

Library Report

Compiled by
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Staff profile

Doris Ponce

New French Services Manager Doris Ponce brings both an educator's and multicultural background to the library. Born in Chile, Doris moved to Montreal in 1975. In 2000, she and her husband and family moved to Clare where she received her Bachelor in Education from Université Ste-Anne. She speaks Spanish, French and English.

"I have always worked in education and communications," she says. She has worked in the area of family literacy for the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP), Équipe d'alphabétisation de la Nouvelle-Écosse, Le Courier de la Nouvelle-Écosse, the Tri-County Regional School Board and Montreal's Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys.

"Education is not just something that happens in the classroom," she says, adding she was inspired to apply for the position after reading the library's statement of values that encouraged lifelong learning.

"I think I can bring my experience and knowledge in education and literacy programs for children and adults to library services," she says. She believes she will be able to tap into her teaching network in the Tri-Counties to develop programming and partnerships.

"Books are important. Education is important," she says.

She believes the biggest challenge facing the library is to get more people into the library, especially certain branches.

She also believes she and her new co-workers can meet that challenge.

"If you believe in what you are doing, it's possible."



From right, Mona Foged, Sue Sinden, Marian Boudreau, Victoria Healy, and Sandy Taylor of the Shelburne Knitting Group. The group meets every Tuesday at McKay Memorial Library.

Knitting group a perfect library partner

In celebration of Canada's 150th birthday, Mona Foged has knit 150 colourful, lifesaving pneumonia vests. The vests save young lives in developing countries around the globe and were on display at McKay Memorial Library in Shelburne and Lillian Benham Library in Lockport.

Inspired by fellow knitter Sandie MacKenzie, Foged, a member of the Shelburne library knitting group, completed the vests that are designed to help fight and reduce respiratory illnesses in children.

"I started knitting them in February," Foged says.

All of the yarn for the project was donated by members of the Shelburne library knitting group and the community, Foged says. She says it takes 2.5 to four hours to complete a vest, depending on the pattern and the person doing the knitting.

The group is a perfect example of a library-community partnership says Western Counties Regional Library Deputy Director Joanne Head.

"It is a perfect partnership because it is grassroots," she says. "It started as a program and grew from there."

You don't need a library card to join the knitting group or to contribute to the cause, adds Shelburne library clerk Suzanne Gear.

She believes partnerships with organizations such as the knitting group are very important.

"They've done beautiful displays for us," she says, adding that they are open to everyone.

Foged says the group continues to thrive because of its partnership with the library.

She says the library is the ideal meeting place with its open environment, wonderful surroundings, daytime availability, access to materials, and no fee for the space used by the group.

"It's very welcoming," Foged says.

In return, the group takes a voluntary collection at each meeting and has bought items for the library, including a laptop, paper shredder, Blu-ray player and cooling fans.

"The knitting group is terrific," says Head. "It's been a win-win."

Digby's Isaiah W. Wilson Memorial Library gets a refresh

Isaiah W. Wilson Memorial Library is undergoing some welcome improvements in 2017.

"They're fresh, clean and functional, and they provide comfort for all ages," says Western Counties Deputy Director Joanne Head, who oversees the Digby branch.

Two new arm chairs in the branch, black-out quality blinds for the program room, two dozen new cushions for the children's area, and a baby changing station were provided by the Digby library committee representing



New chairs, picture above, a baby changing station, upper right, and black-out quality blinds, lower right, are part of the improvements at the Digby library.

the Town of Digby and the Municipality of the District of Digby.

In the coming month the oil tank situated in front of the entrance in Digby

is being removed. Library users will be asked to use the entrance by the daycare during these renovations.

"Those who can't access the library can always



use the borrow anywhere, return anywhere program to return and borrow material at any library," Head says.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

Headquarters



Bonnie Doucette, Catalogue Maintenance/Collection Exchange/Interlibrary Loan clerk, received her 20-year work anniversary certificate on July 7.

Automation trainer Karlyn d'Entremont celebrated five years with Western Counties Regional Library on June 25.

Doris Ponce is the new French Services Manager (Gérante des services en français). She started work on July 24. *See related story on preceding page.*

Barrington

Library clerk Tina Nguyen's last day of work was June 30.

Library clerk Alison Banks, a reserve clerk, became the new to library clerk III on July 4.

The library had a booth at the Barrington Municipal

Barrington (continued)

Exhibition from Aug. 17 to 20.

Digby

The Town of Digby maintained a bench and flower box in front of the library all summer, beautifying the entrance of the library.

Westport

Reserve library clerk Patricia Outhouse celebrated 20 years of work at the library on Sept. 18.



Yarmouth library clerk Janet Miller, right, is pleased with her retirement cake during a farewell luncheon in July. Janet retired after 19 years of service. Fellow clerk Carol Wing is pictured left.

Yarmouth

The library had a booth at the two Switch events in downtown Yarmouth in July and August.

Library clerk Janet Miller retired on July 2 after 19 years.