



ANNUAL REPORT
April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

Regional Highlights

Eight-hundred-and-forty-seven children registered for the Summer Reading Club (SRC), of which 355 were new to the program. In addition, 160 teens and 444 adults participated. Total SRC programs for the region were 74 with 661 children in attendance. Author and librarian Joann Hamilton Barry from Saint John, N.B. visited four branches as part of SRC to discuss her book *Oak Island and the Search for Buried Treasure*.

Atlantic Canada's Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award nominee David Atkinson, author of *Wereduck*, did readings at the Digby, Lockeport, Weymouth and Yarmouth branches.

Over 271,000 books were read by school children in the three counties during the WOW! Reading Challenge. The winner of the WOW! Reading Challenge, sponsored by Web.com, Port Maitland School, and second runner up Yarmouth Central, won a visit from the Maritime Marionettes from Truro.

Pop-up libraries were set up at trade shows, shopping malls and arenas, allowing people to borrow material, sign up for cards, and learn about library services.

Sexual & Reproductive Health Nova Scotia partnered with the library to create sexual and reproductive health awareness through displays and reading lists.

The library continued to partner with YREACH to support newcomers to the area.

Fazal Malik visited Clare, Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth branches to discuss Islam and what it means to be Muslim in Canada.

Through a new partnership with REEL Canada, multiple branches participated in the National Canadian Film Day by screening Canadian films. The library continues to expand the program to include more screenings.

Storyteller and string artist Anne Glover shared her stories and demonstrated how to manipulate string as a way to engage children in creative storytelling at the Digby and Weymouth branches.

2016-17 REGIONAL LIBRARY NUMBERS

Activity

Registered Members	14,029
New Registered Members	1,824
Library In-Person Visits	126,830
Library Virtual Visits	50,850
Information Questions	10,586
Summer Reading Club Participants	1,451
Digital Loans (Overdrive and Zinio)	17,065

Regional Stats

Population Served	55,708*
Public Access Computers	78
Library Branches	10
Number of Staff	47**

* The population statistic is from the 2016 Statistics Canada census.

** Includes full-time, part-time and casual staff.

Branches at a Glance

Barrington

Tying into the Pokémon Go craze, the library hosted a virtual Pokémon Go event for all ages.

Interest remained high in the Scratch computer programming events for children aged eight to 12, introducing them to programming and computer literacy.

Children participated in Dalhousie University's SuperNova science and technology camp.

Residents at Bay Side Home enjoyed regular visits and book deliveries.



Ready to play Pokemon Go in Barrington.

	1,440 Members
	677 Program Attendance
	8,509 Visits
	20,434 Items Borrowed
	180 Summer Reading Club Participants
	2,138 Computer Bookings
	1,567 Wireless Connections
	141 Community Room Bookings

Clare




Children got creative by designing robots using LEGO Robotics and littleBits.

Dietitian Lianne Boudreau Maltais presented healthy eating tips for adults.

Local artists exhibited their work. The library celebrated seniors week by hosting a tea for over 25 people.



Making Christmas candy in Clare.

	1,001 Members
	1,337 Program Attendance
	8,289 Visits
	13,092 Items Borrowed
	166 Summer Reading Club Participants
	3,171 Computer Bookings
	718 Wireless Connections
	312 Community Room Bookings

Outreach &

Book Deposits:

Au Logis de Meteghan
 École Stella Maris
 L'Atelier de Clare
 La p'tite Academie
 La Villa Acadienne
 Maison Jerome
 Notre Jardin d'Enfance
 Seniors at Cottage Celeste

Clark's Harbour

Humorous storyteller Melda Clark Roache shared personal tales to a captive audience.

The Grade 3 class from Clark's Harbour Elementary School held its first annual Read-A-Thon in the library.

A handicrafters program grew to become a club, running continuously throughout the year.



Clark's Harbour organized an auction to raise money during the 2016 Adopt-A-Book campaign.



431 Members



1,030 Program Attendance



6,120 Visits



5,152 Items Borrowed



53 Summer Reading Club Participants



774 Computer Bookings



1 Wireless Connection

Digby

Volunteers assisted 108 seniors and low-income earners with income tax returns.

The library celebrated Culture Day on Oct. 1, offering hands-on demonstrations of African drumming, Acadian basket weaving, quilt-making and other traditional forms of art and music.

In partnership with Art Gallery of Nova Scotia ArtReach program, 41 high school students participated in printmaking workshops with local artists Bonnie Baker and Jay LeBlanc.

In partnership with the NSCC and Digby Area Learning Association, the library provided hundreds of books to local children.

The library had a booth at the school readiness assessments for three-year-olds, providing an opportunity to meet families and promote library services. On the feedback forms under "one thing I liked about this screening", a parent replied ... "getting my son a library card".



Students learn about printmaking at the Digby library.



2,124 Members



1,706 Program Attendance



20,329 Visits



30,010 Items Borrowed



162 Summer Reading Club Participants



2,194 Computer Bookings



3,243 Wireless Connections



156 Community Room Bookings

Outreach & Book Deposits:

Barton Consolidated School
Digby Elementary School
Digby Neck Consolidated School
Learning Grove Childcare Centre
Tideview Terrace

Lockeport

Local artist Val Atwood led a demonstration in dry needle felting with merino wool and the art pieces created were displayed.

An after-school program was introduced in partnership with Our House Wellness Centre, featuring science, computer games and crafts.

Local volunteers led a session to introduce vanishing skill sets to younger people and promote environmentally beneficial practices.

In partnership with Harmony Bazaar music festival, a Living Library program provided an opportunity for people to meet musicians.

The community garden project behind the library is ongoing.



Young participants enjoy playing Minecraft in Lockeport.

Outreach & Book Deposits:
Atlantic Heights Rest Home
Surf Lodge Nursing Home

	435 Members
	712 Program Attendance
	6,770 Visits
	7,448 Items Borrowed
	70 Summer Reading Club Participants
	1,388 Computer Bookings
	318 Wireless Connections

Pubnico

The library exhibited artwork created by local school children.

Staff delivered book deposits to area schools and conducted story times.

A workshop on nature photography was hosted at the library.

Minecraft and seasonal crafts and games were offered to children.



Parrot-making in Pubnico.

Outreach & Book Deposits:
École Belleville
École Pubnico-Ouest
École Wedgeport
Nakile Home for Special Care
Papillons et Pissenlits
Pont du Marais

	427 Members
	1,255 Program Attendance
	4,030 Visits
	5,617 Items Borrowed
	34 Summer Reading Club Participants
	88 Computer Bookings
	139 Wireless Connections
	67 Community Room Bookings

Shelburne

The library's community room was renovated and expanded to include a kitchenette, audiovisual equipment and new furniture. Other parts of the library were renovated and refurnished to include a much-needed second meeting room, reading corner, charging stations, new computers and study carrels, and art display space.

In partnership with Dalhousie University, a week-long SuperNova Science Camp introduced 14 school-age children to fun, science concepts and activities.

Members of a local search-and-rescue organization taught participants in Boys Night Out survival skills.



Participants at Dalhousie University's Camp SuperNova in July 2016.

Outreach & Book Deposits:

King Street Family Resource Centre
Mary's Abide-A-While
Roseway Manor

	1,600 Members
	1,466 Program Attendance
	15,943 Visits
	20,118 Items Borrowed
	96 Summer Reading Club Participants
	3,017 Computer Bookings
	1,923 Wireless Connections
	238 Community Room Bookings

Westport

A fibre arts group met regularly at the branch.

A special program on knitting and wool selection was offered.


Local artist, Vicki Turner provided a hands-on workshop on collage art.

A series of art lectures were presented.

A visiting biologist and bird count specialist shared his findings with local bird enthusiasts.



Dorothy Outhouse, right, leads a genealogy workshop in April 2016.

	228 Members
	379 Program Attendance
	1,087 Visits
	3,090 Items Borrowed
	19 Summer Reading Club Participants
	285 Computer Bookings
	769 Wireless Connections

Weymouth

Jamie Hogan, artist-in-residence at the Jenny Family Compound of Maine College of Art, shared her children's book illustrations with students and invited them to draw.

A library council of five youth created a Halloween carnival for children, attracting over 80 people. In February, they performed a puppet show attended by 70 people.

Children participated in a six-week program of coding with Scratch during which they learned basic coding techniques.



Paper Roll Art program in Weymouth.

Outreach & Book Deposits:

Weymouth Consolidated School



1,075 Members



1,055 Program Attendance



21,513 Visits



13,536 Items Borrowed



203 Summer Reading Club Participants



2,363 Computer Bookings



872 Wireless Connections



316 Community Room Bookings

Yarmouth

The Library hosted a N.S. Health Authority discussion to generate ideas to cut health care costs. This brought about a partnership with Yarmouth Leisure Services for chair yoga classes.

Pop-up libraries were set up at three Switch events downtown, NSCC Early Learners Conference, and Seniors Expo, offering services on site.



Author Joann Hamilton Barry signs a copy of her book *Oak Island and the Search for Buried Treasure*.

Outreach & Book Deposits:

Arcadia School
 Church Hill Manor
 Green Cove Manor
 Hebron Terrace
 Hibernia Heights
 Huntington Place Seniors Residence
 Lawndale Haven
 Mountain View Manor
 New Beginnings
 Plymouth School
 Port Maitland School
 The Meadows
 Tidal View Manor
 The Willows
 Trinity Place
 Veterans Place



5,268 Members



3,408 Program Attendance



34,305 Visits



58,979 Items Borrowed



468 Summer Reading Club Participants



9,841 Computer Bookings



1,310 Wireless Connections



150 Community Room Bookings

LIBRARY SUPPORT

Western Counties Regional Library has received strong support and generous sponsorships and donations from many individuals, organizations and businesses. The library is grateful to all those helping to make the library and community a better place. Unfortunately, we do not have the space to acknowledge all of the donations, prizes and materials provided to the library over the past year. Regional media outlets continue to provide invaluable airtime and newspaper space, promoting library programs, events and news. Web.com continued to donate funding to cover costs of prizes and reading rewards for the WOW! Reading Challenge in Yarmouth County. The 2016 Adopt-A-Book campaign resulted in over \$35,000 raised which translated into 1,430 new books on library shelves.

The library established the Literacy Legacy Fund to grow over the years to enable the library board to use the interest to enhance the library's collection. In support of the fund, the library created Dining Among the Stacks on Oct. 22, turning the Yarmouth library into a restaurant with entertainment, fine dining and fundraising to bring in over \$12,000 for the fund, thanks in large part to presenting sponsor Scotiabank.

<u>REGIONAL LIBRARY FINANCES</u>					
Expenditures			Revenues		
	2016-2017	2015-2016		2016-2017	2015-2016
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,136,394	\$1,135,790	Province of Nova Scotia	\$1,120,300	\$1,120,300
Library Materials	\$ 188,031	\$ 193,235	Municipalities	\$ 373,500	\$ 373,500
Other Expenses	\$ 313,404	\$ 354,930	Other Revenues	\$ 144,029	\$ 190,155
Total Expenditures	\$1,637,829	\$1,683,955	Total Revenues	\$1,637,829	\$1,683,955



Atlantic Canada's Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award nominee David Atkinson, author of *Wereduck*, visited four branches in April 2016.



Storyteller and string artist Anne Glover, left, spins a tale at Isaiah W. Wilson Memorial Library.



Weymouth Waterfront Library's Halloween carnival run by student volunteers was a huge success.



Bob Legere, chair of the Shelburne Library Building Association, speaks at the funding announcement on July 27.