

Library Report

Compiled by Ian White



Board profile

Ben Cleveland

Town of Digby Mayor Ben Cleveland has been actively involved in community affairs, sitting on many local boards before joining Western Counties Regional Library Board in November 2020.

The board's vice chair is a 30-year veteran of the Digby Fire Department, was a councillor for 4 years, and has been mayor for the last 14 years.

"When I was asked to join the board, there was no hesitation to do so," he says. "Libraries are still prevalent today. Not every thing is on the Internet, and not everything is digitized."

He says that only a fraction of the world's knowledge is available on the Internet, but very little of that information is free, and that's where libraries come in.

"Libraries provide an important cultural connection to the past, understanding the past, through books whether printed or through digitized services," he says, adding the services that libraries provide can help shape the future.

He believes a challenge facing the library board is identifying the trends in all forms of media and being prepared to react to the changes.

He says the library needs to identify and help fill the gaps in services in its local communities to remain a vital part of a community's infrastructure.

Library's Summer Reading Club returns to normal

Literacy initiative keeps children reading over the summer



Summer Reading Club organizer Shannon Raynard displays the various reading logs for children, teens and adults to track their reading over the summer.

Western Counties Regional Library's 2022 Summer Reading Club begins Saturday, June 25, offering reading rewards for children, teens and adults, and lots of programming.

This year's theme is Myths and Legends, and the club runs through Saturday, Aug. 27 at the regional library's 10 branches in Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties.

"It is important to help children and teens maintain their reading over the summer months," says Shannon Raynard, Training and Development Manager at the library and organizer of the program. "The reading club helps promote summer reading while offering reading rewards for the whole family. There are even children's reading logs and other material provided for people with print disabilities."

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it

is the first time in two years that the library can offer in-person programming in addition to StoryWalks, which are entire stories set up outdoors on page-by-page stands in and around many of the library's branches.

To kick things off, library branches in Barrington, Clark's Harbour and Shelburne have special programs on June 25. Programming continues to be offered throughout the summer, including three Discovery Centre touring science and environment programs on July 13 and 14 in Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne. Dalhousie University's SuperNOVA Day Camp returns to McKay Memorial Library in Shelburne during the fourth week of August. All programming is listed in the events section on the library website at westerncounties.ca/calendar/.

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Area businesses supportive of reading program

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As for prizes, area businesses have been very supportive of the literacy initiative with Sydney Street Pub and Café, Rudders Restaurant and Brew Pub and Capt. Kat's Lobster Shack offering gift certificates, and Coles Yarmouth providing books as draw prizes for adults reading 25 hours or more this summer. Teens can win sets of new books provided by library book supplier Whitehots Inc. and Coles Yarmouth for reading 25 hours or more this summer. Children can win a wide range of prizes such as LEGO kits and

science kits provided by Belliveau Motors, Canadian Tire Yarmouth and Wilson's Home Hardware in Barrington, two family passes to Nova Scotia Museum, ice cream gift certificates, skating and pool passes, and passes to the Mariners on Main facility in Yarmouth. To be entered in the draws, children must register with their local branch library once they register online through the TD Children's Summer Reading Club website at tdsummerreadingclub.ca/.

Every child registering at the library receives a reading log and a web access

code to register online. Teens and adults can sign up at their nearest library branch. For children without access to the Internet, they can call their local library branch to register.

"We have had great support from area businesses and organizations to ensure we can provide some great reading rewards for children, teens and adults," Raynard says.

The Children's Summer Reading Club is for children up to the Grade 6 level. The teen club is for students entering Grades 6 or higher, up to age 18. The adult club is for people aged 18 and older.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

Headquarters



Left, Systems Administrator Ryan McKenzie receives his 15-year work certificate from Executive Director Erin Comeau on April 2.

The new Same Page system was launched successfully on April 21. Eight of the nine regional libraries came together to create the new online service called Same Page. Same Page provides access to almost a million items, including eBooks, magazines, audiobooks, learning materials, and much more. Library users are able to manage their accounts better, request materials, keep track of their reading, and find suggestions on what to read next. The system allows library users from any of the eight library systems to access and borrow material from within the consortium's collection, including the digital collection OverDrive.

Clark's Harbour

The library has a new sign (pictured right).

The library will be the starting point for a Town of Clark's Harbour Canada Day walk on June 30.



The library's grab-and-goes, which wrap up in June were very popular. The May activity featured bees. Above, Jeremie Amirault, 4, had fun completing the craft and learning about bees.

Digby

For the month of May the branch joined with the Caregivers of Nova Scotia to do a display highlighting Caregiver's Awareness Month. The display included brochures and booklets from the organization and related library books. It was well received with people picking up information and checking out books.

People continue to visit the library to pick up COVID-19 rapid test kits and express their gratitude at their availability.

Interest in the use of the newly re-opened community room is picking up.

Lockeport

Friends of the Lockeport Library plant and bake sale raised over \$700 for the library.

The library has a new picture book display case (pictured right).



Shelburne

Library clerks Loreley Himmelman and Michelle Vacon achieved diplomas in Library and Information Technology, graduating from NSCC on June 7.

Weymouth

The branch's book display (pictured right) highlighting Indigenous History Month and Pride Month in June is an excellent example of maximizing little spaces to highlight the library's diverse collection.

