



ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

Regional Highlights

Free income tax return clinics were offered in Digby, Shelburne, and Yarmouth in partnership with volunteers and senior services operating under the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.

All branches celebrated Nova Scotia artist Maud Lewis and Heritage Day in February with special programming ranging from painting programs to showings of the movie *Maudie* to visits by the author Brenda Thompson who discussed her book *A Wholesome House of Horrors* and her research of the poor houses of Nova Scotia. Maud Lewis' in-laws lived in the poor house located outside of Digby. Her husband Everett was the night watchman at the home.

The regional library began to loan sets of tool kits for individuals and families living with autism thanks to a partnership with Autism Nova Scotia and public libraries.

Barrington, Clare, Digby, Shelburne and Lockeport branches have ongoing Seed Library programs. Barrington and Clare were supported by their local Home Hardware store which provided starter seeds.

The library offered a three-month digital literacy training for older adults project at its Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth libraries supported by @NS.

The 2018 Summer Reading Club tour arranged through Nova Scotia Provincial Library included Adventures in Moonland, Symphony Nova Scotia's Musical Munchkins, and Mi'kmaw dancer/drummer/storyteller Trevor Gould. These programs visited Clare, Clark's Harbour, Digby, Lockeport, Pubnico, Shelburne, Westport, Weymouth, Yarmouth libraries.

Clark's Harbour, Lockeport and Shelburne libraries partnered with Kings Street Family Resource Centre to offer a program for toddlers.

Author Alice Walsh gave readings of her Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award nominated book *A Change of Heart* at the Barrington, Weymouth and Yarmouth branch libraries.

There was an enthusiastic response from staff and board members attending the 2018 Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (LBANS)/Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA) annual conference, Sept. 28-30, at the Rodd Grand Yarmouth. Western Counties Regional Library hosted the conference, and its team worked with NSLA and LBANS members to construct a diverse, interesting program with its theme *Be Bold!*

All branches celebrated Family Literacy Day in January with special programming.

2018-19 REGIONAL LIBRARY NUMBERS

Activity

| | |
|---|---------|
| Registered Members | 13,311 |
| New Registered Members | 1,714 |
| Library In-Person Visits | 123,332 |
| Library Virtual Visits | 62,152 |
| Information Questions | 15,681 |
| Summer Reading Club Participants | 1,015 |
| Digital Loans (Overdrive and RBDigital) | 18,994 |

Regional Stats

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Population Served | 56,097 * |
| Public Access Computers | 79 |
| Library Branches | 10 |
| Number of Staff | 52** |

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

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

Branches at a Glance

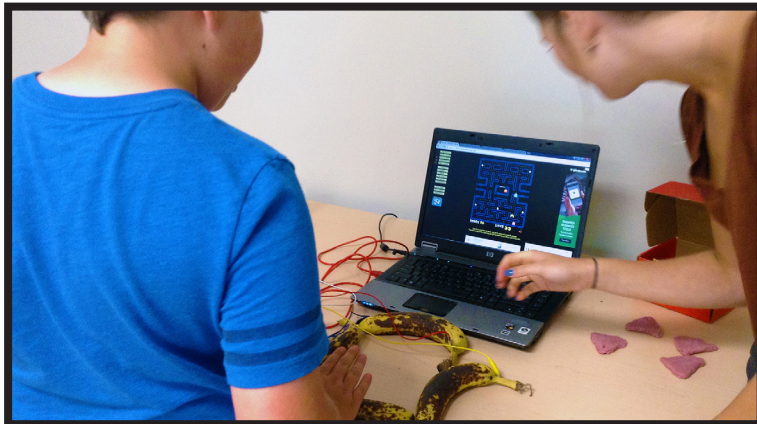
Barrington

Story Time Buddies expanded to include more regular intergenerational programming at Bay Side Home.

The library's book club, adult colouring program and LEGO club remain a strong part of the library's regular programming.

Participants made good use of library technology during LEGO WeDo, Ollies, and Makey-Makey programs, and a science workshop offered by partnering with Dalhousie University's SuperNOVA.

People celebrated the lobster fishery through a series of February programs offering trivia and painting at the library.



Making creative use of the library's technology during a Makey-Makey program at Barrington library.

**Outreach &
Book Deposits:**
Bay Side Home

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| | 1,228 Members |
| | 392 Program Attendance |
| | 8,623 Visits |
| | 17,609 Items Borrowed |
| | 100 Summer Reading Club Participants |
| | 1,651 Computer Bookings |
| | 7,482 Wireless Connections |
| | 220 Community Room Bookings |

Clare

Renovations of the branch were greatly appreciated. The ceiling was replaced, walls repainted, light-cancelling shades installed, heat pump installed, ceiling mounted projector and speakers installed and new, more comfortable chairs were added to improve the library user experience.

In partnership with the Caisse populaire de Clare, a series of programs, including Registered Education Savings Plans, Financial Wellness for Seniors, and Identity Theft, were offered and well-received.

The library partnered with the Réseau Santé to offer health related programming on such topics as sleep apnea and Lyme disease.



A writing workshop inspired local writers to record their memories in print at the Clare library.

**Outreach &
Book Deposits:**
Au Logis de Meteghan
École Stella Maris
Foyer Celeste
Su Martha au Bord d'la Mer
Notre Jardin d'Enfance

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| | 966 Members |
| | 2,447 Program Attendance |
| | 10,922 Visits |
| | 11,634 Items Borrowed |
| | 135 Summer Reading Club Participants |
| | 2,311 Computer Bookings |
| | 2,059 Wireless Connections |
| | 412 Community Room Bookings |

Clark's Harbour

Monthly colouring and crafting for adults were popular enough to become year-round, staple programs.

The library celebrated Seniors Week during the first week of October with a trio of programs ranging from colouring to board games.

The library offered seasonal programs for children featuring crafts.



Children get creative during Tot-N-Tumble at Clark's Harbour library.

Outreach & Book Deposits:

Ready Set Learn Preschool
Miss Bethany's Preschool Centre



367 Members



779 Program Attendance



2,950 Visits



4,319 Items Borrowed



28 Summer Reading Club Participants



605 Computer Bookings



5,277 Wireless Connection



1 Community Room Bookings

Digby

Preschool story times added an intergenerational component by locating the program at Tideview Terrace seniors residence once a month.

Painting programs featuring the use of watercolours and mandala design were very popular and well attended.

Seniors and low-income earners benefited from the library partnership with the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (a Revenue Canada initiative).

Makerspace drop-in programs introduced children to science-based learning activities.



Lots of youngsters experienced the joys of building during Digby library's LEGO Fun Nights.

Outreach & Book Deposits:

Digby Elementary School
Digby Neck Consolidated School
Digby Preschool Co-Op
Learning Grove Childcare Centre
Terrific Tots Screening
Tideview Terrace



2,086 Members



1,784 Program Attendance



20,197 Visits



29,382 Items Borrowed



149 Summer Reading Club Participants



1,991 Computer Bookings



4,593 Wireless Connections



83 Community Room Bookings

Lockeport

Chair Yoga for Seniors was possible through a Wellness Grant from the Nova Scotia Health Authority.

The library garden was the site of an outdoor celebration of music in partnership with Harmony Bazaar.

The newly constructed ramp and entryway has vastly improved wheelchair (and stroller) access to the branch.

The library purchased a smart TV and Blu-Ray machine for presentations and hosting film nights.

Author Bill Williams of *Tragedies on the Unforgiving Seas* brought his story to life. With support from the League of Canadian Poets, E. Alex Pierce, Frances Boyle and Janet Barkhouse shared their work to an appreciative, full house.



Canadian poets, from left, E. Alex Pierce, Frances Boyle and Janet Barkhouse were some of the writers coming to read in front of enthusiastic crowds at Lockeport library.

Outreach & Book Deposits:

MacLeod Surf Lodge Nursing Home
Atlantic Heights Rest Home Ltd.
The Fox and Hare Daycare
Lockeport Area Preschool



411 Members



1,663 Program Attendance



7,279 Visits



8,640 Items Borrowed



46 Summer Reading Club Participants



1,216 Computer Bookings



2,169 Wireless Connections

Pubnico

Families enjoyed stories, songs, & crafts through *Ainsi Font Font Font*, a literacy program for the preschool set.

Cookie decorating and an evening with Santa delighted local children. Madame Citrouille and Easter crafts were part of seasonal programming.

Guests enjoyed a presentation on The Electric City with Hal Theriault.

Stories were shared through the *Raconte Moi* program at schools in West Pubnico, Belleville and Wedgeport.



Pumpkin carving fun during Madame Citrouille.



422 Members



898 Program Attendance



1,825 Visits



3,642 Items Borrowed



18 Summer Reading Club Participants



2,772 Computer Bookings



1,839 Wireless Connections



76 Community Room Bookings

Outreach & Book Deposits:

Nakile Home for Special Care
Pont du Marais

Shelburne

The library coordinated a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (Canada Revenue Agency) providing free income tax return assistance to seniors and low-income earners.

A seniors social and open house introduced seniors to library services and a fun social event.

A 5-day SuperNOVA day camp brought science based activities to youth, through a partnership with Dalhousie University.

Shubenacadie Wildlife Park provided students with an interactive experience with nature.

An intergenerational story time takes place monthly at Roseway Manor seniors residence.

The new community spaces have been fully booked since the temporary closing of the fire hall community space.

The Friends of the Library continue to raise thousands of dollars for the library.



Participants in the SuperNOVA Science Camp learn about designing and balance at the Shelburne library.

Outreach & Book Deposits:

King Street Family Resource Centre
Mary's Abide Awhile Home Limited
Roseway Manor Inc.



1,555 Members
1,696 Program Attendance
14,782 Visits
19,509 Items Borrowed
100 Summer Reading Club Participants
2,772 Computer Bookings
5,248 Wireless Connections
621 Community Room Bookings

Westport

World Ocean's Day program was done in partnership with Shelley Lonergan of Brier Island Whale and Seabird Cruises.

A fibre arts group and book club met regularly at the branch and continue to be popular.

The library's partnership with The Family Centre, Digby Site, continued to provide seasonal family programming on topics such as pumpkin and sunflower seed planting.



Enjoying a piece of cake at the 2018 Adopt-A-Book campaign launch at Westport library.

Outreach & Book Deposits:

Individual seniors



220 Members
247 Program Attendance
972 Visits
2,724 Items Borrowed
10 Summer Reading Club Participants
102 Computer Bookings
1,977 Wireless Connections

Weymouth

The library partnered with local Pokemon card enthusiasts to establish a regular trading card evening.

The library teamed up with the Weymouth Garden Club for a children's program on flower arranging.

The library's entry into the Festival of Trees at Sissiboo Landing, following the theme of Santa's Workshop Tea Party, won first place.

The library's annual Halloween bash on Oct. 25 drew a huge crowd of young people, including youth volunteers.



Having fun with LEGO at Weymouth library.

Outreach & Book Deposits:

La Petite Academie
Weymouth Consolidated School Pre-Primary
Weymouth Consolidated School
Maison Jerome

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
|  | 1,049 Members |
|  | 1,309 Program Attendance |
|  | 15,031 Visits |
|  | 14,351 Items Borrowed |
|  | 104 Summer Reading Club Participants |
|  | 2,025 Computer Bookings |
|  | 7,240 Wireless Connections |
|  | 323 Community Room Bookings |

Yarmouth

The library partnered with Brilliant Labs to run a drop-in science and technology program for youth aged 8 to 12.

Many area organizations made use of the library's computer lab.

There were regular class visits from area elementary schools to the library that included an introduction to technology available at the library and the library's collection.

Gaming sessions of Minecraft were offered twice a week in the computer lab, providing a safe, secure gaming environment for children.


Authors Alice Walsh, Janet Barkhouse and Frances Boyle conducted readings from their new books.



Elementary school students have fun with Makey-Makey kits during a visit to Yarmouth library.

Outreach & Book Deposits:

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

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
|  | 4,864 Members |
|  | 2,850 Program Attendance |
|  | 39,707 Visits |
|  | 61,769 Items Borrowed |
|  | 325 Summer Reading Club Participants |
|  | 10,372 Computer Bookings |
|  | 9,099 Wireless Connections |
|  | 320 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.

The library's 12th Adopt-A-Book campaign ran from April to June 2018. The campaign raised \$35,954, the second most ever, resulting in the adoption of 1,324 books. In total the campaign has raised \$345,527 resulting in the adoption of 15,850 books.

Following a presentation on the Literacy Legacy Fund on March 3, 2019, Digby Care 25, an organization of women in Digby County who donate to various charitable causes, donated \$3,045 toward the fund.

REGIONAL LIBRARY FINANCES

| Expenditures | | | Revenues | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2018-2019 | 2017-2018 | | 2018-2019 | 2017-2018 |
| Salaries and Benefits | \$1,185,637 | \$1,182,591 | Province of Nova Scotia | \$1,120,300 | \$1,225,634 |
| Library Materials | \$ 193,977 | \$ 203,680 | Municipalities | \$ 373,500 | \$ 373,500 |
| Other Expenses | \$ 289,479 | \$ 321,153 | Other Revenues | \$ 175,293 | \$ 108,290 |
| Total Expenditures | \$1,669,093 | \$1,707,424 | Total Revenues | \$1,669,093 | \$1,707,424 |



Atlantic Canada's Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award nominated author Alice Walsh carries out an interactive activity during a visit in May 2018.



Lockeport library's theatre workshop was a hit with local youth.



Painting A La Maud was one of the popular programs at the Digby library celebrating Heritage Day in Nova Scotia.



Participants enjoy the intergenerational summer edition of Story Time at Bayside Home in Barrington.