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# ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

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## **Regional Highlights**

Mobile printing was introduced in all library branches. People can now send documents for wireless printing from their mobile or personal devices.

Household radon detectors can be borrowed through the library as part of a program with the Nova Scotia Lung Association.

Local artists and artisans were celebrated during the Canada 150 festivities. Activities ranged from learning about beekeeping, meeting authors, drum-making, art exhibits and do-it-yourself projects which represented a variety of cultural activities and practices in Canada.

836 children, 81 teens, and 319 adults participated in the Summer Reading Club. Children collectively read for 6,533 hours, teens for 1,142 hours, and adults for 7,319 hours during the summer months.

People throughout the region met in various library locations to participate in book clubs and writing groups. In addition to providing an opportunity for individuals to hone their own literary craft and share their love of reading, the library hosted the following authors to help inspire them: Harry Thurston, Edward Ross, Sandra Phinney, Ilonka Alexander, Terry Dwyer, Wade White, Darcy Rhyno, Quentin Casey, Marjorie Turner-Bailey, Melda Roach Clark, and E. Alex Pierce.

In celebration of Canadian Children's Book Week, author/illustrator Cass Reich toured the region, and Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award nominee, Daphne Greer visited several branches.

In October, Seniors Week programming offered everything from chair yoga to board games and assured an active group of seniors participated at the branches.

The library hosted several film screenings as part of REEL Canada's National Canadian Film Day. The library holds a large film collection which circulates heavily. National Canadian Film Day provided an opportunity to showcase Canadian films.



**Part of the Summer Reading Club performers tour, circus artist Mike Hirschbach wows the crowd at Pubnico library in July 2017.**

### **2017-18 REGIONAL LIBRARY NUMBERS**

#### **Activity**

Registered Members	13,807
New Registered Members	1,725
Library In-Person Visits	123,909
Library Virtual Visits	56,097
Information Questions	369
Summer Reading Club Participants	746
Digital Loans (Overdrive and RBDigital)	15,842

#### **Regional Stats**

Population Served	56,097 *
Public Access Computers	79
Library Branches	10
Number of Staff	46**

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

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

# Branches at a Glance

## Barrington

The library coordinated a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, which provided free income tax expertise to assist seniors and low-income earners to complete and submit their income tax returns. Library staff set up appointments and worked with volunteers to ensure the many people using the program successfully completed their tax returns.

In addition to regular book deposits to Bay Side Home, residents participated in intergenerational story times with preschool children. It was a win-win program of whimsy and wisdom.

The heritage of our fishing community was celebrated during the South Shore Lobster Crawl, as the library became a destination to create lobster crafts.



Some intergenerational fun at Bay Side Home.

### Outreach & Book Deposits:

Oceanview Christian Academy  
Bay Side Home

	1,408 Members
	544 Program Attendance
	14,701 Visits
	21,030 Items Borrowed
	167 Summer Reading Club Participants
	1,678 Computer Bookings
	2,226 Wireless Connections
	147 Community Room Bookings

## Clare

The library hosted a "Death Café," bringing frank conversations about preparing for one's eventual death. The grieving process, the emotional impact, and the practical and financial impact of death were explored.

The Caisse Populaire de Clare provided information sessions on personal finance, budgeting, avoiding fraud, and keeping money safe. This dovetailed nicely into the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

Through a partnership with YREACH (a program providing support to immigrants and temporary foreign workers), fish plant workers from Riverside International Lobster were given library orientation, and Spanish language materials were introduced into the permanent collection.



Enjoying a printmaking workshop in September at the Clare library.

### Outreach & Book Deposits:

Au Logis de Meteghan  
École Jean-Marie Gay  
École Joseph Dugas  
École Stella Maris  
Foyer Celeste  
L'Atelier de Clare  
La p'tite Academie  
La Villa Acadienne  
Su Martha au Bord d'la Mer  
Notre Jardin d'Enfance  
Maison Jerome

	992 Members
	1,957 Program Attendance
	10,486 Visits
	11,845 Items Borrowed
	168 Summer Reading Club Participants
	2,515 Computer Bookings
	605 Wireless Connections
	333 Community Room Bookings



## Clark's Harbour

Local crafters meet at the library regularly to exchange ideas and work on their current projects. The crafters use the library resources for DIY information and enjoy the social aspects of working on individual projects in a community setting.

The library partnered with Kings Street Family Resource Centre to run a monthly preschool program.



Children enjoyed playing with the Be-Fit Kits at Clark's Harbour library.

### Outreach & Book Deposits:

Clark's Harbour Elementary School  
Miss Bethany's Pre-School Centre



411 Members



1,030 Program Attendance



5,036 Visits



5,399 Items Borrowed



64 Summer Reading Club Participants



343 Computer Bookings



901 Wireless Connection

## Digby

The library helped organize a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (Canada Revenue Agency), which provided free income tax expertise to assist seniors and low-income earners to complete and submit their income tax returns.

A four-week health and wellness program for participants aged 50+ was offered in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association (NS Division) & Fountain of Health Initiative.

New chairs, a baby changing station, and light-cancelling shades were part of the improvements at the Digby library.



Digby library started an intergenerational story time program at Tideview Terrace.

### Outreach & Book Deposits:

Digby Multicultural Festival  
Digby Neck Consolidated Elementary School  
Digby Elementary School  
Learning Grove After School Program  
NSCC – Digby Campus  
Terrific Tots Screening  
Tideview Terrace



2,318 Members



1,764 Program Attendance



23,402 Visits



29,496 Items Borrowed



224 Summer Reading Club Participants



1,821 Computer Bookings



1,476 Wireless Connections



95 Community Room Bookings

## Lockeport

The annual Harmony Bazaar Music Festival provided the library with an opportunity to host musicians and offer a "living library" experience for people. They met participants and asked them questions about the music industry and their work.

The Lockeport Lobster Loop program enabled people to stroll through town and meet up at the library for a tasty treat as part of the South Shore Lobster Crawl.

Mi'kmaw traditions, tools, crafts, art and music were featured when Multicultural Day was celebrated at the branch.

Visiting international students demonstrated the art of Japanese origami and answered questions about their homeland and their experiences while studying in Lockeport.



**Mini-golf was part of the summer programming at Lockeport library.**

### Outreach &

### Book Deposits:

Atlantic Heights Rest Home

Fox and Hare Daycare

Surf Lodge Nursing Home



466 Members



1,536 Program Attendance



5,890 Visits



7,885 Items Borrowed



78 Summer Reading Club Participants



1,458 Computer Bookings



524 Wireless Connections

## Pubnico

Tim Doucette of the Deep Sky Observatory led a stargazing workshop and an evening of exploring the night sky.

How do you know what is a scam and what is real in the digital world? Learning how to protect yourself from Internet Fraud was the focus of a workshop with Peggy Boudreau.

With the aid of community volunteers, a French story time *Ansi Font Font* was introduced to preschoolers and their families for a book-related, fun-filled time. Participants honed their pre-literacy skills in French.



**Making honey in Pubnico as part of a beekeeping program.**

### Outreach &

### Book Deposits:

École Belleville

École Pubnico-Ouest

École Wedgeport

Nakile Home for Special Care



478 Members



1,138 Program Attendance



2,501 Visits



4,386 Items Borrowed



30 Summer Reading Club Participants



119 Computer Bookings



903 Wireless Connections



87 Community Room Bookings



## Shelburne

The library coordinated a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (Canada Revenue Agency), which provided free income tax expertise to assist seniors and low-income earners to complete and submit their income tax returns.

Symphony Nova Scotia (Musical Munchkins) invited 3- to 5-year-olds to clap and dance and enjoy music while being introduced to musical instruments and the symphony.

In celebration of Canada's 150th birthday, Shelburne library knitting group leader Mona Foged knit 150 colourful, lifesaving pneumonia vests. The vests save young lives in developing countries around the globe and were on display at the branch in July 2017.



Participants get creative during a whirligig workshop at the Shelburne library.

### Outreach & Book Deposits:

King Street Family Resource Centre  
Little People's Place  
Mary's Abide-A-While  
Roseway Manor  
Seniors 50+ Expo



1,668 Members  
1,626 Program Attendance  
14,261 Visits  
17,831 Items Borrowed  
114 Summer Reading Club Participants  
2,697 Computer Bookings  
1,628 Wireless Connections  
383 Community Room Bookings

## Westport

Patrons are now able to use the School Street market in Freeport as a drop-off and pick-up point for library materials.

Guest speaker M. MacPherson facilitated a discussion on how to deal with the issues involved in dealing with those affected by dementia.

The local Westport Recreation Auxiliary and The Family Centre, Digby Site partnered to deliver exciting programs such as bird banding and an ice-cream social.

Area artists were invited to talk about their work and to also help people discover their own inner artist and create their own masterpieces.



The Fibre Group members enjoy their time at the Westport library.

### Outreach & Book Deposits:

Individual seniors



221 Members  
361 Program Attendance  
1,240 Visits  
2,251 Items Borrowed  
21 Summer Reading Club Participants  
261 Computer Bookings  
672 Wireless Connections

## Weymouth

The Weymouth Garden Club provided a workshop to introduce children to the art of flower arranging and to encourage them to explore their green thumbs.

A series of *Scratch* coding programs introduced to children the art of creating computer programs.

Local historian, Hal Theriault gave an overview of "The Electric City" and the plans to establish a local museum featuring this little known, historic first for Nova Scotia.

The library entry in the Sissaboo Landing Christmas Tree Festival featured a delightful tree decorated in a *Winnie the Pooh* theme.

### Outreach & Book Deposits:

La Petite Academie  
Maison Jerome  
Weymouth Consolidated School



Children enjoyed Weymouth's rug hooking program.

	1,117 Members
	1,418 Program Attendance
	15,367 Visits
	14,178 Items Borrowed
	255 Summer Reading Club Participants
	2,168 Computer Bookings
	2,027 Wireless Connections
	372 Community Room Bookings

## Yarmouth

Through Yarmouth Recreation, *Steps to Connect* workshops covered preventive health and fitness activities and practices.

The library helped organize a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (Canada Revenue Agency), which provided free income tax expertise to assist seniors and low-income earners to complete and submit their income tax returns.

Language Assessment Services of Nova Scotia and the library provided language assessment to immigrants residing in rural areas. This assessment of English as a second language helped establish learning levels and requirements. Language is one of the barriers to successful settlement for newcomers.

### Outreach & Book Deposits:

SHYFT  
13 local seniors residences  
Yarmouth Correctional Facility  
Burridge Campus, NSCC  
NSCC Health Fair



Participants make their own dryer sheets and other environmentally friendly items at Yarmouth library.

	5,557 Members
	2,000 Program Attendance
	31,031 Visits
	59,105 Items Borrowed
	485 Summer Reading Club Participants
	11,131 Computer Bookings
	2,717 Wireless Connections
	220 Community Room Bookings



## **LIBRARY SUPPORT**

Western Counties Regional Library continued to receive 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. Regional media outlets continue to provide invaluable airtime and newspaper space, promoting library programs, events and news. Web.com continued to provide funding to cover costs of prizes and reading rewards for the WOW! Reading Challenge in Yarmouth County.

The library held its second Dining Among the Stacks on Oct. 21, a fundraiser in support of the library's Literacy Legacy Fund. Over \$11,000 was raised during the event, thanks in large part to presenting sponsor Scotiabank. The event turned the Yarmouth library into a restaurant with entertainment, fine dining and fundraising. The fund now has over \$80,000 in it. Once it surpasses \$100,000, the library board will begin using the interest to support the purchase of materials for the branches.

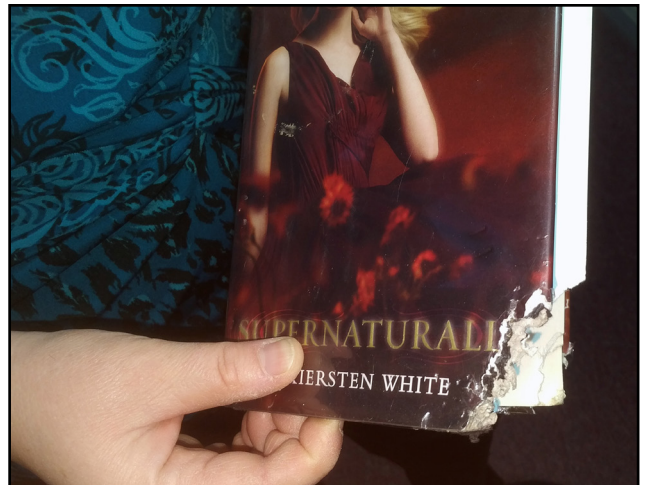
### **REGIONAL LIBRARY FINANCES**

<b>Expenditures</b>			<b>Revenues</b>		
	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>		<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,182,591	\$1,136,394	Province of Nova Scotia	\$1,225,634*	\$1,120,300
Library Materials	\$ 203,680	\$ 188,031	Municipalities	\$ 373,500	\$ 373,500
Other Expenses	\$ 321,153	\$ 313,404	Other Revenues	\$ 108,290	\$ 144,029
Total Expenditures	\$1,707,424	\$1,637,829	Total Revenues	\$1,707,424	\$1,637,829

\* Increase in Province of Nova Scotia revenue attributed to two one-time grants to help sustain library operations.



Atlantic Canada's Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award nominated author Daphne Greer plays a guessing game during her tour in May 2017.



A chewed book made its way back to the library during the fine amnesty in March 2018.



Shannon O'Sullivan leads a fairy birdhouse workshop at Clark's Harbour library.



Fun at the drive-in at Weymouth library during the Summer Reading Club.