

# Library Report

Compiled by  
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## Board profile

### Louann Link

One of six new Western Counties Regional Library board members, Clark's Harbour Coun. Louann Link is an avid reader and library supporter.

"As a child I always enjoyed my visit to the bookmobile for my library service," Coun. Link says. "During my leisure time, I enjoy reading and feel that you are never too old to learn."

After graduating from Barrington Municipal High School and Burridge Campus, Nova Scotia Community College, Link became a community nurse with VON, where she has worked for 26 years.

Coun. Link represents Clark's Harbour on the library board. A resident of Clark's Harbour for the past 32 years, she and her husband David raised three boys. She is an active volunteer in her community, involved in the promotion of events such as Canada Day celebrations and Cape Days.

Volunteering to serve on the board was an easy decision for Coun. Link.

"I was interested in the library board due to my love for reading and learning," she says.

She believes the board and staff have to work on keeping young people coming to and using the library.

"The biggest challenge the library has today is finding and coming up with ideas to keep the younger generation interested and engaged with activities within the library," she says. "Over next five to 10 years, I see the library as a learning place for each community and the people of the community."



The new community room at McKay Memorial Library is larger and includes a kitchenette with a refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker.

## Shelburne library expansion complete

### *New community room adds valuable venue to area*

Shelburne's McKay Memorial Library expansion is completed, and the use of its new meeting rooms is growing rapidly.

"They are filling up," says Western Counties Regional Library Deputy director Joanne Head. "Word is out in the community and we have many new groups booking the room."

There are an increasing number of non-profit groups hosting workshops at the venue, she says.

Existing groups such as the knitting group, adult learning group, and book club still make use of the room, but others such as a health services group, 4-H group, and gardening club are taking advantage of the new facility.

While the library continues to offer its regular programming and events, the community room operates independently from library hours. Users can book the room and use it according to their timetable.

"The community has really embraced our new look," says senior library clerk Suzanne Grear. "They want to have their meetings in the new community room."

The former program room has been expanded and updated. It has a kitchenette which includes a sink, refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker, donated by the Friends of the Library. There is a new track system to display the work of local artists and touring exhibits. The local knitting group donated a new laptop and Blu-Ray player for use in the room. The room now includes a ceiling mounted projector and drop-down screen. "I think the new renovations are beautiful," says Grear. "The community room with the kitchenette and new windows and furniture looks so inviting for meetings."

The former reference room has been updated and modified to accommodate meetings. It can be closed off for privacy and has new windows. It also has a projector and screen for presentations and other uses.

"The new meeting room (former reference room) for open hour meetings is used a lot by tutoring and other groups when the community room is busy," Grear says.

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# Shelburne staff kept focused during the library expansion

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The library has been renovated to include space for one-on-one meetings and reading. There have been public computer upgrades, and charging stations for electronics have been added.

Staff is in the process of reconfiguring the library shelving to fit into the updated design of the renovated facility, and the clerks kept focused throughout the expansion.

"We mostly just went with the flow and didn't stress over what our next task would be to prepare for the next day," Gear says of working through the seven-month project. "We knew each step would bring us that much closer to the finished product. We were excited to see the new projects being finished. The carpenters were great always trying to work around some of our important events."

Funding for the expansion of the community room was announced



**The renovation created space for one-on-one meetings and reading.**

on July 27, 2016, work began in September and was completed in March.

The library received an \$85,487 grant through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) Innovative Communities Fund. The Municipality of the District of Shelburne and the Town of Shelburne each contributed \$10,000. The Shelburne Library Building Association fundraised \$50,000.

At the funding announcement Bob Legere, chair of the Shelburne Building Association, said, "We are grateful to all the donors, funders and everyone who helped transform this idea into a reality."

The renovation and expansion comes at a time of growth for the Town of Shelburne. The Canada 2016 Census showed an increase in the town's population of 3.4 per cent over 2011 as the population grew from 1,686 residents to 1,743.

## AROUND THE BRANCHES

### Headquarters

Automation trainer Verna DeViller will be retiring after 39 years of service to Western Counties Regional Library. Her last day at work will be May 11, but her official retirement date is June 23.



**Acquisitions clerk Karen Doucet, right, receives her 10-year work certificate from librarian Deborah Duke on Feb. 14.**

On Feb. 12, acquisitions clerk Karen Doucet celebrated 10 years at Western Counties Regional Library.

### Digby

The library gumball machine continues to raise money for the branch's donation box in a fun way. If someone gets a blue gumball after dropping a coin into the machine, they win a prize of a book and treat from the treasure chest.

Young library users love the Toddler Tickle Trunk and make a beeline for it when entering the branch. Another favourite spot for



**Moxy, a young Digby library member, loves to read and visit and has won a lot of blue gumballs from the library gumball machine, earning him a book and a treat from the treasure chest.**

youngsters is the little wildcat house, home to four beanie wildcats.

The library branch is creating a Makerspace table with different items on it to allow people to make, explore, and play.

### Pubnico

Library clerk Eileen d'Eon celebrated 15 years with Western Counties Regional Library on Dec. 6, 2016.

### Westport

Interest is growing for library services at the School Street Market in Freeport. Residents can pick up and drop off library materials, and apply for their free library cards at the market.

### Weymouth

The library branch's entry into the 2016 Festival of Trees at Sissiboo Landing (pictured right) had the theme of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.



**Weymouth library clerks Tammy Sabine (left) and Marguerite Thibault (right), and helper Kiera Stone created a *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* Christmas tree for the Sissiboo Landing Festival of Trees in December.**

### Yarmouth

Reserve clerk Veronica Hubbard officially retired on Dec. 31, 2016.

Bobbiann Markle started as the new reserve library clerk on Feb. 1.