

Library Report



Compiled by
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Dining for Literacy: Library fundraiser is back

A vital fundraiser for Western Counties Regional Library returns on Saturday, Nov. 2, offering people fine dining, a reading by Cape Breton author Lesley Crewe, live music, the book bonanza, and a silent auction at Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library. Dining Among the Stacks raises money for Western Counties Regional Library's Literacy Legacy Fund.

"It's a great way to support literacy, celebrate the library, and have fun," says regional library director Erin Comeau.

The library's charitable association has established the Literacy Legacy Fund to help the library maintain and enhance its collection and services going forward, she says.

"We haven't had a significant funding increase in over nine years," she says. "The Literacy Legacy Fund was created to help sustain and expand the range of books and other materials needed to support literacy development of all ages."

A highlight of the event is author Lesley Crewe reading from her latest book *Are You Kidding Me?!*. The book is a collection of the bestselling novelist, columnist, and humorist's best newspaper columns.

"I celebrate everyday things," the author says on her website. "I hold dear our humdrum routines. These accumulating hours make up our lifetimes and when we remember, it is always the simplest of pleasures that make us happy. These are the memories I create in my books."

With her sharp wit and humour, Crewe touches on everything from the humiliations of breast pumping to the indignities of aging, from the frantic excess of holiday preparations to the homey irritations of a long marriage.

"We are thrilled to have Lesley Crewe



Above, Dining Among the Stacks, the library's Nov. 2 fundraiser for the Literacy Legacy Fund, features fine dining, a reading by Lesley Crewe, pictured right, a silent auction and the book bonanza.



join us for this event," says Comeau.

The meal includes wine, appetizers, a choice of soup or salad, entrées and dessert, coffee or tea prepared and served by T&W Caterings. The evening will feature a silent auction and a book bonanza in addition to live music by Frederic "The Lost Tourist" Mujica, Nick Jackson, and Michael Carbonell.

The trio offers an energetic mix of Latin-influenced music. The silent auction includes such items as a golf package and fine art. The book bonanza involves rolling out over 100 new, quality books wrapped in paper. People can purchase a book for \$20. If the book contains the golden bookmark, the purchaser will win a reading nook consisting of a comfortable reading chair from Leon's Furniture in Yarmouth, a side table from Canadian

Tire, and a reading lamp from Kent Building Supplies.

"Everyone really enjoyed themselves over the past two events and helped raise over \$23,000 for the fund," says Comeau. "Having local businesses and the public support this event is key to the event's success."

The evening begins at 6 p.m., and tickets are \$100 each and a charitable income tax receipt will be issued for half the price. Tickets are available until Friday, Oct. 18 at the circulation desk at the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library or library Headquarters, 405 Main Street, Yarmouth. People can call 902-742-2486 x221 or e-mail ansy@nsy.library.ns.ca to arrange to purchase tickets.

Digby library to get a makeover this fall

This fall and early winter, Isaiah W. Wilson Memorial Library is getting a makeover which will include new paint, carpeting, plug-ins for electronics, seating and layout.

"The Digby library refresh is the result of surveys done several years ago," says Western Counties Regional Library director Erin Comeau.

Following the survey, the Digby Library Committee, consisting of the chief administrative officers of the Town of Digby and the Municipality of the District of Digby and Western Counties Regional Library Director, looked at what was possible to provide better service.

The library interior design will be enhanced after the walls are painted and the carpet replaced.

"We are not adding to the library in terms of structure and space, but we are improving the existing building," says Comeau.

There will be a more comfortable café-style seating area with accessible outlets in convenient locations. The children's area will become a defined space to allow children to move around



The library refresh includes colorful walls, comfortable furniture, accessible plug-ins, and a defined children's space.

freely, and the space will be brighter. The library is also creating an area for teens.

Clare renovations improve library experience

Digby library is not the only branch undergoing a refresh. The Clare library in Meteghan underwent improvements earlier this year.

"The renovations of the branch were greatly appreciated," says Western Counties Regional Library Director Erin Comeau.

In March, the ceiling was replaced, walls were repainted, light-cancelling shades were installed, a heat pump was installed, a ceiling mounted projector and speakers were installed, and new, more comfortable chairs were added.

"This has improved the library user's experience," Comeau says.

Library staff is excited for the changes. "(Library clerk) Cindy (Hazel) and I are getting excited about the changes, especially the new carpet and different colours on the wall," says senior library clerk Joanna Jarvis.

She believes moving the library circulation desk to face the doors will be a great improvement and allow them to consolidate in one place the library's adult non-fiction collection, including Large Print.

While all of the changes are taking place the library will set up at a temporary location in Digby. The expectation is the temporary library will operate from late November to early January.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

Headquarters



Western Counties Regional Library Headquarters staff surprised super volunteer Mark Pitman in his hospital room for his birthday on July 11.



Pictured left, Deputy Library Director Joanne Head, left, received her 30-year certificate from Library Director Erin Comeau on Sept. 1.

Barrington

Staff has been active using Facebook for program and

service promotions with great success, posting photographs, booklists and photographs of happenings regularly.

Clare

Community groups have made good use of the program room for everything from recruiting volunteers and explaining available programs and services to line dancing.

Clark's Harbour

The library has become a hang-out spot of school kids for computer games and playing in the toy zone, particularly on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Shelburne

There has been many bookings in the meeting and community rooms, including art groups, crafting groups, church groups and a wide range of other community groups. The rooms have also been used by summer residents for Skype calls to family back home and by students doing online courses. The surge in bookings is the result of reduced available space from various issues elsewhere in the community. Several groups who started meeting here until those buildings were repaired have decided to meet at the library permanently because they enjoy the space so much. The Shelburne Rug Hookers, in particular, commented on the warmth, light, and accessibility of the community room.



Clare senior library clerk Darlene Gaudet, pictured reading a story to children, celebrated 15 years with Western Counties Regional Library on July 26.