

The 1st Regular Meeting of 2023-24 was held via a Zoom Teleconference on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, with the following members present:

Councillor Norval Mitchell, Chair
Councillor Roseanne Chapman, Deputy Chair
Councillor Alison Graham
Councillor Michael Perry
Councillor Karen MacKenzie
Councillor Victoria Lomond
Nathan Little
Donna MacGillivray
Tiffany Bartlett, Secretary and Chief Executive Officer

Also attending were: Sarah Wood, Head of Community Engagement; Kathy Little, Finance Administrator; and Tracy Spence, Human Resources Administrator.

Call to Order

Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Land Acknowledgement and People Recognition Statement

Chair Mitchell read the Land Acknowledgement and People Recognition Statement.

Agenda

The agenda was approved on the motion of Councillor Graham and seconded by Donna MacGillivray.

Minutes

The minutes of the 5th Regular Meeting of 2022-23 held March 1, 2023 were reviewed and approved on the motion of Councillor Perry and seconded by Councillor Graham.

Business Arising from the Minutes

None to report.

Correspondence

Ms. Bartlett reported that CEHPL received a letter from The Honourable Pat Dunn in response to the Council of Regional Librarians' (CORL) request for bridge funding for public libraries. \$500,000 was approved to offset current inflationary pressures. Funds will be distributed to library regions using the existing library funding formula. This represents an additional \$45,400 in provincial funding for CEHPL, which will go into General Operating. Ms. Bartlett and Chair Mitchell will send a letter of thanks to Minister Dunn.

In addition, Ms. Bartlett shared that CEHPL received notice on March 30 that our region would receive \$25,000 to support the 'Period Poverty Initiative.' This initiative supports improved access to menstrual products for all. Ms. Bartlett noted that CEHPL had already sourced menstrual products from MacQuarrie's Pharmasave, who made the product extremely affordable. Councillor Lomond shared her excitement about the project. Nathan Little asked if the message is clear that people can take what they need. Ms. Bartlett responded that the messaging is intentional and specifies that people can take products for themselves or others and that there is no limit.

CEO's Report

Ms. Bartlett shared that over 6,000 articles have been read since the launch of PressReader in late March.

Councillor MacKenzie asked if interest has waned in the COVID-19 rapid test kits, available for pick-up at all CEHPL branches. Ms. Bartlett replied that the demand is lower, but steady.

Councillor MacKenzie, seconded by Councillor Graham, moved
TO approve the CEO's Report as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Bartlett presented the Operating, Stanfield, and Reserves statements for the period ending March 31, 2023.

Ms. Bartlett noted that, as predicted, in the General Operating Statement, there is an unaudited balance of \$112,650 under *Salaries*. This is largely due to being unable to fill a parental leave for a librarian position, and the Job Classification Review project not being implemented in 2022-23. Ms. Bartlett highlighted the \$160,000 unanticipated revenue received in 2022-23, made up of grants and the \$100,000 bequest, as also contributing to the forecasted yearend surplus.

Ms. Bartlett stated that Stanfield has not been performing well over the past few years, and this has of course impacted some of the budget lines. Councillor Graham asked if it was normal for the Stanfield account to be underperforming. Ms. Bartlett responded that, yes, while not ideal, it is normal for a fund to fluctuate.

Councillor MacKenzie, seconded by Councillor Perry moved

TO approve the unaudited Operating, Stanfield, and Reserves financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2023. Motion carried.

Committee Updates

Personnel Committee

Councillor Chapman, seconded by Nathan Little, move

THAT the meeting goes in camera at 7:01pm. Motion carried.

Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Chapman, move

THAT the meeting exits in camera at 7:57pm. Motion carried.

New and Unfinished Business

CORL Needs Analysis for Funding Formula Development

The Council of Regional Librarians (CORL) came together in February and March to determine the vision, priorities, and approach for NS regional libraries for the next funding formula. Ms. Bartlett shared that, currently, CORL is preparing a report to present to all the regional library boards. Once finalized, all the regional library boards will be asked to endorse the report. Ms. Bartlett shared that this report could be circulated and passed electronically.

Ms. Bartlett also shared that CEHPL is hoping to schedule council presentations and visits in September and October of this year. At this time, the upcoming funding discussions would be disclosed, to ensure transparent communication with municipal partners.

Nominating Committee for AGM

Ms. Bartlett indicated that next meeting in June will be the AGM. The Library Board by-laws state that executive members cannot hold the same position for more than three terms. This impacts Councillors Chapman and Perry, who are both in their third term as First and Second Vice Chairs (there is no term limit for the Treasurer).

Councillor Lomond volunteered to coordinate the nominations for the 2023-24 Board Executive and Standing Committees.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA)

Ms. Bartlett shared that an update from the Interregional Advisory Committee for Library Accessibility (IACLA) will be published and circulated in May. This is a monitoring report to ensure transparency and accountability.

IACLA will be advertising for new community representatives on the committee, as those are two-year terms.

Roundtable

Councillor Graham will be attending the Third Place Transition House 14th Annual Motivational Luncheon on April 26.

Councillor Lomond attended a moving Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony.

Councillor Chapman reported that Dale Bogle, CAO for the Town of Stewiacke, is retiring from his position. The Community Development Director, Erin Richard, will be taking the lead on the Stewiacke Library Building Project. Councillor Chapman also shared that the recent by-election results are being contested.

Chair Mitchell enjoyed two weeks in Florida. He will be attending the FCM Annual Conference and Trade Show next month in Toronto.

Next Meeting

The 2nd regular meeting of 2023/24 and 2022-23 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27 2023 at 6:30pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

THE LIBRARY POST

We empower. We enrich. We inspire.

New to Your Library: PressReader

In our 2022 Community Survey, you asked us for better, expanded access to newspapers and magazines. In direct response to this feedback, CEHPL introduced a new electronic resource, PressReader, on March 27. PressReader is a digital platform that provides unlimited access to over 7,000 newspaper and magazine publications from around the world, as soon as they are available on shelves!



It includes access to local papers like the Chronicle Herald and other Saltwire weeklies, as well as The Globe and Mail, The Guardian, Newsweek, Forbes, Vogue, and more! CEHPL was able to acquire this new resource thanks to the generosity of a private donor. To learn more about PressReader and how to access it, check out the Library's website (lovemylibrary.ca) or call/visit your local branch.

Over 1,500 attend Library March Break Programs

We had a blast welcoming families to our FREE March Break programs! There was something for everyone, with programs ranging from: Lego builds (various); Build a Creature Day (Elmsdale); Mission Space (Truro); The Un-Birthday Party (Mount Uniacke); Water Ways with the Clean Foundation (Truro), a Super Mario Party (Truro); and more! Featured below: Puppet Show (Truro); Camp Day (Mount Uniacke); 3D Art Day (Elmsdale); Roar with the Dinosaurs! (Truro); Hope for Wildlife Visit (Stewiacke Community Centre). CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ... March Break 2023: By the Numbers



The Chief Executive Officer Report aka 'The Library Post'

We empower. We enrich. We inspire.

REGIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

March Break 2023: By the Numbers

Branch	Number of Programs Offered	Number of Participants
Elmsdale	9	353
Mount Uniacke	12	78
Stewiacke	6	276
Tatamagouche	4	44
Truro	11	776
Total	44	1,527

CEHPL's Virtual Author Visit Series

February: Wanda Taylor

Wanda Taylor was our featured Author for February. She read from her book *Birchtown and The Black Loyalists*. Karen Smith, Children's Outreach and Programming Coordinator, reported that Wanda told the children to pay close attention during her reading, and then asked a series of 4 questions. The first class to answer correctly to each question would then receive a copy of her new book *The Grover School Pledge*. Karen noted that the children were very engaged, and that they asked great questions. We had approximately 500 attendees for this reading.

March: Gordon Korman

Gordon Korman was our featured Author in March. Gordon Korman is the #1 New York Times bestselling Canadian American author of over 100 children's and young adult fiction books. He's received countless award and honors, and his books have been translated into more than 30 languages.

We partnered with the Annapolis Valley Regional Library for this visit. A **whopping 1,135 attendees (including classes)** tuned in via ZOOM to laugh, learn, and hear Gordon tell the story of how he wrote his first book, *This Can't Be Happening at Macdonald High*, when he was 12 years old.

After the visit, a Grade 4/5 Immersion Teacher in Kentville wrote library staff to say:

"Thank you for organizing the Gordon Korman virtual visit. We have many fans in our class and it was great to hear about his experiences and to learn that he's published his 101st book. Thank you for generously extending the invite to those of us across the province!"

Free Menstrual Products Now Available in Library Washrooms

In December 2022, the Provincial Government announced more help for Nova Scotians struggling with the rising cost of living. As part of government's cost of living support, the Province has provided Nova Scotia public libraries with funding to reduce the hardship lower-income people experience around period poverty. CEHPL received \$25,000 for this initiative from the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage on April 6.

Starting April 19th, FREE menstrual products (pads and tampons) are available in CEHPL library washrooms (Lloyd E. Matheson Centre atrium washrooms for the Elmsdale Library).

What is Period Poverty?

A growing social issue impacting our community, period poverty describes the struggle many people (women, girls, transgender) face while trying to afford menstrual products. Difficulty affording menstrual products can cause people to stay home from school and work, with lasting consequences to their education and economic opportunities.

Free Internet on the Go: *That's Hot!*

In February, Same Page libraries launched a new service in partnership with @NS Community Technology: loanable mobile hotspots! From February 15 to April 10, CEHPL has loaned 30 hotspots, and as of April 10, there are 36 holds on these devices.

What are Mobile Hotspots?

A mobile hotspot is a stand-alone device that lets users connect to the internet by acting as a localized Wi-Fi network. It uses a cellular signal to connect to the internet the same way your phone does, but you can't use it to make or receive calls.

Mobile Hotspot Borrowing Details:

- People must be 18 years or older to borrow
- Available for a 4-week loan period
- Unlimited data

Place a hold here: <https://bit.ly/3nyOiki>

Get a Library card: <https://bit.ly/3EChPMU>

COVID-19 Rapid Tests and Pulse Oximeter Returns

COVID-19 rapid tests continue to be available for pick-up at all CEHPL branches. CEHPL has distributed a grand total of 237,960 individual tests from January 2022 to March 31, 2023.

All CEHPL branches continue to serve as drop-off locations for pulse oximeters (SP02s) returns that have been loaned by Public Health to individuals to self-monitor their COVID-19 cases at home. Staff have received many positive comments from people who appreciate having this easy return option.

CEHPL's New Occupational Health & Safety Manual

At their February 9, 2023 meeting, CEHPL's Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC) approved a new *Occupational Health and Safety Manual*.

The purpose of this manual is to inform CEHPL staff of:

- Nova Scotia's *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and regulations;
- CEHPL's Occupational Health and Safety Program; and
- CEHPL's health and safety procedures and guidelines.

BRANCH NEWS

Elmsdale

In February and March, the Elmsdale Library gave out 211 take-and-make activities for youth. Other youth programming offered during this period included: Lego Clubs, Story and Craft Times, Dungeons and Dragons, Scavenger Hunts, and a new program launched in February – Homeschoolers Hangout.

Adult programs offered in February and March included: Tech Time one-on-one appointments, Adult Board Game Nights, Adult Book Clubs, Adult Social Times, and Jammin' at the Library.



FEATURED LEFT: Approximately 50 people participated in the Library's "Valentine's Day Card Making" program. Supplies were set up on a table for patrons to stop by and make a card. A few were even made for the Library!

March Break programs at the Library included:

- Build a Creature Day (48 participants)
- Beyond the Screen Day (52 participants)
- Water Ways Workshop (14 participants)
- 3D Art Day (46 participants)

Melanie Good, Branch Manager, reported: "A Mum of a wonderful family that frequents the library, told the Elmsdale team that we are giving her family wonderful memories of their time at the library just like her childhood memories at her local library growing up. This is what she had hoped for when they moved to the community."

Mount Uniacke

Youth programming offered at the Mount Uniacke Library in February and March included: various Take and Make activities, Saturday Storytimes, Baby Time, Dungeon and Dragons, crafting programs, and special for March Break – the Un-Birthday Party and Camp Day.

Branch Manager Kim Legge reports that the Baby Time program for new parents "is seeing at least 10 new moms come in every Wednesday morning. They have mentioned how grateful they are for the space and chance to meet new parents in the community." New toys were purchased for the Library's children's area, which have been a hit. Adult programs offered during this period included: the weekly Ewe-Niacke Knit Club and Learn to Circuit programs. Staff have also been offering on-the-spot IT support and help with people building their resumes. A bright point is that two of the people aided by staff received job offers!

FEATURED RIGHT: The Library's African Heritage Month display generated a lot of interest from patrons!



Kim reports that patrons continue to rave about the new Same Page catalogue, including pre-primary

teachers who are now bringing in books on a weekly basis.

Stewiacke

In February and March, the Stewiacke Library gave out 170 Take and Make activities for youth. Other youth programming offered during this period included: Baby Rhyme Time, Picture Book Junction, Tween Trivia, Lego Club, Googly Eye Scavenger Hunt, and a Science and Technology Day.

Adult programming offered during this period included: Seniors Socials, Adult Crafty Crew, Scrabble Squad, Photography Club, Sharmon's Book Club, Crochet Club, and 80's Day (FEATURED RIGHT).

Nova Scotia Works, in partnership with YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth and CEHPL, still has a career practitioner at the Library every Friday from 10-4:30. They offer a wide variety of employment services.

In February, the Stewiacke Library received a \$500 donation from Stewiacke Community Meals to use towards the Library's Little Free Pantry.



Recent quotes from Stewiacke patrons:

- "I was so happy to see Gordon Korman that I cried through the whole hour" - L. Melanson
- "Now I am able to hear you!" - Doris G., after the plexiglass at the circulation desk was removed.
- "I may have created Amazon addicts" said Brandi H. after showing her sons the Same Page catalogue. "All they want to do is order books and go to the library to pick them up."

Tatamagouche

Youth programming offered at the Tatamagouche Library in February and March included: weekly Dungeons and Dragons Club, Parents and Tots, Teen Henna Workshop (FEATURED RIGHT), Preschool Storytime, X-Box Game Time, and Lego Robotics.

Adult programming offered during this period included: weekly Ukulele Class; Pillowcase Painting for Seniors; Seed Swap; English for Beginners; Rock Painting for Seniors; Zentangle, and a CALA Workshop for Government Programs.



Branch manager Edijs Ozolins reports that staff have been busy answering people's questions on government programs, including the income tax program, heating rebate programs, etc.

The Library's program room had 60 community bookings in March and February.

Truro

Youth programming highlights at the Truro Library in February and March included:

- Long John Festival activities included themed Take & Makes, a scavenger hunt, a Storytime and Craft program as well as coloring sheets for the children.

- Colchester Climate Crew – Offered in partnership with the County, the Climate Crew's mission is to educate, empower, and create awareness on climate change within our community. These teen volunteers are designing group projects together and will choose how the project funds are spent! Each project will be allocated up to \$400 and they are aiming to complete 2-3 community projects by the end of May 2023.
- Freedom to Read Week program for teens, where participants talked about what books were banned and for what reason, and made Freedom to Read buttons and tote bags.
- Staff welcomed a Beavers/Scouts group to the Library with a tour and some exploratory time in the Maker Lab (22 participants)
- Puzzle Art for ages 8-14 (12 participants)
- Family Escape Room (12 participants)
- Mighty Makers - 30 participants dropped into the Maker Lab to play with LEGO, Keva planks, etc.
- Jigsaw Junction (19 participants)
- Book Bingo (30 participants)
- Pasta Cars Building Challenge (10 participants)
- Bill Oakley, known as "The Domino Man," closed out a super busy March Break week with back-to-back programs on a Saturday where he delighted families with setting up thousands of dominos and then letting them topple!
- Teen Extravaganza – Teens made slime, played games, ate snacks, and spun our prize wheel for a chance to win a gift card for Underground Snax! (10 participants)
- Numerous daycare visits

Adult programming highlights at the Truro Library in February and March included:

- Alexander MacLeod Author Reading (10 participants)
- The Adult Services team produced 280 adult March Break Survival Bags for the region. These continue to be a big hit with the public and generate a bit of laughter. Our numbers have increased each year.
- Maker Lab/Media Lab Certification Program (9 new certifications issued in March)
- A Francophone Seniors Group (averaging about 8 participants/session).
- Adult Coloring Nights
- Income Tax Clinics, offered in partnership with the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.
- Podcasting for Dummies with Andre Myette (8 participants).
 - The response has been great with patron Amanda P'Anda saying "This was an awesome event. I learned so much! Thank you for facilitating sessions for the public that are so varied and current. You have the best staff ever" Another patron thanked Sandria, the host, for having such an "Informative evening on podcasting".
- Laura Miedema, Adult Programming Assistant, created a "Podcasting for Beginners" guide to help people create their own podcasts.
- Conversational English weekly program offered in partnership with YREACH.
- The Truro Urban Sketchers held a night of sketching at the Library.
- Sharon Robart-Johnson presented a virtual reading of her book *Jude and Diana* which chronicles the journey of two enslaved sisters in nineteenth-century Nova Scotia (9 participants).
- Alan Syliboy live painting event offered in partnership with The Downtown Truro Partnership. Approximately 200 people dropped by.

The Truro Library is facilitating regular collection deposits to Vimy Court and Debert Court, via CEHPL's Library Delivery Service that was relaunched in January.

The Truro Library has partnered with @NS Community Technology to hire a part-time Digital Literacy Trainer. The Trainer provides one-on-one IT training targeted specifically to seniors.

Truro's Skate Loan program, offered in partnership with the Town of Truro, saw a total of 398 skate loans for the 2022-23 season, up from 290 loans in 2021-22.

Stories from the Media Lab

The Truro Library launched a reimagined Media Lab in Fall 2022, with updated video and audio recording equipment, and a new certification program for people to book the lab for independent use. Head of Adult and Circulation Services Lesley Brann shares a few insights into recent people who have completed lab certification:

- A man who works for a First Nation technical service organization who is planning on recording Mi'kmaq elders.
- A podcaster who specializes in wellness and wellness supports in the Truro area.
- A person with a disability wishing to bring awareness to the general public about living with disabilities.
- An end-of-life doula interested in making video shorts
- A college presenter wanting to present from the Lab, due to intermittent rural internet at home.

Every Child Matters – Finding a Way Forward Exhibit



From March 2 to April 27, the Truro Library is hosting an art exhibit by the Rug Hooking Guild of Nova Scotia, called *Every Child Matters - Finding a Way Forward*. The Library hosted an opening ceremony on Saturday, March 4 at 2pm.

Five Indigenous artists from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick were commissioned to design images that would honor the children who died and suffered in residential schools and those survivors who were taken from their families and culture. Guild members then turned these designs into 66 hooked rugs they hope will raise awareness of the schools and their lasting impact.

Saltwire covered the exhibit in a March 14 article called *A rug-hooking and Mi'kmaw art project to recognize Every Child Matters*. Read it here: [tinyurl.com/yzexjh7j](https://www.saltwire.com/yzexjh7j)

The above is but a small sample of staff's **everyday hustle**. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for your hard work, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to making a positive impact in the communities we serve!