

Library Report

Season's Greetings! Compiled by Ian White



Staff profile

Karen Doucet

Acquisitions clerk Karen Doucet has long dreamed of working at a book store or a library.

"All of the women in my family are or were avid readers," she says. "I remember swapping bags of books with my grandmother, aunts, and mom because new books were too expensive to buy. My love of books of all kinds is very deeply rooted."

Doucet brings a background in retail management and customer service which she put to good use during her time as a library clerk at the Yarmouth library.

It was her desire for change that brought her to the library. After leaving her retail management position, she was intent on taking a year off from work, but a reserve library clerk position opened up at the Yarmouth library.

"I applied and was hired – much to my excitement!" She says.

Working at the library allows her to be immersed in books and new materials.

"It is like Christmas every day when I receive a box of new materials – I can't wait to get inside to discover the hidden treasures that await."

Her favourite memory of working at the library came when Regional Library Director Erin Comeau offered her the position of acquisitions clerk, allowing her to become a full-time employee and a part of the headquarters team.

She believes one of the biggest challenges facing the library is helping the public realize that their public library is here to improve the quality of life in their community.



From left, poets E. Alex Pierce, Frances Boyle, and Janet Barkhouse enjoyed a "stellar" evening of readings in front of a full house at the Lockeport library on Oct. 24. The evening illustrated the ongoing partnership between the arts community and the library.

Lockeport library creates deep bond with arts, gardening communities

The Lillian Benham Library in Lockeport has developed an ongoing partnership with the town's vibrant arts and gardening communities. The partnerships have resulted in a growing number of activities and programs from live musical performances to poetry readings to a community garden.

Starting on Canada Day, the summer people return to play along in the surf, spend time with family and enjoy the company of friends and neighbours. Mixed in with this group and locals is a wide range of talent and interests.

The library is one of the venues during the annual Harmony Bazaar Festival of Women and Song. The festival began as a project of the Shelburne County Womens' Fishnet and has grown into a weekend of activities including youth stages, workshops, industry dinners, art galas, theatre performances and mentorships.

Gardeners use the property behind the library to grow summer produce and harvest seeds for the library's seed exchange

program.

In the fall, Write On writers group is in full swing. Their enthusiasm and appreciation for the arts was on display in October when a full house of 24 adults came to listen to gifted poets Janet Barkhouse, Frances Boyle and E. Alex Pierce read from their latest works. The poets Janet Barkhouse and Frances Boyle were partially funded through the League of Canadian Poets, and local writer and poet E. Alex Pierce provided the visiting pair with accommodations.

The poets shared their work with an audience who could not only hear their words, but could envision the places and experiences they evoked. Pierce, Barkhouse and Boyle appreciated the audience and commented on how "stellar" the experience was for them.

"It is with great professional pride that the library can serve as a venue to engage this community and help its arts thrive," says Western Counties Regional Library Deputy director Joanne Head.

Library to celebrate 50 years

Western Counties Regional Library is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2019 with displays, fun contests, and other events.

One of the youngest regional library systems in Nova Scotia, the formation of the regional library in 1969 brought library services to an area that had never had it outside of communities such as Yarmouth, Digby and Shelburne.

To mark the anniversary, displays containing old newspaper articles chronicling the struggles to bring the regional library into existence and its eventual launch, and a variety of photographs will be on display at all 10 branches.

Every branch will mark the official launch anniversary of Oct. 29, 1969 on Oct. 29, 2019 by serving cake and offering tours of the branches.

Library Card Month Winner



Bethany Mullen, left, receives the bag of autographed books by Nova Scotia authors provided by Coles Yarmouth from Clare library clerk Darlene Gaudet. Library members using their card to borrow material during Library Card Month in October had their names entered into the draw for the prize.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

Barrington

The library partnered with Bay Side Home seniors residence to do the book reading for its children's Christmas program on Dec. 5.

Clare

As of Oct. 22, Denise Robicheau is the new reserve library clerk.

Clark's Harbour

As of Nov. 26, Jennifer Penney is the new reserve library clerk.

Digby

Heather Duncan has resigned her position as library clerk III, but she will remain on staff as reserve library clerk.

Reserve library clerk Cindy Hazel received her 5-year work anniversary certificate on Oct. 20.



Digby library's Cindy Hazel with her 5-year anniversary certificate.

Lockeport

Lockeport has a new and improved ramp and entryway. The branch has also added charging stations for multiple devices.

Pubnico

Sacha Turgeon started on Nov. 19 as the new library clerk III.

Shelburne

Friends of the Shelburne Library's annual Christmas bake sale and silent auction is under way with the auction running until Dec 7.



Weymouth library clerk Marguerite Thibault stands next to the library's entry into the Festival of Trees at Sissiboo Landing. The theme is Santa's Workshop Tea Party, and the entry won first place.

Yarmouth

Shannon Kelly and Nicholas Cook are the new reserve library clerks, starting Nov. 7 and 14 respectively.