



Town of Oxford Supports Local Library

One of the important local services supported, in part, by the Town of Oxford is the Oxford branch of the Cumberland Public Library. And what a tremendous asset to our Town.

Do you have a free library card? And if your answer is “no”, why not?

The easy task of taking out library membership, good for life, not only opens worlds of possibilities for you, but helps to ensure that hundreds of others have access to all the library services. Because numbers count: the more members a library has, the more the local library is used, the more evidence to show governments the need for support. And provincial government support is desperately needed. Since 2010, Cumberland County’s libraries have seen a 1.3 per cent provincial funding increase, but inflation has increased by 12 per cent. The public library service in NS is not sustainable without the provincial government increasing core funding. Chief Librarian, Denise Corey, can tell you more about that.

So: please get a library card and if you already have one, please use it. Think of what you’re helping to make possible: access to books, audio books, e-books, DVDS, puzzles, books by mail for those who can’t get to the library, inter-library loans (this library may not have what you’re looking for but if it’s in any other NS library, it will be ordered for you). And that’s just the beginning. There’s free book clubs and other adult groups, after-school programs for children and youth, free Wifi, not to mention a community meeting place where you know there are people with whom you have something in common.

The library also partners with other community groups to support local initiatives such as the recent Poetry at Large event.

Yes, the benefits of free library membership go well beyond the obvious access to free books. Libraries play an important role in supporting education, employment and social interaction, all factors for individual and community health. The free internet service, alone, has potential for those seeking work to search out and apply for employment opportunities, as well as the chance to keep in touch with family and friends. Not everyone can afford their own internet access.

In Oxford we're fortunate to have great library staff: Megan McNutt and Helen Cole. Megan is the newest addition so I'll take some time to introduce her. A resident of Springhill, she has strong family ties here in Oxford, and is well qualified with her Masters of Arts in English Literature. On May 31, she'll be offering a new program, *Anime Teen Night* for youth in grades 7- 12.

On my bucket list for years was joining a book club and I was thrilled when Megan started one in Oxford. Books are ordered free through the library and we meet once a month on the fourth Thursday, 6:30 – 7:30 pm (except July and August). Currently we're reading a biography, autobiography or memoir of our choice. Contact the library if you're interested in joining the club.

By supporting the library you're playing a role in maintaining an important service in Oxford. Let's not take our library for granted!

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