

TD Canadian Children's Book Week 2016 - May 7-14, 2016: New Brunswick

TD (Toronto Dominion), CCBC (Canadian Children's Book Centre)
SC-CC (Storytellers of Canada-Conteurs du Canada), CCA (Canada Council for the Arts)

Post-Tour Report: Mary Ann Lippiatt - Oral Storyteller, New Sarepta, Alberta

Presentation hosts and funding sponsors:

- Upper Miramichi Community Library, New Bandon (Library / CCBC)
- Upper Miramichi Elementary, Boistown (CCBC Adopt-a-school)
- Liverpool Street School, Fredericton (School / CCBC)
- Fredericton Public Library (Canada Council)
- Perth Andover Public Library (Canada Council)
- Ross Memorial Library, St. Andrews (Canada Council)
- St. George Elementary School *2 presentations (School / CCBC Adopt-a-school)
- Saint John Free Public Library East Branch (Library / CCBC)
- Princess Elizabeth School, Saint John *2 presentations (School / CCBC)
- Saint John Free Public Library Central Branch (Library / CCBC)
- Hampton Elementary School (School / CCBC)
- Moncton Public Library (Canada Council)

Tour Overview

- Funding and support: TD, CCBC, CCA, SC-CC, Hosts
- Pre/post travel days: 2
- Actual tour days: 5
- Drivers: 9
- Accommodations: 5
- Number of venues: 12

- Number of presentations: 14
- Public library hosted presentations: 7 (4 of 7 were held at or had invited schools or home schoolers)
- School hosted presentations: 5
- Audience size range: 5 - 209
- Audience age range: 2 yrs. to K-8 and adult
- Approximate total audience reached: **1,165**

Presentation venues, audiences and approximate group size including adults*

5 School Hosts:

- Upper Miramichi Elementary, Boistown (Gr. 3-5; $53 + 10^* = 63$)
- Liverpool Street School, Fredericton (Gr. 2-3; $160 + 12^* = 172$)
- St. George Elementary School (K-2; $113 + 12^*$; Gr 3-6; $197 + 12^* = 334$)
- Princess Elizabeth School, Saint John (Gr 6; $60 + 8^*$; Gr.3: $42 + 8^* = 118$)
- Hampton Elementary (Gr. 4-5; $160 + 10^* = 170$)

7 Library Hosts: Of which 4 either invited school groups to the library or hosted the presentation in a school. (Approximate numbers: # - children / #* - adults = # total number)

- Upper Miramichi Community Library, New Bandon
(Hosted in Community school Gr. 7-8; $70 + 7^* = 77$)
- Fredericton Public Library
(Public and K's from Garden Creek Elementary $32 + 5^* = 37$)
- Perth-Andover Public Library
(Hosted in Elementary school; After-School Program Age 2 yrs. - Gr. 5; $24 + 7^* = 31$)

- Ross Memorial Library, St. Andrews
(Hosted in Vincent Massey Elementary Gr.1-2; 74 + 10* = 84)
- Saint John Free Public Library East Branch (5 staff)
- Saint John Free Public Library
(Hosted in Saint John the Baptist - King Edward School Gr 3-4; 50 + 7* = 57)
- Moncton Public Library (Public and Home-School 3 yrs. - adult; 10 + 7* = 17)

Planning, Partnership and Personalized Patronage

My personal and professional tour experience was unprecedented because of a partnership undertaken by caring professionals and volunteers whose enjoyment in being part of the success TD Children's Book Week tour was evident. A friendly open line of communication from beginning to end, extensive planning that left no detail to error and every consideration given to my wellbeing throughout the tour was exemplary!

With greatest respect and appreciation I offer my grateful thanks to:

Micki Beck (Jury Chair, SC-CC) whose gentle guidance and well wishes encouraged me through the SC-CC application process and into my departure date.

Shannon Howe Barnes (Program Coordinator, CCBC) who promptly responded to all my early questions with her friendly sensitivity that put me at ease and in awe of her efficiency and whose latter tour correspondence was always written in clearly detailed "layman's language."

Nancy Cohen (CCBC Book Week Coordinator, N.B.) who skillfully arranged flights, tour itinerary, travel routes and all the 'tour players' for my accommodations, personal chauffeurs, tour venues/hosts and who from my flight arrival to departure, provided mindful care of my needs due to a health set-back during my tour.

Christina MacKenzie (Travel Manager) who at all times was prompt, efficient and helpful with all pre-booked and last minute travel arrangements.

Drivers (Nancy Cohen, Gail Ross, Nancy Edgar, Jennifer Ward, Susan White, Melissa (?), Natalie Steeves, Heather McKend, Catherine Vienneau-LeClair) who deftly navigated all routes, gifted me with 1-1 mini-tours, meal companionship, maple syrup, Grand Manan dulce and most importantly, shared their friendship with me through the stories of their lives and the people of New Brunswick.

Venue / Presentation Hosts who without fail, greeted me with a New Brunswickers smiling hug as if to say, “What took you so long to get here my friend?” and then proudly introduced me to their library or school family.

Family, friends and fellow storytellers whose heartfelt support sustained my storyteller’s ambitions from seed to flower.

Accommodations

All historical and contemporary accommodations offered friendly service with care to detail, were in quiet locations of easy walking distance for evening meals or self-guided touring, maintained clean well-kept facilities and offered nutritional breakfast choices within the comfortable lodgings.

(Chateau Moncton - Moncton, The Ledges Inn - Doaktown, Quartermain House B & B - Fredericton, Europa Inn - St. Andrews, Mahogany Manor B & B - Saint John)

Promotion / Advertising

SAINT JOHN Telegraph-Journal - Pre-event telephone interview submission

PERTH-ANDOVER Blackfly Gazette - Presentation participation submission

MONCTON, FREDERICTON, and PERTH-ANDOVER Libraries - Posters visible in venue entrances

A Post-tour True Story

48 hours before departure lift-off I spent 6 very painful hours in emergency to discover I had Diverticulitis (colon infection). I emailed Nancy (Book Week Coordinator) of my dilemma who responded with, *“I’m sure everyone will understand if you can’t make it.”* Considering all that had been invested in the tour, I opted to push, pull or drag myself onto the plane. During the Edmonton - Montreal - Moncton flights, my nauseous state of weakness and intense antibiotic-water-laxative regime gave the term “airborne turbulence” a whole new meaning. New Brunswick here I come!

Nancy greeted me with a hug of welcome and a smile of concern; she was an instant friend who kept watchful care of my condition, informing the designated drivers of my situation and who throughout the tour offered me every available opportunity to

enjoy site-seeing, local home-cooked meals and explore the local haunts. Regrettably, due to sheer exhaustion, I often forfeited their kindness and although every accommodation provided me with a “princess for a night, breakfast for a queen” experience, I was ‘Sleeping Storyteller,” who fell early to bed every night and sampled but little of the well laid-out breakfast cuisine.

After 4 days of bananas and soda crackers, the resulting restorative regime kicked in and I began nibbles of salad and sips of soup. On the last 2 days of my tour presentations I was just beginning to come back into my game. I had given everything I had to keep the show on the road but was personally disappointed to not have given my audiences the highly animated interactive presentations I’m normally capable of. All I wanted to do was bring Alberta sparkle and sunshine to New Brunswickers. I’d been derailed!

Derailed yes, but in hind-sight, not defeated. My tour experience was a golden opportunity to bring an element of wonder to New Brunswick children by bridging the distance with stories of rural Alberta life. Listeners and storyteller alike were brought closer in heart through the Alberta, Fort McMurray fire stories of horror and of hope. There was great excitement in meeting kindred spirited professionals who were equally passionate and excited about introducing children to the newness of oral storytelling literacy. The fact remains, that the daily excitement of knowing everything had been so well planned that all I had to do was show up and tell stories, was a fairy tale adventure brought to life.