

News from New Brunswick

News from New Brunswick Public Library Service

Kate Thompson, Head of Public Services Development

- In an effort to improve service to patrons from New Brunswick's First Nations, and to celebrate the International Year of Indigenous Languages, the New Brunswick Public Library Service (NBPLS) recently translated its general information brochure into Mi'gmaq and Wolastoqey. The brochure provides basic information about the library, such as how to sign up for a library card, how to renew items, and how to place holds.
- Joann Hamilton-Barry, Library Director of the Saint John Free Public Library, launched her new book, *The North Atlantic Right Whale: Past, Present, and Future* at the New Brunswick Museum on July 11. Joann was also recently shortlisted for the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award for *There be Pirates! Swashbucklers & Rogues of the Atlantic*.
- The Mgr. W. J. Conway Public Library in Edmundston recently completed a report on its *Books in Prison* pilot project in partnership with the Madawaska Regional Correctional Centre in Saint-Hilaire. The pilot project took place in 2018 and saw a member of the library's reference team travel to the correctional centre every three weeks to lend books. The report speaks to the success of the pilot, which saw half of the centre's 40 detainees benefit from the service. The report also contains recommendations for other libraries who wish to offer a similar service.
- In June, the Port Elgin Public Library reopened in a new location. It had been closed since August 2017 due to problems with the facility where it was previously located.
- In May, eleven libraries in NBPLS' Chaleur Region launched a pilot project to test the feasibility of lending Wi-Fi hotspots. The "Borrow the Internet" project was made possible thanks to the support of the Port of Belledune and the New Brunswick Public Libraries Foundation. As part of the service, patrons can borrow a Wi-Fi hotspot and take it home for one week. The device emits a Wi-Fi signal that can connect up to 15 wireless devices to the Internet using cellular data on the Bell mobile network. This service is the first of its kind to be offered in Atlantic Canada.
- At the opening celebration of Disability Awareness Week, Sarah Gladwell, Reference Librarian at the Saint John Free Public Library, was presented with the "Person of the Year" award by the Saint John Ability Advisory Committee. Sarah was recognized for her work developing accessible programs at the library.
- Fredericton Public Library has installed a "Community Fridge" in the lobby of the library. The library purchased the fridge through a grant from the Fredericton Community Foundation and is partnering with the Greener Village Food Bank to provide healthy snacks for anyone in need.

People can stop by any time the library is open to grab a piece of fruit to help them get through their day. The idea came about as a way to help people in the city's downtown core who may not be able to access the food bank on the other side of the river.