

News & Events

We have wrapped up another successful year at the Miramichi Literacy Council. 2024/25 has been full of successes and challenges, exciting new initiatives, and new community partners. To highlight our achievements, and to provide a broad overview of the year's activities, we will be releasing an Annual Report for the first time. This will be presented at our Annual General Meeting on April 16th. It will be publicly available on our website thereafter.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

At the end of the year, two of our long-term members decided to retire from volunteering. Over 19 years with the council, Carol Ann Hilchey has served on the Board of Directors, volunteered at countless events and fundraisers, and facilitated Cooking to Learn workshops. She was always an enthusiastic Food Mentor, and particularly enjoyed teaching classes at the NBWCC. Charlotte Loggie, in addition to serving on the Board of Directors, was also our Cooking to Learn coordinator for the past 8 years. In that time, her passion for helping learners and teaching valuable life skills have grown this initiative into a popular and multi-faceted program.

We want to extend a huge Thank You to both Carol Ann and Charlotte for their many years of service. We truly appreciate the time and dedication you have given to our learners and to our council! We wish you all the best in what lies ahead.



Pictured (L to R): Pat Hegan, Charlotte Loggie,
Carol Ann Hilchey

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead



CELEBRATING WOMEN OF MIRAMICHI

In honour of International Women's Day, the Miramichi Historical Society hosted an event on March 7th to celebrate local women. For this event, they featured three women from Miramichi history who made significant contributions to the community, followed by three contemporary women who are carrying the torch in their respective fields. This year's event featured our founder, Dorothy Creighton, as a champion of literacy, and fittingly chose Pat Hegan, our current president and long-time literacy volunteer, as her modern-day counterpart. Pat and Dorothy worked together at MLC for many years, and Dorothy's passion and dedication for literacy continue to inspire our council.

The event was attended by over 60 community members, in addition to half a dozen MLC members, and was a great opportunity to share some of the wonderful literacy initiatives our council has undertaken, and continues to pursue.



WE THE WOMEN, VOL. 1

We have been overwhelmed by the swell of support our book has received so far from the community and beyond. After the initial print run was sold out in November, we ordered a second print run, bringing our total number of books printed to 350. Of these, 60 were donated to the contributors, to the NBWCC, and to local community organizations, which included the NB Public Library System, the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre, the Miramichi Women's Emergency Centre, and more.

As of March 31, we have sold 154 copies of the book. We have also secured consignment agreements at a number of local booksellers and shops.



In addition to its online availability through our website, We the Women, Vol.1 is also now stocked at the following locations:

- The Napan Bakery & Cafe (Miramichi, NB)
- All Decked Out (Miramichi, NB)
- The Write Cup (aint John, NB)
- Tidewater Books (Sackville, NB)
- Dog Eared Books (Oromocto, NB)
- Good Dog Books (Bridgewater, NS)

CBC RADIO INTERVIEW

In January, ReTelling Our Stories facilitator, Kayla Geitzler, sat down for a radio interview with CBC. Kayla did a fantastic job telling listeners about We the Women, and promoting MLC. You can check out the interview here: www.readmiramichi.ca

THANK YOU TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF MIRAMICHI

In March, we received a very generous donation from the Rotary Club of Miramichi for ReTelling Our Stories, our cathartic writing workshop at the NBWCC. This program strengthens writing skills, shows participants how they can use poetry to explore adverse experiences, and teaches how writing can be incorporated into everyday life. Our publication, We the Women, is a direct result of this program. We are deeply appreciative of Rotary's support, as it allows for us to continue offering terrific programs such as this to the members of our community.





SPRINGING AHEAD

Our annual Middle School Poetry Contest will officially launch for its fifth year on April 1st. The contest will once again be open to all middle school students, grades 6-8, in ASD-N. We have been in touch with the new literacy lead at the district who will help to promote the contest to local schools. Drew Lavigne is returning as a volunteer judge, as well as Judy Bowman. The contest will close on April 30th, with the winners to be announced in mid-May.

Also returning for its fifth year is the StoryWalk at Middle Island! To celebrate this milestone, MLC has chosen to feature Moonbeam by Gail Francis to begin the 2025 season. This was the book first featured at our temporary StoryWalk pilot program in 2019, the success of which resulted in the permanent program we know and love today. The Chatham Public Library is still finalizing the list of titles for 2025, with the full schedule to be posted in April.

MIRAMICHI LITERACY COUNCIL

20
25

MIDDLE SCHOOL POETRY CONTEST

Join us in celebrating National Poetry Month by entering our middle school poetry competition!

Open to: Grade 6-8 students in ASD-N

- Original poems
- Up to 25 lines
- On any theme
- 1 submission per student

1st: \$75
2nd: \$50
3rd: \$25

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 30 APRIL 2025

Email submissions to: info@miramichiliteracy.org

Upcoming Events



NB LITERACY DAY
APR 16



MLC AGM
APR 16