

News from Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries

Sarah Bartlett, Acting Division Manager, Eastern Division

Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries submitted the **Bay Roberts Library's 2023 Summer Reading Club** as our entry for TDSRC's annual contest, which recognizes excellence in public library programming across the country.

While we did not place in the top three, NLPL received word in late April that the jury was so impressed with the program Bay Roberts staff offered last summer, with two part-time staff and just over \$500, that they wanted to reward **Laura Saunders'** and **Marilyn Clarke's** impressive initiatives.

As a result, the committee has created the **Small but Mighty** award, which recognizes excellence in summer library programming. Laura and Marilyn of the Bay Roberts Library will be the inaugural recipients of this national award, which was created as a result of their phenomenal work offering literacy programming to youth in their community. They will receive \$1,000 for their children's area in recognition of their hard work.

You can view the other winners [here](#).

The direct link to our video submission is [here](#).

They have a very lovely blurb accompanying the description of our program as well!

This year, the members of the jury were so impressed with what a very small library did with two part-time staff and zero budget that they wanted to reward them for offering such an incredible TD Summer Reading Club program. After much deliberation, the Small but Mighty Award was created. This award will only be given out in exceptional circumstances to very deserving libraries.

The Bay Roberts Library (Newfoundland and Labrador) blew the jury away with their approach to the Summer Reading Club. This small but mighty library came up with terrific reading challenges for young readers. The jury admired how playful they were with decorating onsite, using "scoops" of paper ice cream and a giant bookworm that grew with the number of books read. In the end, Miles the Bookworm was over 250 feet long (averaging 10 books/reader). The appearance of Logan the Newfoundland Dog at the Toutons, Tunes and a Tale! event also made a special impression on the jury. The clever and engaging "Get Caught Reading" virtual challenge—in which parents posted pictures of their kids reading at home, outdoors and around town—was a great way to motivate kids to read anywhere and at any time.

The jury would like to compliment, recognize and shine a spotlight on the Bay Roberts Library as a wonderful example of the inventive, effective and creative literary youth programming that is possible on a shoestring budget when produced by hearts full of literary passion.

We are so proud of the accomplishments of our staff in Bay Roberts, and that their hard work will recognize other small libraries in Canada.

*Pictures shared with permission.

