

News from Nova Scotia

News from Cape Breton Regional Library

Tara MacNeil, Cape Breton Regional Library, Programs

Winter Sports Equipment at the Library

Libraries in Cape Breton and Victoria counties are embracing the outdoors again this winter with our winter sports equipment loan program.

Thanks to a grant from the Central Cape Breton Community Health Board, the Library was able to purchase snowshoes and poles that can be loaned out with a library card to individuals and families in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality at no cost (*the same grant helped us purchase tennis rackets to loan out too!*)

The Victoria County Active Gear Loan Program offers a wider variety of winter equipment including: snowshoes with poles (children's to adult sizes), cross-country skis, boots (children's to adult sizes), poles, ice traction cleats, and walking poles to library users who visit the Baddeck and Ingonish library branches and the Victoria Co. Bookmobile.

The Victoria Co. Active Gear Program is in partnership with Naturally Active Victoria County, Nova Scotia Communities, Culture and Heritage, and Cape Breton Regional Library. Many comments from library users from Victoria Co. who borrowed winter equipment in 2017 highlight the positive spin from this loan program;

- *"(I've) always wanted to try skiing or snowshoeing, but had been reluctant to invest in the equipment in case I didn't end up not liking the sport"*
- *"This has really changed how I feel about winter. I'm loving it. And if this program hadn't existed, I never would have tried skiing"*



Cape Breton Regional Library Storyteller in Residence Ronald Labelle reappointed for a second term

The Library enjoyed hosting Ronald Labelle as our Storyteller-in-Residence for a two year term (July 2015-July 2017) and are pleased to announce that he'll be staying on for a second term. Ronald has participated in various library events during his first term and is always ready to share a story or two to

fit the occasion. A few of these events include; “Telling Folktales” workshops, Haunted Tales, Remembering School Days, a March Break program for youth “Create an ending to a traditional folktale”, storytelling for Lumière, and even an “Enchanted Woods” tale told while walking on the Baille Ard Nature Trail. Ronald was also an important contributor to our inaugural *Isle of Storytelling Festival* in March 2017 – offering his experience in the planning, organizing, hosting, and of course, storytelling at this festival. We are looking forward to more from Ronald Labelle!



150 Library Makers Workshops in CBRL

Thanks to a generous grant from the Department of Communities Culture and Heritage (CCH)'s *150 Forward Fund*, Nova Scotia's Libraries were able to celebrate learning, crafting, and making in our libraries by offering more great programs and workshops with local artists, crafters, creators, and innovators. A few of the free, hands-on workshops that were offered in Cape Breton Regional Library branches included: rughooking, archival box making, jewellery making, beginner painting, silk screen painting, hapa zome, altered book art, perspective sketching, and more fun programs for children and youth.

Hats off to Laura Emery (Chief Librarian, Eastern Counties Regional Library) for her 150 Library Makers vision and all her efforts in making the project happen!



Left to right: Completing archival boxes, group photo with finished scarves, working on a rughooking project.