

Library Report



Compiled by
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Staff profile

Mahala Sears

Former Pubnico library clerk Mahala Sears has moved seamlessly into her new position as automation trainer at Western Counties Regional Library. As the title suggests, Sears is charged with ensuring staff understand the wide range of computer programs and technology available to them and to patrons.

"I've learned a lot more about our software and e-resources," she says of her work as automation trainer. "Working in the Pubnico branch before taking this position really helped prepare me for my work now. I was frequently helping patrons with their electronics and apps."

She has had a long love for and association with the library.

"My first memories of the library were going to the Clark's Harbour library with my mum and brother," she says. "I was always so excited to go and would take home as many books as I could carry."

She says her job brings with it the challenges of an ever-changing landscape when it comes to technology, software, and the comfort level in that environment of the various staff members.

"My biggest challenge has been learning ways to effectively train staff with our software," Sears explains. "Each staff member has a different level of experience with computers, and it can be hard to gauge how much training and information they need."

"It is very rewarding when I see them catching on to things quickly, being able to work independently, as well as forming a good relationship with me so they can ask questions in the future."



Yarmouth library clerk Yvette Frost prepares a display for the 2021 Summer Reading Club. The club is offered at all 10 branches of Western Counties Regional Library, beginning June 19.

Summer Reading Club is back, offering prizes and reading rewards

Western Counties Regional Library's 2021 Summer Reading Club begins Saturday, June 19, offering reading rewards for children, teens and adults.

This year's theme is *Game On!*, and the club runs through Aug. 21 at the regional library's 10 branches in Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties.

"The idea is to keep everyone reading over the summer months while having fun," says Shannon Raynard, Training and Development Manager at the library and organizer of the program. "We are offering a wide range of activities to accompany the reading such as virtual programs, grab-and-go kits, StoryWalks in parks and along trails throughout the Tri-Counties."

To kick things off, the library is offering a Zoom trivia challenge beginning at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 22. The contest is designed for children aged 5 to 12, but outside help is allowed, and it will be centered on children's materials. The trivia challenge is via Zoom with answers being submitted through the chat function.

Participants must register by June 18 by e-mailing pubnico@westerncounties.ca or

yarmouth@westerncounties.ca to receive a Zoom link. There will be prizes awarded during the event.

"We have had great support from area businesses and organizations to ensure we can provide some great reading rewards for children, teens and adults," Raynard says. Prizes, ranging from LEGO kits to restaurant gift certificates, will be drawn from the names of participants who have reached their reading goals over the summer.

The Children's Summer Reading Club is for children up to the Grade 6 level. The teen club is for students entering Grades 6 or higher, up to age 18. The adult summer reading club is for people aged 18 and older.

There are various ways to register. Children are asked to register online through the TD Children Summer Reading Club website at tdsummerreadingclub.ca/.

Children who register through the TD site, should also contact their library once they have reached their reading goals to ensure they are registered with the regional library for prize draws.

TumbleBooks provide a lot to families during pandemic

Families, teens and children can easily access digital books, graphic novels, audiobooks and more to provide literacy and math help and entertainment through TumbleBooks in Western Counties Regional Library's eLibrary.

"They're all really good resources for parents trying to facilitate online or at-home learning," says Lydia Hunsberger, Manager of Collections and Digital Services for the regional library.

The library offers three different TumbleBooks services, TumbleBookLibrary offers Grade Primary to Grade 6 children's eBook database, TumbleMath offers a Grade Primary to Grade 6 math ebook database, and TeenBookCloud offers a Grade 7 to 12 ebook database.

"In addition to books, TumbleBooks features a puzzles and games section with sentence matching and memory games to help kids develop reading skills, and a language learning section," says Hunsberger.

For those seeking help with math, TumbleMath has interactive lessons to help make sense of mathematics. It is a perfect complement and supplement to the math taught in school.

"For families with older kids, TeenBookCloud offers a great selection of



books for youth in grades 7 to 12 that are suitable for both educational and recreational reading," she says. It offers a robust selection of graphic novels, enhanced novels, eBooks, classic

literature, National Geographic videos, educator resources, and audiobooks.

People can access the services from the library site (westerncounties.ca/elibrary/), or they can use the app on a mobile device or tablet by creating a username and password with their library card.

The collection is available online around the clock, and there are no downloads and no waiting.

Many ways to register for reading club

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For those without access to the Internet, they can call their local library branch to register and arrange to receive a reading log to track their reading. Teens and adults can sign up at westerncounties.ca/summer-reading-club-2021/.

The website allows people to register for the club and ask for a form to be mailed out to them or to arrange for curbside pick-up at the branch. People can also download their own reading log on that web page.

There will still be no in-person programs throughout the summer. Staff are creating grab-and-go-bags for the various virtual programs that will take place during the summer. The bags will include various supplies and instructions to help children to participate in the virtual programs. StoryWalks are appearing in parks and along trails in the Tri-Counties this summer as part of the library's Summer Reading Club experience. As people walk in the park or along the trail, the 18 pages of the book *The Thing Lou Couldn't Do* by Ashley Spires will be set up along the trail or park. Dates and locations of the Story Walks is on the library website at westerncounties.ca/events.

"We look forward to see entire families and individuals take part in this fun, summer literacy event," Raynard says.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

Clark's Harbour

Library clerk Ruth Ann Atkinson has been busy picking out more and more books for patrons for curbside pickup because of the pandemic. When people could enter the library, they could browse and pick out their own books. She finds it challenging, but rewarding when she hears her choices proved popular.

Digby

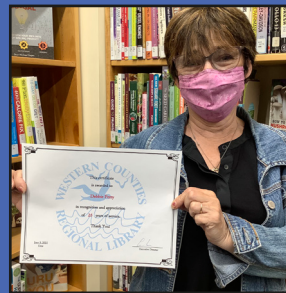


Pictured left, the latest mural from Pascale Cork and her children, Lola and Mani, based on one of the books they borrowed from the Digby library.



Pictured left, a rock painted with Elephant from a Mo Willems book used during a Digby library story time was left on the curbside pick-up table as a surprise present for the staff.

Shelburne



Shelburne senior library clerk Debbie Perry, pictured, left, received her 25-year certificate on June 1.

Pictured right, peahens have become regular visitors to the curbside pick-up area at McKay Memorial Library.



Weymouth

The program room has been used as a vaccination site, providing a valuable resource and community support in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yarmouth

Library clerk Carol Wing has modified her youth craft program by providing supplies to her participants through a pre-registration process. She then sends them a Zoom link to allow everyone to participate in the program in an interactive way.