

Library Report



Compiled by
Ian White



Staff profile

Michelle Cook

A love of libraries and reading drew senior clerk Michelle Cook to Barrington Municipal Library.

"Some of my most memorable moments in school are of the books read by the teachers," says Cook. "And I could hardly forget visiting the Western Counties (Regional Library) bookmobile in the school parking lot and our class visits to the Yarmouth branch."

An online course for Library and Information Technology through Nova Scotia Community College allowed her to pursue her love of libraries. Following a move to the Barrington area, she learned of an opening at the library. She applied successfully, becoming the new clerk at the Barrington library.

Her love may be libraries and reading, but it is library patrons that she says makes her work so enjoyable.

"Library patrons are very appreciative of the library services," she says. "It makes my day when they stop to have a chat, and when they take a moment to say an extra 'thank you.'"

She thrives when she receives a difficult request from a patron or new technology arrives on the scene, offering her an opportunity to expand her knowledge and abilities.

Some of her most memorable moments come from helping adults venturing into the digital world for the first time.

"Many of them are able to leave the library feeling confident that they have learned the basics and are no longer afraid to experiment a bit."

Looking ahead for the library, she believes the library has to remain in touch with the community needs and ensure the public is aware of all the services available at the Barrington library.



From left, Anne Slater and Willa McGee take advantage of Shelburne library's new Makerspace to create Boomerang Bags.

New Makerspace in Shelburne makes creative technology accessible

A Makerspace featuring two sewing machines and related material has been created at McKay Memorial Library in Shelburne thanks to funding from @NS.

"When we think of technology, we often limit ourselves to thoughts about computers," says Joanne Head, Deputy Director for Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL) and the librarian for the Shelburne branch. "Technology encompasses so much more. Sewing machines are technology too."

WCRL has added a sewing space at the McKay Memorial Library, allowing people who cannot afford such machines, and material such as scissors and cutting sets, access to this creative technology.

The sewing space provides the opportunity for community members to learn a new skill, enabling them to create or mend clothing, manufacture works of art or items with practical applications such as aprons for fish plant workers.

"A quilt guild has recently started meeting in the library and extra sewing machines and tools would allow new members to take part in these community meetings," Head says.

A local sewing group took advantage of the machinery for the production of "Boomerang Bags." Boomerang Bags are made of recycled material by members of the community to replace single-use plastic bags. The idea began in Australia. People can either keep using the bag or return them to a store or organization for others to use.

"We were pleased to be able to respond to a community project which contributes to a green, environmentally friendly program by making our new sewing equipment available for the production of "Boomerang Bags". This is a hands-on approach to helping our community become environmentally responsible."

The grant from @NS is worth over \$1,100 and includes cursive writing lessons as a secondary part of the grant.

Cursive Writing Part of Grant

Cursive writing is no longer taught in the school curriculum and employers are noticing communication problems among employees – particularly those with significant generation gaps, Head says.

See Cursive Writing/Page 2

Summer Reading Club kicks off with cake

Western Counties Regional Library wants people to return to Nature during this year's Summer Reading Club. The reading club runs from June 22 to Aug. 24 and its theme is Nature.

"We invite participants to unplug and take a moment to explore the stories and science of nature through adventure and play," says Library Deputy Director Joanne Head.

All 10 branches of Western Counties Regional Library are offering children, teen and adult reading clubs to ensure a fun, friendly family literacy event over the summer months. Most branches will be having a kick-off event with cake on Saturday, June 22 during open hours.

"The reading club is for all ages with possible reading rewards ranging from bags of books to LEGO to dining out," says Head.

The Children's Summer Reading Club is for children 13 and younger. Young readers can read a minimum of 12 hours over the

summer months to be entered into prize draws that include everything from slime to LEGO. Children can read for additional hours to receive more ballots for the draw prizes.

The teen club is for youth aged 14 to 17. Adults are considered 18 and older. The teen and adult goals are to read for a minimum of 25 hours over the summer to obtain a ballot for the prize draws. Teens reading for 25 hours will have a chance to win an HD computer monitor, a Samsung Galaxy Tab A, or a backpack filled with school supplies.

Adults have a chance to win golf for two at Digby Pines Resort and Spa, or gift certificates to Charlotte Lane restaurant in Shelburne, Capt. Kat's Lobster Shack in Barrington, or Rudder's Restaurant and Brew Pub in Yarmouth. Teens and adults can enter a draw for bags of books provided by Coles Yarmouth for every five hours read.

Area businesses such as Belliveau Motors in Digby County, SouthWest Dental in Yarmouth and Wilson's Home Hardware in Barrington Passage have provided a wide selection of prizes for the children's club.



Yarmouth library clerk Tenasitee Robbins holds the Samsung Galaxy Tab A, one of the prizes that could be won by teen readers during the 2019 Summer Reading Club.

Cursive writing a cultural asset

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Cursive writing is also an important cultural asset for historical as well as communication purposes.

Lessons are to be provided in the Shelburne library by library staff or community volunteers. Each child participant would receive a workbook to take home for further practice. Children can bring the books back periodically to be awarded with stickers for completed pages.

"Cursive writing and sewing are not offered in the schools here, yet both are valuable skills," says Head. She says each skill encourages "tech" and maker skills, such as spatial awareness, problem solving, dexterity, and creativity.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

Headquarters

Barrington

Wilson's Home Hardware in Barrington Passage has donated seeds to Barrington Municipal Library for its seed library for people to use to grow flowers and vegetables. The idea is that people can take seeds from the seed library and then bring in seeds in the fall to restock the library for the following year. This library initiative would become self-maintaining for years to come. There are now seed libraries at the Barrington, Clare, Digby, Lockeport, and Shelburne branches.

Clare

Meteghan Home Hardware donated seeds to the seed library to help launch the seed library.

A group of older adults meet at the library to do line dancing every Thursday afternoon in the program room.

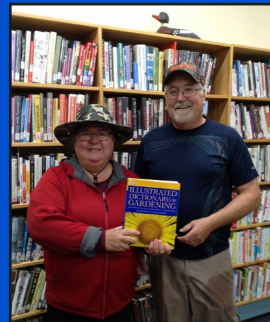
Shelburne

Lighting is being upgraded, making the branch brighter.



There was a retirement party for librarian Deborah Duke on June 12. Her official retirement date is July 5.

Shelburne



Geo cachers Charlene and Clinton stopped by the Shelburne library looking for a cache in early June.

Yarmouth



Librarian Deborah Duke, left, and Yarmouth senior clerk Susan Young celebrated their 15-year-anniversary on May 17.

Weymouth



Ten-week-old Asher David Welsh received his free baby book at the Weymouth Waterfront Library while his mother Julia Welsh holds him tight. The free books are part of the Read to Me! package given to every newborn baby in the province.