

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Activity

Library Visits by Location		
	2021/2022	2022/2023
Antigonish	75,038	139,574
Books-By-Mail	N/A	N/A
New Glasgow	40,115	61,235
Pictou	17,677	21,511
River John	3,678	6,314
Stellarton	13,533	17,625
Trenton	3,697	6,955
Westville	13,684	17,535

Population Served	64,369
Total Holdings	160,311
Summer Reading Program Participants	369 ballots 1845 complete activities
Number of staff	59

22/23 Income		22/23 Expenditure	
Provincial Grant	1,383,800	Salaries/Benefits	1,655,006
Municipal Grant	581,663	Books & Materials	149,487
Board Income	251,663	Administration	414,960
TOTAL	2,217,126	TOTAL	2,219,453

Accumulated Deficit	84,421
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Major Sponsors

Adopt-A-Library Literacy Program
 Friends of the Antigonish Library
 Friends of the River John Library
 Our Communities

Library Board

Province of Nova Scotia:
2 vacancies

Municipality of the County of Antigonish:
Coun. Mary MacLellan

Municipality of Pictou County:
Coun. Deborah Wadden

Town of Antigonish:
Coun. Sean Cameron

Town of New Glasgow:
Coun. Clyde Fraser

Town of Pictou:
Coun. Dan Currie, Chair

Town of Stellarton:
Coun. Simon Lawand
Library Boards of Nova Scotia representative

Town of Trenton:
Coun. Nicole LeBlanc

Town of Westville:
Coun. Meghan Bragg

REGIONAL LIBRARY

Annual Report



April 2022 – March 2023

www.parl.ns.ca

Library Management Staff

ERIC STACKHOUSE
Chief Librarian/ Board Secretary

TRECIA SCHELL
Community Services Librarian

GREG HAYWARD
Technical Services Librarian
(to February '23)

KAREN MACNEILL
Office Manager

JEAN ROZEE
Finance Manager

JESS DAVEY
Manager of Web Services

MELANIE PAULS
Community Access to
Technology Coordinator

KRISTEL FLEUREN-HUNTER
Children's Services Librarian

**Chairperson's Report
2022/2023**

As the world move on from the worst of the Covid pandemic the regional library emerged stronger than ever. Public libraries across Nova Scotia distributed over 4 million Covid test kits during the year and assisted with printing of vaccination cards and collection of O2 monitors. Government is recognizing the reach of public libraries in communities across the province and the power to connect with citizens.

The construction of a new Pictou Library is underway. Funding of over \$14 million was finalized in early 2023 and Iron Maple Construction was approved as the general contractor. The new library will be joined with a rejuvenated deCoste theatre and include public cultural spaces. Construction is expected to be completed in 2024.

New Glasgow Library also received over \$6.5 million in funding for a major redevelopment that will see a redesigned and environmentally efficient and accessible library and regional headquarters, the addition of a 50+ programming space, and a more visible NSCAD Artist's residence. Funding was approved through the Green and Inclusive Community Building Fund, ACOA, and the Province of Nova Scotia.

As the pandemic waned the Library Board was able to set annual priorities once again. Priorities include continued development of libraries as central community spaces for learning, sharing, and overall well-being; continued expansion of library virtual (online) services through parl.ns.ca, novastory.ca, e-book and e-materials collections; further engagement of community partners, especially in the arts and culture sector, to broaden library programming; ensuring community technology is available with appropriate training and support; a focus on inclusion in all aspects of library operations, programs, and services; quality over quantity in all areas.

Finally, as the current funding formula enters year 4 of the 5 year mandate, the board has identified its main priority as improved wages for staff. As job duties and skills continue to change it is important to keep pace with other sectors for recruitment and retention. The regional library board looks forward to working with other boards and the province in achieving a successful outcome.

Dan Currie, Chair
Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

**Chief Librarian's Report
2022/2023**

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all staff for their service during the Covid pandemic. Everyone served their communities with compassion and respect, while at the same time staying safe themselves.

The main event this year was the launch of the new integrated library system and discovery layer, Same Page. Proving once again that cooperation makes for great results, all eight regional libraries stayed true to the vision of sharing resources for the benefit of all Nova Scotians. Launched on April 21, 2022, Same Page has proven an unqualified success with a dramatic increase in circulation and loans between regional libraries. The only challenge has been the large increase in books moving around the province and the associated costs in mailing and labour. In response the One Library Card Alliance is working to "tweak" the system to lower the impact but still provide unparalleled service.

Accessibility audits were carried out for 5 libraries by Archibald and Fraser Architects Ltd. in late 2022. These are detailed reports that will first be reviewed by staff and the Accessibility Advisory Committee before recommendations are made to the Board. Staff will then work with municipalities to make improvements and reduce barriers.

Improvements to the children's section of the Stellarton Library were carried out through a grant from Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage. New mobile shelving and furniture were purchased. A "diversity quilt" is being prepared for the space by the Vale Road Quilters, as a permanent piece of public art for the library.

In cooperation with NS Health and the Aberdeen Health Foundation the regional library carried out a one-year Virtual Care @ the Library pilot project. The objectives were to provide in-person support for those having difficulty accessing virtual care and to measure the effectiveness of the service. This involved creating private areas with accessible technology in three libraries (New Glasgow, River John, and Westville), hiring a Virtual Care Technician to provide one-on-one support, training for staff, and promoting the service. An interim report in February showed the program was a success from the user's point of view and effectively diverted people from having to access emergency departments, thereby saving significant dollars. The pilot is now extended for a second year.

Greg Hayward moved to a new position with the Nova Scotia Community College in February after 11 years with the regional as Technical Services Librarian.

Eric Stackhouse, Chief Librarian
Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Activity

Library Use	2021/22	2022/23
Materials Borrowed	220,569	328,994
Active Users	15,706	12,011
Library Visits per year	167,422	270,749
Information Questions	23,473	24,697
Virtual Library Visits	170,976	585,683
Electronic Database Sessions	28,073	10,982
Internet Bookings	26,422	32,781
Internet Training Programs	764	682
Library Programs	1036	1,180
Library Program Attendance	18,158	11,262
Items Borrowed from Other Libraries	4,835	750
Items Lent to Other Libraries	6,672	1,316
Nova Story Page Views (Ant. & Pic.)	112,544	93,512

Materials Borrowed by Location (Renewals excluded)	2021/22	2022/23
Antigonish	51,302	94,898
Books-By-Mail	7,021	6,897
New Glasgow	37,012	67,764
Pictou	21,266	36,306
River John	7,293	7,672
Stellarton	13,807	23,411
Trenton	1,608	4,770
Westville	8,110	12,388

Digital Materials	51,191	69,477
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