

News from Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries

Cindy Hall & Sandra Harnum

Little Free Pantries Partnership in Mount Pearl

Submitted by Cindy Hall, Library Assistant, Mount Pearl Public Library, Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries

A wonderful partnership began this year between me, the City of Mount Pearl, and NL Public Libraries. For the last twelve months, we have worked together to provide non-perishable food and hygiene items to those in need via little free pantries.

In early January, I saw a local Twitter post of a freezer bag that had been left on a park bench for someone to find, filled with various food and person hygiene items. Instead of clicking a button and just sharing the post I decided to take it a step further and make my own bag of supplies to leave for someone. I had collected enough items to make four bags. In each one was a set of hat and mitts, ready-to-eat food items like granola bars, and a toothbrush and toothpaste. When I shared a photo online of my own kit, many people came forward wanting to donate items and money for me to make more. The four 'care kits,' as I called them, turned into hundreds. Storage and distribution scaled up tenfold almost overnight. Thus began the partnership with the City and NL Public Libraries. The city approached me with the idea to build and place seven permanent pantries to hold the kits. The Mount Pearl Public Library also offered space to house the incoming food and other donations.



Since the pantries have been built, I've formed a committee of volunteers who help shop, promote, and fill the pantries with me. During special times of the year we will hold fundraisers to make appropriate seasonal kits. This September we raised funds to make Back to School kits that had everything a child would need to start the school year. Once word got out about the school kits, a local business, Dick's Office Supplies, sent enough items to fill several kits. In October we made Thanksgiving meal kits. Fresh vegetables, ham, tins of gravy, boxes of stuffing and after dinner treats were packaged and left in the pantries. A similar fundraiser is happening now for our complete Christmas dinner meal kits. The NL Public Libraries once again provided space for our First Annual Santa Storytime. Non-perishables were the price of admittance and the response was excellent. As a result, we raised enough money and food to see us into the next year!

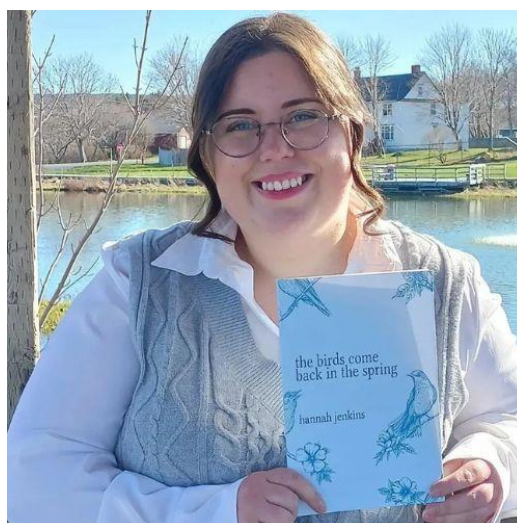


Corner Brook Public Library's Writer-in-Residence: Hannah Jenkins

Submitted by Sandra Harnum, Regional Librarian, Western Division, Newfoundland & Labrador Public Libraries

This past Fall/Winter, the Corner Brook Public Library proudly introduced **Hannah Jenkins** as their Writer-in-Residence Intern. Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries (NLPL) offers Writer in Residence Internship opportunities to qualified students enrolled in Memorial University Grenfell's Master of Applied Literary Arts program. Hannah is a graduate student at Grenfell Campus working towards her Masters in Applied Literary Arts.

Hannah did poetry readings for numerous Newfoundland and Labrador Public Library branches throughout the province, including Carbonear Public Library and Gander



Public Library, while she completed a cross-province book signing tour. Hannah published her first book of poetry, *The Birds Come Back in the Spring*, in April 2022, with Engen Books.

Hannah's first book of poetry offers the best kind of storytelling: direct, playful, deft and wise. Hannah writes poetry that you'll want to quote and read aloud to the people you love. Her voice is fresh and the stories she tells will resonate across the generations. In many ways this collection is about the growing up we've all had to do and are still doing, and will be doing for the rest of our lives. You'll read this collection again and again. I already can't wait for her next book. -- Michelle Porter, Approaching Fire.

NLPL's Writer-in-Residence Interns balance the creation and delivery of writing programs (in partnership with the library) with work on their own writing project(s). Some of the things Hannah is working on include (but are not limited to): developing and delivering writing programs and/or workshops for the public, collaborating with library staff to plan public readings and/or other engaging events showcasing her work and/or the work of other local writers, connecting with emerging local writers to provide feedback and support through peer-learning activities, as well as completing work on her own writing project(s).

At the Corner Brook Public Library, Hannah is stationed at the Writer-in-Residence desk, near the first-floor circulation desk, during set hours throughout the week so that patrons are aware of what she is working on and able to ask her any questions about her current and/or future work. The Corner Brook Public Library staff are delighted to be working with Hannah during her residency with the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries.

Brittany Noseworthy, Corner Brook Public Library's Branch Supervisor, speaks of the experience working with Hannah:

Hannah has been a joy to have here at the Corner Brook Public Library. She brings with her a passion for her craft and an enthusiasm to work with us. Aside from her regularly scheduled 'Drop-In Hours', Hannah has also helped to organize multiple events with the library, with even more on the horizon. During her first semester with us, she put together a small Literary Festival centered around the works of Margaret Atwood and has given talks to our own Creative Writing Group. We are so happy and fortunate to be able to work alongside Hannah.

This is the first time that a Writer-in-Residence has been in a Newfoundland and Labrador Public Library branch, and we certainly hope that it is not the last. Hannah has been doing a tremendous job sharing her expertise with our library staff and patrons. Thank you, Hannah, for your dedication to your craft and for sharing your talent with our patrons in Newfoundland & Labrador! You can read more about Hannah and follow her writing journey on [Facebook](#) or Instagram @creativelyhannahjenkins.