

News from Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries

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Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries launches NLPL Connect Pass

Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries (NLPL) is excited to announce the launch of the NLPL Connect Pass. First launched on March 23rd, this province-wide lending pass program offers patrons the chance to book free admission passes for a wide range of museums, galleries, outdoor spaces, recreational facilities, performing arts shows, and sports games.

Public libraries are committed to free and equitable access to stories, ideas, and life-long learning. NLPL has partnered with cultural and recreational organizations across the province to give library patrons the opportunity to try out new experiences, stay active, learn more about this province, connect with each other, and be moved by the power of the arts.

This “library of learning and doing” features more than 40 locations and experiences across the province, so far including The Rooms, The North Atlantic Aviation Museum, NL provincial parks, Provincial Historic Sites, The Memorial University Johnson Geo Centre, The NSO, Opera on the Avalon, First Light Centre for Performance and Creativity, The Rogues Basketball games, The Growlers Hockey games, Nordic Ski Clubs (in Gander, Stephenville, and Happy Valley-Goose Bay), and much more.

Passes are available groups of up to 2 adults and 4 children, and can be booked online. Go to nlpl.ca and look for the NLPL Connect Pass page. The only requirement is an NLPL library card, which is always free.



The NLPL Connect Pass provides a way to save money, have fun, and learn more about what Newfoundland and Labrador has to offer. Follow #NLPLConnectPass and the NLPL Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts for more information.

Newfoundland and Labrador Public Library's newly appointed Director of Library Operations: Fred Whitmarsh

Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries is happy to announce the appointment of their newest Director of Library Operations, **Fred Whitmarsh**.

Fred holds a Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Western Ontario, and a Bachelor of Arts, Honours History from the University of Ottawa. He brings 15 years of experience as a professional librarian in the Markham Public Library (MPL) system, the last 10 years as a Branch Manager at various locations, most recently the Unionville Branch. Fred is the winner of a 2015 CASCON award for contributions to the paper "The effect of a collaborative game on group work", and has made many conference presentations over the years.

Fred's experience and knowledge in all areas of library operations including customer service, circulation, collection development, reference services, programming, and human resource functions will benefit public libraries in Newfoundland and Labrador. We look forward to the new perspective he will bring to the position!

National Poetry Month at the Corner Brook Public Library

Corner Brook Public Library recently celebrated April's National Poetry Month by hosting two successful poetry events at their library branch: a poetry workshop led by a published poet as well as a poetry night with an open mic event.

The Newfoundland & Labrador Public Libraries' branch kicked off National Poetry Month with a presentation and workshop hosted by their Writer-in-Residence, **Hannah Jenkins**, which took place on Saturday, April 15th. Hannah offered insight on her creative writing process and the workshop participants were able to see how the writing process unfolds for the published poet. She likewise helped guide participants in their own poetry writing process. Hannah is also the youth advocate for the Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador, and contributed to the Poetry Night with Open Mic event on Wednesday, April 26th at the Corner Brook Public Library.

The Poetry Night with Open Mic event included poetry readings from **Douglas Walbourne-Gough**, **Aley Waterman**, and **Kelsey Green**. It was presented in conjunction with brilliant community partners from the writing community: The Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador, the newly launched Horseshoe Literary Magazine, and the Grenfell Campus Literary Society. The event was a hybrid library program offering, taking place simultaneously both in-person and virtual, to participants. A poster and social media post were made with a QR code which led participants to register for the event via WebEx, the online video conferencing platform, if they desired to attend virtually. Although the event happened in the library's program room, participants who attended virtually also had the choice to indicate, when

registering, if they would like to read their original works to the crowd during the Open Mic portion of the event.

The event was well attended with over fifty participants who united together to celebrate poetry in all of its finest forms. **Brittany Noseworthy**, Corner Brook Public Library's Branch Supervisor, could not be more pleased with the hybrid event's successful outcome. There was much participation with the audience sharing their original poetry at the open mic. It was a delightful showcase of artistic talent from the writing community. What an enjoyable National Poetry Month at the Corner Brook Public Library!