions, receiving a stamp after each read title. Participants then got travel stamps that entered them into a draw to win a prize.

In total, approximately 885 Canadian books were read during the challenge.



## **Amherst Royals Display**

Some of our locations recently hosted an exhibit on The Amherst Royals!

The Amherst Royals was a hockey team established by the Coloured Hockey League of the Maritimes in the late 1800s. Long before the NHL, Black communities in Nova Scotia organized and played the game at a high level.

This exhibit explored the history of the Coloured Hockey League and why its story has been left out - and why it matters.



**Elizabeth Cooke-Sumnu** stands in the Amherst Library with The Amherst Royals Exhibit (Photo courtesy of the Town of Amherst).

## **Library Values Campaign**

To showcase the importance of libraries within our communities, we launched a “Library Values” campaign in March.

The premise of the campaign is simple: we have asked our community and staff what the library means to them. As we all know, the library has a unique and lasting impact on each person who passes through our doors. It has been an honour for us to share those stories with the community at large.

You can find campaign posts on our Facebook page: @cumberlandpubliclibraries.



### **Congratulations Denise! Grace Annie Lockhart Sesquicentennial Pin Recipient**

We wanted to take a moment to congratulate our Library Director, **Denise Corey**, on receiving the Grace Annie Lockhart Sesquicentennial Pin.

This special recognition celebrates Mount Allison University alumnae whose lives and work reflect Lockhart's legacy — women who have made meaningful contributions through leadership, service, innovation, and community impact. In a profession built on service, Denise stands out for her vision, resilience, and enduring commitment to community well-being.

Congratulations on this well deserved recognition Denise!

You can read Denise's story, and learn about other recipients [here](#).