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From the President's Desk



Terri Winchcombe

Winter 2026

Dear APLA Members,

Is it Spring yet? Four out of five Canadian groundhogs say it will be an early spring. Hoping their predictions will come true.

APLA Fonds at Nova Scotia Archives

I am pleased to announce that the integration of the APLA fonds into Nova Scotia Archives' holdings has been completed. The fonds includes scans of documents dating from 1929-2018. You can view the entry [here](#). The Executive will be discussing and adding additional documentation from 2019 onwards.

Strategic Planning Update

In November 2025 the Executive created an action plan for their SOAR exercise done in October. The first item on the to-do list is to survey the membership. The survey has been shared and responses are coming in. Thank you all who have responded to date. We hope to share results with you before or at the conference in June.

Perkopolis

Instructions for signing up to receive [Perkopolis](#) benefits have been shared with the membership. If you are having any trouble getting signed up, please let us know.

OLA Super Conference 2026

A HUGE thanks to APLA for sending me to OLA this year! As usual, travel was tricky due to winter conditions, but it was a productive few days and the sessions were really good. A few members of the APLA Conference Planning team and I focused on connecting with our vendors encouraging them to exhibit or sponsor APLA 2026. Vendors are excited that the conference will be held in person this year.

APLA Conference 2026 Update

The conference will take place **June 15-17, 2026**, at the **Delta Hotel, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia**. Please note the original end date, June 18, has been changed to June 17. Check the [conference website](#) for more updates. We look forward to bringing the APLA community together.

APLA Awards and Prizes

There is an updated [Funding and Awards](#) page on the APLA website. Please take a look. We look forward to seeing the applications!

As always, if you have any ideas, feedback, or an interest in supporting initiatives, please get in touch.

Warm regards,

Terri Winchcombe

APLA President

Membership Has Its Rewards

the PARTNERSHIP

The Provincial and Territorial Library Associations of Canada

6 WAYS THE PARTNERSHIP ENRICHES MEMBER LEARNING AND BENEFITS

The Partnership is Canada's national network of provincial and territorial library associations. The Partnership meets twice a year to collaborate and to develop services and programs for members of their respective associations. More than 7,800 people who work for or with the library and information management sector belong to the associations that make up The Partnership.

The associations that make up the Partnership include: l'Association des bibliothécaires du Québec - Quebec Library Association (ABQLA); Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA); British Columbia Library Association (BCLA); Library Association of Alberta (LAA); Manitoba Libraries Association (MLA); Nunavut Library Association (NLA); Newfoundland and Labrador Library Association (NLLA); Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA); Northwest Territories Library Association (NWTLA); Ontario Library Association (OLA); Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA); Yukon Library Association (YLA)

02 CONTINUING EDUCATION CERTIFICATE (CEC)

cec

The Partnership's *Continuing Education Certificate (CEC)* is a national program administered by the Library Association of Alberta on behalf of The Partnership.

As a CEC program participant you will:

- Plan and document your learning and professional development by activity type and subject areas;
- Collect points annually, based on learning activities, over the program period of three years;
- Receive a certificate of completion and a full record of your learning activities.

Visit <http://bit.ly/ContinuingEducationCertificate> for more information.

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EDUCATION INSTITUTE (EI)

The *Education Institute (EI)* is a continuing education program for library information workers developed by The Partnership. Annually, there are three EI Semesters. The Winter semester runs from January - April; the Spring/Summer semester runs from May - August, and the Fall semester runs from September - December. Each semester is promoted through a calendar. Members of the Partnership receive discounts on webinars and annual institutional subscriptions are available.

Visit <http://bit.ly/EducationInstitute> for upcoming events and more information.

****Please note that CEC is no longer an active program****

the PARTNERSHIP

The Provincial and Territorial Library Associations of Canada

03 THE PARTNERSHIP JOB BOARD

THE PARTNERSHIP JOB BOARD

The Partnership Job Board lists positions available to library and information personnel from coast to coast to coast. The Partnership Job Board was developed and is managed by the British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) to support members of The Partnership. The Job Board is free to job seekers and is a paid service for employers. The employer is responsible for all job posting content. BCLA does not participate in the hiring process and does not forward messages or applications to employers. The cost to post is \$55 for institutional members of a provincial or territorial library association in the Partnership, and \$85 for non-members.

Visit <https://partnershipjobs.ca/> for more information.



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THE LIBRARY MARKETPLACE

Library associations in the Partnership receive discounts from *The Library Marketplace*. Associations are also provided with a variety of product marketing tools like "the store in a box".

Visit <https://www.thelibrarymarketplace.com/> for more information.



Featured Article

Remembering Richard Ellis

On December 2, 2025, the Atlantic Provinces Library community sadly lost **Richard “Dick” Ellis**, Librarian Emeritus of Memorial University of Newfoundland. His former colleagues and friends from Memorial and University of New Brunswick have put together a touching tribute to his life, which can be read [here](#).



Announcement

Invitation to Collaborate with North/Nord: The Canadian Shared Print Network

Katya Pereyaslavskaya, Network Coordinator, Shared Print Archiving Network Program, COPPUL

Established in 2021, *North: the Canadian Shared Print Network/ Nord: Réseau canadien de conservation partagée des documents imprimés* (North/Nord) is guided by a Steering Committee composed of representatives from its funding consortia, including the Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries (CAAL). While shared print initiatives have existed in Canada for some time, North/Nord is the country's only national shared print network operating across academic, public, and government libraries.

Through coordinated, distributed stewardship, North/Nord identifies, retains, and archives physical collections across regions, ensuring that Canada's scholarly and cultural record remains preserved and accessible. This national scope is critical: it enables institutions to move beyond isolated collection management toward a cohesive, collaborative approach that strengthens long-term preservation capacity across the country.

As the landscape of higher education, public service, and information access continues to evolve, North/Nord remains committed to adapting its services thoughtfully and strategically. By remaining responsive to emerging needs while staying grounded in its [Mission & Vision](#), North/Nord is positioned to support sustainable collection management and collective stewardship well into the future.

As we build a robust ecosystem through collaboration, **North/Nord would like to invite future collaborators and working group members from Atlantic Canada to engage with us in one or more of the following ways:**

- By joining one of our working groups (current projects are listed [online](#))
- Submitting your expression of interest in being our next Researcher-in-Residence
- Getting in touch to discuss a project idea you have (contact kpereyaslavskaya@coppul.ca)

In an increasingly uncertain global environment, there is much that lies beyond our control. What we *can* control, however, is how we steward and safeguard Canada's scholarly and cultural record. By prioritizing coordinated preservation of Canadian research materials and strengthening national stewardship capacity, we ensure that these resources remain accessible regardless of external pressures.

Through distributed retention and shared responsibility, North/Nord reduces reliance on single institutions or single points of failure. This coordinated approach enables a more agile and collective response to crises, whether geopolitical, environmental, or economic. By working together to manage risk and preserve what matters most, we strengthen institutional and national resilience—ensuring that Canada's research materials are protected, accessible, and sustainably managed for the long term.

News from New Brunswick

News from New Brunswick Public Library Service

Kate Thompson, Head of Public Services Development

A collaboration with RPC on **radon test distribution** is winding down. Radon testing is not as effective in the spring and summer months as homes are generally more open to outside air. The project, which is the first of its kind in Canada, made tests available to New Brunswick homeowners through public libraries from mid-October to late February. To date, more than 10,500 long-term radon tests have been distributed.

Summer Reading Club 2025 set a historic record with 12,398 children registered across the province (11,543 in person and 855 online), making it the most successful year in the history of the NBPLS SRC program.



News from Newfoundland and Labrador

News from Memorial University Libraries

Kristine Power, Senior Communications Advisor

Useful acronyms: HSL (Health Sciences Library), CNS (Centre for Newfoundland Studies), MRC (Music Resource Centre), ASC (Archives and Special Collections), LITS (Library Information Technology Services)

Research

The Project Learn Book Club is expanding beyond the library system and is now open to the broader campus. The **Project Learn Book Club** reads books written by Indigenous authors or in collaboration with Indigenous communities. The books correspond with designated themes for that month that reflect locally and nationally recognized dates relating to Indigenous peoples, events, and initiatives. The goal of the Book Club is to elevate Indigenous voices and perspectives and change the approach to learning about Indigenous people and history. The Project Learn Book Club is led by **Michaela Doucette**, Indigenous Archivist, ASC.

The [Margaret Williams Trust Fund Award](#) continues to support students pursuing full-time or part-time graduate studies in librarianship, archival studies, or teacher librarianship. Since its inception in 1983, the award has granted more than \$65,000 to 64 students. This year's award recipients are **Brittany Jeans** and **Doyle Stone**.

Librarian **Chelsea Humphries** participated in the Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning's Instructor Series with the presentation, "What instructors need to know about GenAI literacy" on January 20. [A recording is available online.](#)

With support from the Wabanaki-Labrador Health Research Network, the Labrador Campus Library hosted a hybrid Plant Medicine Book Club panel that brought together more than 35 participants on campus and online. Registrants received a copy of *Berries of Labrador* by **Ellen Bryan Obed** and a handcrafted Labrador Tea soap. Panelists **Heather Angnatok**, **Dana Marshall**, and **Mckenzie Hutchings** shared stories of intergenerational knowledge, experimentation, and the often-humorous lessons learned while working with Labrador's healing plants. A WLN-funded lunch kept conversations flowing long after the formal session ended. A lively Q&A centered on *Our Plants...Our Land* by **Alain Cuerrier** and **Luise Hermanutz**, a much-used but out-of-print resource. Following the event, the campus library connected with Cuerrier and will serve as a contact point for the forthcoming expanded edition, which will include trees and shrubs of the Big Land.

The Labrador Campus Library was host to a *Pulse Check* scarf-knitting program that offered students a fresh, low-pressure way to engage with statistical math. Basic knitting lessons were provided as needed, and the participants (students, community, faculty, and staff) colour-coded BPM and tracked their data week-to-week. The scarves are becoming sites of statistical analysis in material form, and although it is

not a solution for all things “R”, it is helping visualize data and real-life statistical situations. The students have become such confident knitters that they are planning to make face clothes for a fundraiser this spring.



Chelsea Humphries also recently published an article, “Critical AI Literacy for Sustainable Scholarly Publishing,” in [Imaginations: Journal of Cross-Cultural Image Studies, 16\(1\), 207–214](#).

Chelsea Humphries delivered a virtual workshop for The Partnership’s Education Institute on November 10: “Glow, Don’t Burn: Managing Burnout and Thriving in Libraries.”

ADL **Crystal Rose** served as a guest speaker for the Rotary Club of Corner Brook on December 11, presenting on the Grenfell Library’s Archives and Special Collections.

Crystal Rose presented an AI and Copyright Update for all libraries and members of the Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning GenAI Community of Practice, in partnership with the Libraries’ AI Strategic Project Team on November 19.

On November 7, **Chelsea Humphries** partnered with Grenfell Campus’s Student Housing RAs and the Learning Centre to help with “Study Grounds,” a late-afternoon coffee break and working session on campus to help students tackle their final assignments with drop-in and scheduled research and citation help, writing assistance, and peer tutoring, all in one space.

On November 21, the Grenfell Library participated in the Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador Annual Conference’s Hospitality Night. They welcomed over 300 municipal leaders.

LITS recently began implementing Permafrost through Scholars Portal, which will enable the libraries to provide long-term archival storage of digital objects using Archivematica and make these preserved materials viewable through the Digital Archives Initiative (DAI).

ASC's **David Mercer** was featured on CBC News as part of Remembrance Day coverage. He was interviewed about artifacts relating to a soldier in the Newfoundland Regiment during World War One. You can watch the coverage on the [CBC News NL YouTube Channel](#) (8:40-16:05). The estimated reach of this story is 42.5k.

The Archives and Special Collections Division, QEII Library, was acknowledged on CBC's The Signal with **Adam Walsh**. He [interviewed various contributors of the book Dear Mr. Smallwood - Confederation in the Words of Those Who Lived It](#).

The DAI team has uploaded [Our unsung heroes - World War One](#) stories from Newfoundland and Labrador and it features a number of Library employees- **Dennis Flynn** (LITS), **Mike Foley** (former LITS member), and **David Mercer** (ASC).

The QEII Library partnered with the Office of Research to host a student Research Showcase event as part of the annual Memorial University Research Week. The event was designed to highlight the work of Royal Society of Canada members and their students. The event took place on November 26, 2025 and was so successful, there are discussions about making it an annual partnership.

December was a busy month of hands-on learning at the Labrador Campus Library. As part of the Bachelor of Arctic and Subarctic Interdisciplinary Studies (BASIS), a group of students experienced a wet and cold land-based AI module, exploring meaning and metaphors related to working with AI tools worked to bring understanding to how information exchange processes are calculated within Large Language Models (LLMs). Students made connections to the gaps in data and analysis within a northern context and explored the ways this impacts health care in Labrador. While at the Pye Centre, students also enjoyed late-season carrots from the garden and strengthened their connections with each other and the land.



(BScN first year students at the Pye Centre for Northern Boreal Food Systems)

Labrador Campus Librarian **Sarah Papple** presented her research project, funded by the Library Research Fund, during [Memorial's Research Week](#): Big Land, Small Mysteries: A Fairy Spotting Adventure in a hybrid session with high engagement and attendance at the campus. The project brought her

nose-to-nose with the land of Labrador and through this deepened understanding of the ways in which space and place are integral to the cultural identity of Labrador.

Labrador Campus hosted an important gathering of elders and leaders to highlight the campus community and celebrate student achievements and opportunities in December. The library is becoming known as a safe space to share stories and ask questions, especially when facilitated alongside the incredible Elders, Aunties, and Uncles Program Coordinator **Heather Angnatok**, and supported by Student Recruitment, Retention, & Relationships Officer **Mckenzie Hutchings**, and aided by our Nursing Faculty member **Kathy Gillet** with a fun tour of the Nursing Skills lab.

HSL was approached by medical students to host a book club in the new year for graphic novels in medicine. There will be four books over four months with discussions in the Historical Collection room.

The Education Library partnered with the LIFT Literacy Conference on November 27-28 to host a family literacy night. In addition to crafting, local writer and illustrator **Dawn Baker** was on hand to give a reading of her work.

Employee News

Louise White will retire at the end of April after nearly 40 years of service at the QEII Library. Throughout her career, she has held a variety of positions including Interim University Librarian, Associate Dean of Libraries, and she is currently the Keep@Downsview lead with Collections Strategies.

Colleen Field, Head of CNS, will retire in June after 37 years of dedicated service. Under her leadership, the CNS has embarked on many initiatives, including the popular “Celebrating Memorial’s Research and Creative Works.” This annual event showcases research happening on campus and by the campus community and highlighting the important work of the CNS and its ever-growing collection.

Chrissy Glavine was the successful candidate for the Administrative Staff Specialist position in the Admin Office of the QEII Library. Chrissy will be in this role for a two-year term.

HSL’s **Sherry Squire-Grace** returned to full-time work on February 2, 2026.

HSL’s **Alison Farrell** has stepped away from the Division Head role to focus on other areas. Collectively, the HSL staff and librarians decided that at this time not seek an interim replacement.

Cool Stuff

On Sunday, January 25, the CNS welcomed celebrated St. John’s poet **Mark Callanan** for “The Work Work of Art: Poetry as Work/Play.” This Creative Writing Workshop was offered in collaboration with WritersNL, and was made possible with funds from the Office of Public Engagement. Inspired by prompts

drawn from the CNS, Map Library and ASC collections, fourteen participants spent the afternoon looking, listening, writing, and sharing new poetic works in a supportive learning environment.

Linda White, ASC team member, was recently profiled in the Downhome Magazine by LITS roving reporter **Dennis Flynn**. "Love Letters to Greenspond" is a celebration of the 30 years that Linda has been covering all things Greenspond through her publication "The Greenspond Letter." You can read every issue on the [Digital Initiative Archive](#).



A small group of representatives from the Memorial University Libraries' fundraising committee delivered a cheque for \$5,400 to the Gathering Place on January 23. They also brought \$200 worth of Dollar Store gift cards which the Gathering Place gives directly to guests for a variety of reasons. Since 2015, the libraries have donated \$30,081 and \$660 in gift cards.

Joanne Cole, QEII Library retiree, was recently interviewed on CBC's morning show about losing her recently built studio to the summer wildfires of Conception Bay North. Those who know Joanne will not be surprised that she is [turning this experience into art](#). And some good news - Joanne has a new studio beginning to take shape.

On January 16, the Grenfell Library hosted a special 50th Anniversary-themed, "Groovy Grenfell" board game night. It featured many popular board games from 1975, including Hungry Hungry Hippos, Connect Four, and Wheel of Fortune, and the candy bar included pop rocks! (Don't worry, no one ate them with soda.) [See the event recap video and watch Crystal and Chelsea "enjoy" some pop rocks.](#)

Over 300 Biology 1002 students wandered through the QEII this January on a scavenger hunt in January designed by the library and **Dr. Yolanda Wiersma** and **Dr. Tom Chapman**. The idea of the hunt is to get students familiar with what the library has to offer. They had to go to the Map Room, CNS, the Commons, and public services. You can read more about it in a [Gazette story written last year](#).

Monika Stephenson of the Cataloguing and Metadata Division played a key role in moving all theses (11,418) from EPrints to DSpace and in fully cataloguing them. This required extensive metadata clean-up to improve user experience.

Cataloguing and Metadata Division's **Jae Jin** took part in the St. John's Storytelling Festival in late Fall as part of The Kamishib'ys. Kamishibai (Japanese for "paper play") is a form of street theatre and storytelling, where narrators set up a miniature wooden stage, revealing a series of colourful illustrations as the tales unfold. The Kamishib'ys also includes local storyteller Dale Jarvis and graphic artist Graham Blair.

LITS employee **Gord Little's** annual QEII Library Christmas card was featured on the CBC's [website](#).

The Commons in the QEII Library wrapped up another busy fall semester with some impressive numbers! More than 27,000 computer logins were recorded in the QEII, and Commons student staff assisted with nearly 5,500 support requests.

The CNS hosted a traditional NL Christmas-themed experience for students on December 8th. The students were part of the Study and Stay NL Program with International Education Newfoundland and Labrador (IENL). **Dennis Flynn** of LITS, and **Bonnie Morgan** delivered interactive presentations on traditions such as mummering and NL-specific trivia.

In December, the Education Library partnered with the Teacher Librarians NL (TLNL) for a special screening of documentary film [The Librarians](#). TLNL is a professional learning community that supports the growth of NL's teacher-librarians. The award-winning film explores how librarians are the "first responders in the fight for democracy and First Amendment Rights" in the United States.

News from Prince Edward Island

Juanita Rossiter, VP PEI

News from [Robertson Library](#), UPEI

In the fall of 2025, librarians **John Bayhi** and **Kim Mears** welcomed the inaugural cohort of medical students to the recently completed [Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Centre](#) at UPEI. This group of twenty Prince Edward Island students have since traded the jitters of orientation for the rhythms and rigour of life in this wonderful new learning and research environment.



Kim Mears (Medical & Knowledge Synthesis Librarian) and John Bayhi (Clinical Librarian)
Photo credit: **Spencer Merz-Wood (Library Technician)**

While the program currently operates under Memorial University's accreditation, it represents an important step toward UPEI's long-term vision of a medical school that is "made in PEI for all of PEI," which is to feature a unique-in-Canada joint Doctor of Medicine degree.

As these future physicians settle into their state of the art academic home, Robertson Library has begun evolving alongside them. The library now has an official Research Data Management and Knowledge Synthesis (RDMKS) unit, which has spent these past months building up its medical collections and integrating high-level learning and research support into the program. This work has unfolded in close collaboration with the Memorial Health Sciences Library.

With no abatement of excitement, the librarians and staff at Robertson Library have been cherishing these new opportunities, and are immensely proud to support this cohort as they continue on in their journey from the classroom to the clinic.

News from [PEI Library Services](#)

Black History Month Family Storytime Events:



The Summerside Rotary Library had 30 children and 11 adults for its recent Black History Month Storytime event. This craft that was undertaken is called [Kente Cloth](#).

Photo credit: Minerva Gamble-Hardy
(Regional Librarian)

Michaela Kryger is the Children’s and Teen Services Librarian with the PEI Library Service at the Charlottetown Library Learning Centre. She has organized the Black History Month (BHM) Storytime Events across the Island, which have taken place at the [Summerside Rotary Library](#), [Kensington Heritage Library](#), [Stratford Public Library](#), [Cornwall Public Library](#), [Montague Rotary Library](#), and the [Charlottetown Library Learning Centre](#).

These BHM storytimes are part of provincial library service’s regularly scheduled Read, Sing, Play preschool programs. Kryger says “What makes this one special is having guest readers from the [Black Cultural Society of PEI](#) visit to read one of the stories. It’s so wonderful to be able to host these visits across the island, especially in some of the smaller municipalities who don’t get as many opportunities for storytime special guests.”

Additional system-wide events for Black History Month, include a scavenger hunt and take home craft kits that include a craft, recipes, and book list.



Reequal Smith from the Black Cultural Society of PEI read the story [Like So](#) by Ruth Foreman and [Don't Touch My Hair](#) by Sharee Miller.

Photo credit: Minerva Gamble-Hardy (Regional Librarian)

[Summerside Rotary Library](#)

[Seniors Café:](#)

A drop-in group where seniors are invited for a cup of tea or coffee and a snack, the Seniors Café is held at the Summerside Rotary Library on the second Friday of every month.

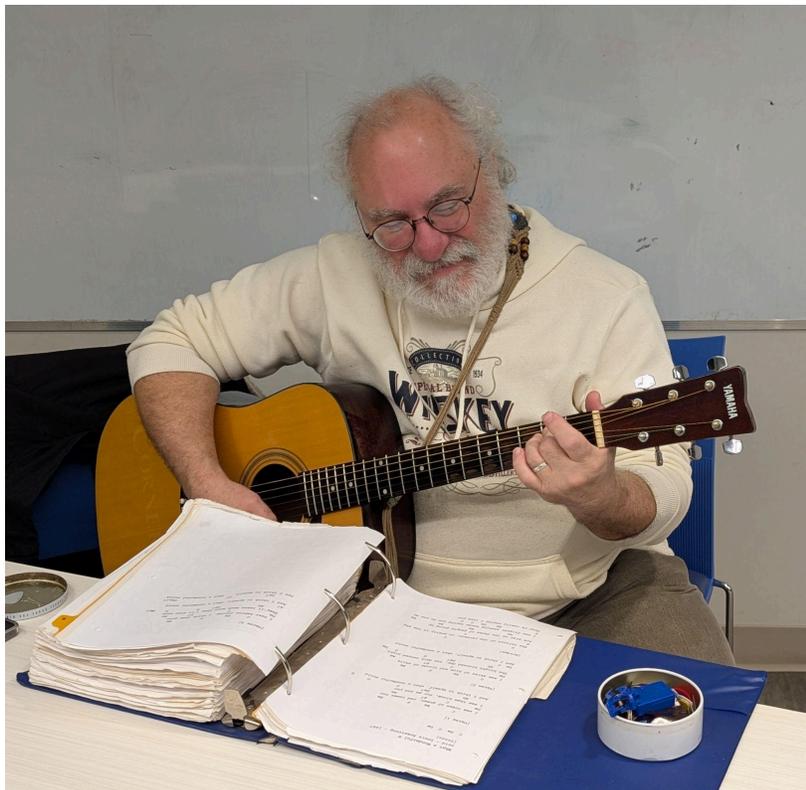
Regional Librarian **Minerva Gamble-Hardy** says, “Each month we either have an activity or a speaker. This month **Howard LaChapelle**, from Culture Summerside, will be speaking on the services at [MacNaught History Centre and Archives](#). He will be discussing the addition of Bishops, upcoming Spring/Summer scheduling and answering questions.”

Other examples of guest speakers were **Shelley King**, from Alzheimer Society of PEI, who came to discuss brain health, as well as an informative session on clocks with **Wendell Feener** in December. “Wendell brought in part of his collection, which participants really enjoyed,” says Gamble-Hardy.

Jam Session:

A volunteer-led program held at the Summerside Rotary Public, these jam sessions offer a place for individuals to come with their own instrument or borrow one from the library. **Minerva Gamble-Hardy** says “We have a collection of instruments available through our Sunlife Musical Instrument Lending Program. The instruments in the collection include acoustic guitars, keyboards, banjos, violins, ukuleles, mandolines, and a variety of drums.”

The group meets monthly at 6:30 pm, with the next meeting on Monday, February 9th, 2026.



Eddy Schwartz, leader of the jam session

Photo credit: Minerva Gamble-Hardy (Regional Librarian)

Montague Rotary Library - Paws to Read Event:

Having begun at the Charlottetown Library in fall 2013, the Paws to Read program offers kids aged six to twelve an opportunity to boost their reading confidence by reading to certified therapy dog, **Hawkeye**. These sessions are in-person and need to be booked ahead as registration is required.



Two young readers took part in the Paws to Read event at Montague Rotary Library this month.