

News from Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries

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“Geeking Out” with the St. John’s Public Libraries

The St John’s Public Libraries have been “geeking out” every October since 2018. Initiated by librarian **Leigha Chaisson-Locke**, *Geek Out at the Library* has become a highly anticipated annual event. Despite taking a break for lockdown, the event has evolved and changed as our libraries have evolved and changed.



Originally more of a “mini-con” for all things geeky, this year we embraced our passions, with programs and events featuring music, magic, puzzles and more! All 3 branches in St. John’s (A.C. Hunter, Marjorie Mews, and Michael Donovan) joined in to encourage their patrons to embrace what they loved, as well as to celebrate libraries. A couple of the highlights were the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra’s Atlantic String Quartet with their mini geek concert and the all-day Retro Tech exhibit.

The NSO’s Atlantic String Quartet have been a part of the Geek Out at the Library since the beginning, and graciously makes a place in their busy schedule to participate. Their renditions of theme songs from popular geek culture movies always has the packed crowd swaying and singing along.

Our new partners, “Retro Tech Newfoundland,” is a pandemic-conceived group that collects and preserves retro technology as well as educates the public. They had everything from a rotary phone to a Commodore 64 for people to play with and explore. Their interactive exhibit welcomed over 80 people, some of whom had a hard time leaving.



New additions to the line-up this year were a scavenger hunt at all three branches, and a jigsaw contest. Each team could have up to four players and was provided with a 300-piece puzzle to complete. The winners completed theirs in a stunning thirty-four minutes, while the other teams were quite satisfied to stay and complete theirs at a more leisurely pace.



Bringing people together and creating a welcoming community experience is the core of my job as a program coordinator. I can't wait for next year's Geek Out at the Library!