



Press Release
Monday June 13th 2011

Antigonish Town and County Library Official Opening

The public is invited to attend the official opening of the Antigonish Town and County Library Sunday, June 26th, at 12 noon.

The new 17,000 square foot library, commonly known as The People's Place, is located at 283 Main Street, in the heart of downtown Antigonish. A project spanning more than a decade, the facility was designed using "placemaking" principles put forward by the Project for Public Spaces based in New York City including dozens of public consultations. A cornerstone of placemaking is the community as expert, informing architects, designers and builders as to how they wish to use the space.

The People's Place is a \$5.5 million joint project of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish, the Town of Antigonish, and the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library. Funding was obtained from both Federal and Provincial government sources as well as significant contributions from the community at large and the Friends of the Antigonish Library.

As well as a modern, welcoming public library the facility hosts a Community Access Program (CAP) site, the Antigonish County Adult Learning Association (ACALA), and Health Connections. Also, several multi-purpose meeting and gathering spaces are included; which can be used at no cost by non-profits. Uniquely, all these agencies and spaces are combined together in order to share resources and provide a single point of access by users.

As requested through the consultations, public art is a major component including over 20 pieces of sculpture, woodworking, visual art, textile, poster art, and more, including a mural by Mr. Alan Syliboy titled "The Dream Canoe". Currently, Mr. Murray Gibson is weaving a tapestry in the library, the design being provided by L'Arche members. Also requested in the consultations was a "green" design. The building incorporates geo-thermal heating and cooling, rain water harvesting, solar power (for a carbon-neutral CAP site), Solara window glazing from Cape Breton, and many other innovations.

The Hon. Peter MacKay will be present, as will Antigonish MLA Maurice Smith, and dignitaries from both municipalities. Refreshments to follow.

For further information, please contact Eric Stackhouse, Chief Librarian, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, (902) 755-6031, cell (902) 331-0402, or estackho@nsngp.library.ns.ca.

Pictou – Antigonish Regional Library
(902) 755-6031 or 1-866-779-7761
www.parl.ns.ca