

Library Report

Compiled by
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Board profile

Carl
Deveau

Western Counties Regional Library's new board member representing the Municipality of the District of Clare brings a wealth of community volunteer experience to the board.

A full-time paramedic with Emergency Health Services, Coun. Carl Deveau loves the outdoors and athletics, and he is actively involved in a Métis organization.

"I enjoy the outdoors and spend much of my time doing wilderness outback camping," he says. "I have ventured the Tobetic wilderness areas on a few occasions. It is something that I enjoy very much."

"I enjoy all sports and coaching track and field along with other sports," he adds. "I am also a member of the Association des Acadiens-Métis Souriquois and spend much of my time on Métis events and ceremonies."

As a municipal councilor, he has served on many boards and committees, and he relishes the opportunity to be part of a team tackling the challenges facing the library.

"I think our biggest challenge that the board has at this time is fundraising," he says. "We are in need of money to keep these libraries running."

He believes that the library needs to play a bigger role in the area of education and ensuring people are using its resources in the next five to 10 years.

"The library has endless resources and it is up to us to make sure that these resources are being used," he says.

Celebrating Verna's retirement



Above right, Regional Library Director Erin Comeau, left, and Deputy Director Joanne Head, right, present Automation Trainer Verna DeViller with a retirement certificate and cake, pictured left, to celebrate her retirement after 39 years of service to Western Counties Regional Library. Her last day at work was May 11, but her official retirement date is June 23.

Library survey will help improve services

The results of a survey conducted by Western Counties Regional Library last fall demonstrate adequate funding for library materials, such as books and movies, and technology are key to it being able to meet the needs of the people in Southwest Nova Scotia.

"The purpose of the survey was to discover how the public perceived the library, why the public used or didn't use the library, and where and how the library can improve its services," says Regional Library Director Erin Comeau.

Launched in November 2016, the survey was conducted for a month, seeking input from library users and non-users.

There were 779 people who responded to the survey, surpassing the library's expectations.

"We would have liked to see more non-library users respond," adds Comeau.

The majority of respondents use the library to borrow materials. The second greatest use was to conduct research followed by people using computers and wireless Internet access. The fourth most popular response was to attend library programs.

The majority of respondents (581) said library service was excellent while another 100 said it was good.

In the area of technology, most respondents believed the library needs to update its technology, particularly its computers.

"We are reviewing public computer use in all of our library branches," Comeau says. "Given the state of funding, we will have to downsize in order to provide adequate technology upgrades to the public computers."

The goal is for the library to be more in tune with public need, she says. In order to do so, the library requires reliable funding.

Despite overall satisfaction with library service, respondents noted that there could be improvements in customer service.

"This means more training for staff is required to ensure the staff is able to keep up with trends in libraries and research and is capable of helping people with information questions," says Comeau.

Overall, the survey provided valuable information to be used to improve services, but Comeau believes the results of the survey also demonstrate the value of public libraries and the important role they play in their community.

Library board saddened by loss of 'Lonnie' Townsend

Western Counties Regional Library board member Alonzo 'Lonnie' Townsend died on his birthday, May 22, 2017 at the age of 74.

He represented the Town of Lockeport on the board since late 2012.

Born in West Head, he spent 25 years in the news business as a reporter and editor of the Shelburne Coast Guard and as a reporter with CKBW Radio. He retired in 2002, the same year he was elected as



Alonzo 'Lonnie' Townsend died on May 22 at the age of 74.

a councillor for the Town of Lockeport. Most of his time

on council was as deputy mayor until his death.

According to his obituary, he was the son of the late Darius and Caroline (Stuart) Townsend.

He was a devote Christian man. Lonnie graduated from Zion Bible Institute in Rhode Island, and was a Pentecostal Pastor for many years. His ministry also included singing and playing guitar, solo, and in various gospel groups, most notably Shepherd's Joy.

He loved news and

politics.

He loved photography, all sports – especially golf, hockey and baseball. He loved his community and served on various committees.

He believed in the regional library system, saying: "It serves the area well. I'd like to be part of that."

He is survived by his daughter, Lisa Marie (Hank Roy); step-grandsons, Chris and Brandon; brothers, Milford (Linda); Burnley; Tim (nephew).

AROUND THE BRANCHES



Systems administrator Ryan McKenzie receives his 10-year work certificate from Western Counties Regional Library Director Erin Comeau and the headquarters staff.

Headquarters

Systems administrator Ryan McKenzie celebrated his 10-year work anniversary on April 2.

Jade Nickerson was hired as the new Automation Trainer. Her first day of work was April 20, but she decided to accept a position at Yarmouth Regional Hospital and left her position on May 26.

Karlyn d'Entremont accepted the position of Automation Trainer in Headquarters. She officially begins on June 19.

The library received funding for summer technology interns.

All Branches

All the branches are gearing up for the 2017 Summer Reading Club which launches June 17 and runs until Aug. 19. The theme is *Canada* to coincide with Canada 150.

Clare

Staff provides a story time for students at École Stella Maris and a box of books per class once a month, delivers boxes of books to three senior care facilities in Meteghan each month, and offers a French book service to the preschool Notre Jardin d'Enfance.

Clare (continued)

A French book club meets once a month at the library.

There is a weekly meeting of a casual knitting group on Wednesdays.

Clark's Harbour

Because of the popularity of the adult colouring program, it has been extended indefinitely to run every Thursday.

Digby

The branch has had a bike rack installed out front and is adding a baby change station and upgrading furniture.

Lockeport

The Lockeport Friends of the Library raised \$368 at its bake and plant sale on May 6. The group hopes to use the funds to help spruce up the library.

Weymouth

Library activities are getting extra free promotion in the new local newsletter *Weymouth Bridge*.

Yarmouth



Yarmouth staff created a mailbox for the Canada 150 library letter share. Pictured, right, library clerk Carol Wing mails a card. People are encouraged to participate in the nationwide letter-sharing program celebrating Canada's 150 birthday. At various library branches, people can send and receive letters from libraries across Canada. People can drop in and write a letter or write it ahead of time and mail it at the branches.