

Library Report

Compiled by
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Board profile

Danny Muise

Curiosity and an interest in the regional library system were key factors in Municipality of the District of Argyle Deputy Warden Danny Muise's decision to join Western Counties Regional Library Board.

"When the opportunity came to fill the vacancy on the library board, I felt that it would be an interesting board to be part of as I am always attracted to learning about, and being part of different organizations," he says.

Deputy Warden Muise retired 18 years ago after nearly three decades with Nova Scotia's Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. He spent the first 23 years as an engineering survey technician and the last years as operations supervisor looking after the road system in the Municipality of Argyle.

A resident of Abrams River, he was first elected as a municipal councillor in 2012.

"I consider myself a team player and believe that we all have our own individual skills and abilities and that is the basis of a good board," he says.

He believes changing demographics, technology, and funding are the biggest challenges the library faces.

"We need to continue to educate our younger generation of the importance of the library and encourage them to use the services offered," he says. "In the digital world we live in now, people can research anything by sitting at home. This is especially true of our younger people which, in the future, could make it more of a challenge for our libraries."



A young teenager who loves to read borrowed a book a few years ago and her dog chewed the book quite badly. She could not afford to pay for the book. When she heard about the fine amnesty, she came in with the book and pointed to the fine amnesty poster. She was so happy, the clerk gave her a high-five. She requested other books and left the library very happy.

Fine amnesty creates a lot of goodwill in February

A fine amnesty proved very popular with patrons of Western Counties Regional Library in February.

"Overall people were excited about it, and those with large fines were really happy," says Digby library clerk Joanna Jarvis.

"Anyone with charges was able to have her or his account cleared by simply coming into the library and speaking with one of our clerks," says Regional Library Director Erin Comeau.

"Our goal was to welcome people back by giving them the opportunity to clear their accounts of any outstanding charges that may have prohibited them from using the library's services," says Comeau. "We were hoping people would search for any library books and other materials that needed to be returned and return them. If an item was damaged, that is not a problem; we accepted it, no questions asked."

The amnesty applied to anyone with a fine or charge on their account for materials that

are late or have not yet been returned to the library. Those who had fines for materials not returned were not eligible for the amnesty unless they found and returned the items to the library.

Clerks say the amnesty created a great deal of goodwill among library members in February.

"I think the fine amnesty was great," says Pubnico library clerk Bobbiann Markle. "There were a number of patrons who were so grateful, and I'm sure will use the library more as a result. There was one family today in Pubnico who was forgiven a total of \$66.65!"

The amnesty program applied to all members, including schools and other organizations.

Lockeport library clerk Danielle MacAuley-Williams believes the fine amnesty played an important role in bringing people back into the library.

See **GRATEFUL MEMBERS/P. 2**

Adopt-A-Book begins April 3

The 2018 Adopt-A-Book campaign kicks off Tuesday, April 3 at all 10 branches of Western Counties Regional Library.

The fundraiser is the library's largest, running every two years, with a goal of having over 1,000 books, valued at over \$30,000, adopted/bought by the public and put on library shelves between April 3 and June 30.

Each branch will celebrate the launch on April 3 with cake or baked goods, and some will have special events such as mini-golf.

Grateful members hug clerks

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"The fine amnesty was very much appreciated by our patrons in Lockeport. Many families were able to 'clean the slate' – both parents and children – and come back to borrowing. Some of these families just do not have a lot of extra income, so it was great to be able to help them out in this way," MacAuley-Williams says.

Clerks in Barrington and Shelburne even received some spontaneous hugs.

Most people heard about the amnesty through word-of-mouth, Facebook, the library website, radio announcements and posters.

"Everyone was very enthusiastic about the fine amnesty," says Barrington library clerk Michelle Cook. "Some people had been collecting fines for years and were just paying enough to keep it under \$30 so they could continue using the library services."

"It was a win-win all around," says library deputy director Joanne Head.

Contest Winner



Toulouse Dugas, right, holds a copy of *The Little Tree by the Sea: From Halifax to Boston With Love* by John DeMont that she won by entering the provincewide colouring contest *What Does Your Perfect Tree Look Like?* last fall. Her brother Teche holds her entry while they were visiting their local branch, Weymouth Waterfront Library, to pick up her prize.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

Headquarters

Headquarters is conducting a six-month trial for a new routing system for inter-library loans.

The library has ordered a small number of Spanish language materials to fill requests from newcomers. If popular, the library could look at purchasing more instead of borrowing from other regions.

Preparations for the 2018 Adopt-A-Book campaign are on target.

Digby

Senior library clerk Joanna Jarvis celebrated 10 years with the regional library on Jan. 21.



Digby library clerk Joanna Jarvis with her 10-year certificate.

Lockeport

The Write On! group received mentorship funding of \$750 from the Shelburne County Arts Council this winter. The funding will enable the writing group to put on workshops in coming months at the library with professional writers on themes such as finding your voice in poetry, structuring short stories, and editing to publish.

The branch received a \$125 grant from The Canadian League of Poets for a reading by Nova Scotia poet Chad Norman on April 5 as part of National Poetry Month.

Shelburne

Shelburne branch held its first intergenerational story time at Roseway Manor. It was a great success and they are planning to book more.

Weymouth



Pictured above is a Canada 150 wool hooked rug, part of the Library 150 Maker project. The rug was hooked by members of the Rustic Crafters who meet at Weymouth Waterfront Library every Friday. The group was established in 2004 by members of the Gilbert's Cove & District Historical Society.