

# Library Report



Compiled by  
Ian White



## Staff profile

**Joanna  
Jarvis**

Digby senior library clerk Joanna Jarvis brings a background in storytelling, libraries, and a passion for reading to her position.

"When I moved to Nova Scotia from Ontario I was in the process of taking my storytelling to the next level, professionally. I wanted a job that was part-time and when I saw the job opening at the Weymouth library, it was perfect," says Jarvis.

With her storytelling work remaining somewhat static, she successfully applied for a full-time position that became available at the Digby branch library.

She finds working with people and having access to new books and movies very rewarding, but it is the friendships that have developed from her work, the programs and the joy they bring to library users of all ages that she finds most rewarding.

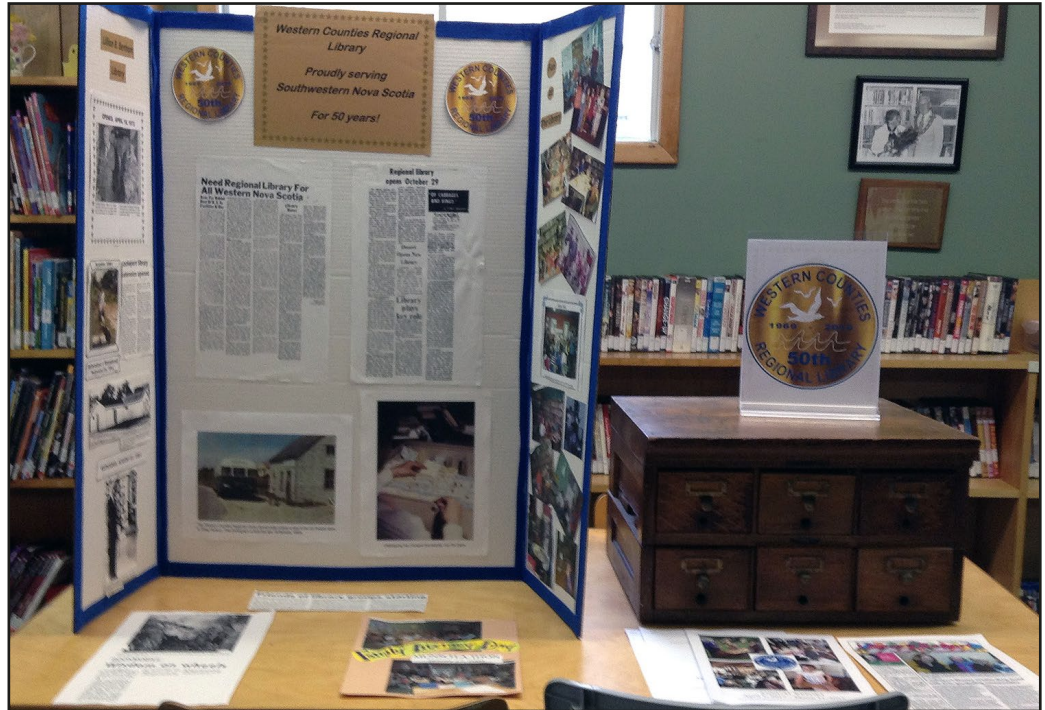
"Other memorable moments are when some of the children who attend programs or to whom I have read make a card or picture to say thank you," she says.

Jarvis believes that with the increase in circulation and new patrons, the library is getting busier.

She says a key to the library's success will be maintaining and updating its technology.

She says people need help with technology and computers, and this can prove challenging.

"More and more government paperwork is through e-mails and downloading, and there are a lot of people who don't have computers and can't afford to have them who need to fill out forms or print forms, etc. We just don't always have the time to help people who don't know how to use a computer."



Lockeport library's 50th anniversary display offers a mix of historic photographs and newspaper articles.

## Western Counties Regional Library celebrates its 50th

Western Counties Regional Library is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2019 with displays, fun trivia contests, and other activities highlighting the vast changes that have taken place in library services between 1969 and 2019. All 10 branches will mark the official anniversary date of Oct. 29, 1969 on Oct. 29 by serving cake and offering library tours.

One of the youngest regional library systems in Nova Scotia, the formation of the regional library in 1969 brought public library services for the first time to many communities throughout Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties. In those days, noise was frowned upon, card catalogues were how we accessed the world, and food in the library was strictly forbidden.

"Things have changed a great deal over 50 years," says Regional Library Director Erin Comeau. "Shushing librarians are a thing of the past and libraries are now a place where people gather to learn and be engaged. Computers and the Internet have replaced the

card catalogue. Chess clubs, knitting circles and groups of people coming together for a coffee and to socialize is the new norm."

To mark the golden anniversary, old newspaper articles chronicling the challenges to bring the regional library into existence, and a variety of photographs are on display at all 10 branches.

The library is asking people to help with the celebrations by sharing any old photographs or newspaper clippings that they may have of events or activities held at any of the library's 10 branches or now retired bookmobile.

The library is posting regular trivia questions on its website and social media to challenge the public on its knowledge of the regional library's history.

"We hope to engage library users throughout the anniversary year by challenging them with a little library trivia and by providing people with opportunities to share their memories and love for their libraries," says Comeau.



# Dining Among the Stacks returns Nov. 2

Dining Among the Stacks fundraising dinner in support of the Literacy Legacy Fund returns Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019. This important fundraiser for Western Counties Regional Library offers people fine dining, live music and entertainment and a silent auction at Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library in Yarmouth.

The evening includes wine, appetizers, a three-course meal,

## Read to Me updates its Mi'kmaq children's CD

Read to Me has updated its Mi'kmaq children's CD. Ninan Na Mi'kma'ji'jk has been reissued with a brand new look. The CD is a collection of rhymes and lullabies in the Mi'kmaw language for young children and features traditional songs as well as Mi'kmaq translations of popular nursery rhymes like Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star and Eensy Weensy Spider. The new redesigned CD cover and booklet features fun photos of Mi'kmaq families and their babies. The CD is available in the Mi'kmaq Read to Me bag.

Every baby born in Nova Scotia receives a free Read to Me bag containing baby books and reading resources. The bag is available in English, French, Arabic, Chinese and Mi'kmaq. Special materials are available for families who are hearing impaired or visually impaired. Every Read to Me bag contains high quality baby books, a guide to reading with baby and Baby's First Library Card and are distributed by Western Counties Regional Library.

live music and entertainment, a silent auction.

"This event is in the planning stages, but the pieces are coming together," says Ian White, public relations manager for the library. "It is also the library's 50th anniversary, so we hope to make it that much more special."

Thanks to strong support from the public and sponsors, the previous two events raised over \$23,000 for the Literacy Legacy Fund which sits at close to \$87,000. The short-term goal is for the fund to reach \$100,000 with a long-term goal of \$1 million.

"We haven't had a significant funding increase in over eight years," says regional library director Erin Comeau.

The Western Counties Regional Library Board recognizes the value of keeping libraries open and as such, is working to grow the Literacy Legacy Fund so that libraries can remain accessible to all in the future, she says.



**People attending the 2017 Dining Among the Stacks enjoy a laugh and a nice meal.**

## AROUND THE BRANCHES

### Headquarters

Karen Comeau celebrated her 20th anniversary with the library on Feb. 3.

The library has purchased more radon detector kits to help meet the demand.

### Clark's Harbour

The library has re-established book deliveries, adding two preschools to its outreach list.

### Digby

Cindy Hazel is the new library clerk III effective Dec. 17.

Matthew Reid is the new reserve library clerk effective Jan. 30.

To promote social interaction and activity, the branch has been leaving board games out for patrons to use, and they have been gaining in popularity.

The library received old yearbooks from Digby Regional High School from the Admiral Digby Museum and they have been placed in the reference section.

### Lockeport

Thanks to a community donation, the library has a new



**Deputy Director Joanne Head, left, presents Karen Comeau with her 20-year anniversary certificate.**

big screen television and DVD player.

The branch has improved accessibility with the addition of the new ramp and stairs/entryway.

### Shelburne

Because the Fire Hall in Shelburne is under repair, the meeting space and program rooms at the branch have seen a dramatic increase in activity and bookings.

The branch received a \$10,000 donation for library materials (to be purchased over a period of time).

### Weymouth



**Weymouth library got into the Valentine's Day spirit with this display.**



**Participants sit down to enjoy the Family Literacy Day Teddy Bear Tea Party at the Lockeport library on Jan. 26.**