

Library Report

Helping people access virtual health care

The library has teamed up with Nova Scotia Health to help people learn about the new virtual health care services available to them.

In a series of sessions at nine branches of Western Counties Regional Library, Virtual Care Technician Lacey d'Entremont introduces people to various virtual care services and supports. The final session is on June 23 at McKay Memorial Library in Shelburne.

The sessions include a presentation on the services, a question-and-answer period, and help registering for the service and using the technology. Library staff provide support during the sessions to help people with the technology.

The presentations cover "patient confidentiality and what she (d'Entremont) offers at the Hub," says Mahala Sears, Manager of Programs and Services.

The Hub is the Virtual Care @ Yarmouth Hub pilot project, launched by Nova Scotia Health to support communities in the Tri-Counties and help people access virtual care. The Hub is at Yarmouth Regional Hospital Learning Centre and offers Internet-connected computers and mobile devices. These are available in a safe and secure room for confidential virtual appointments from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday.

"Lacey had lots of resources available for those attending," Sears says.

Nova Scotia Health has created VirtualCareNS, a virtual primary care clinic operated by Nova Scotia



Virtual Care Technician Lacey d'Entremont, left, provides some one-on-one help registering for virtual health care with Nova Scotia Health through the Maple app.

Health. The goal is to provide access to primary care for individuals who are without a family doctor.

As more services shift online, the library is creating programs to help people get comfortable using such technology.

Sears ran a series of workshops in the spring to help people develop basic skills and gain a greater comfort level on their electronic devices.

She is planning more sessions in the fall.

"I am planning to offer basic instruction to help people make use of these tools," she says.

Library offering free menstrual products

Western Counties Regional Library is offering free menstrual products at its 10 library branches.

"The library is committed to creating social equity, ensuring access for all individuals," says library Executive Director Erin Comeau. "Period poverty is a growing social issue. Our libraries are in 10 communities throughout

southwest Nova Scotia and we are well positioned to help ease the strain on those who would otherwise have difficulty accessing menstrual products."

The initiative is funded by the Nova Scotia provincial



Menstrual product dispenser.

government and will reduce barriers to good health and increase access to menstruation products.

Library branches in Barrington, Clark's Harbour, Digby, Lockeport, Meteghan, Pubnico, Shelburne, Westport, Weymouth and Yarmouth have menstrual product dispensers in their public washrooms.

Hunt for memorable cake recipe leads to library

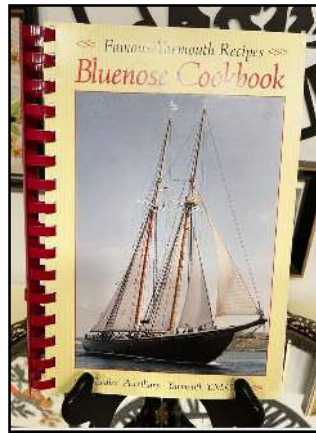
Some people will go to great lengths to create a wonderful moment for a loved one. Donna Ward, from Eston, Sask., reached out to the Yarmouth library to track down a recipe for her husband's favourite childhood cake. She wanted to bake it for him as a surprise.

While at work one evening, Yarmouth library clerk River Goodwin-Clairmont received the call from Donna.

"The first thing she said was 'I have a weird question' and I got excited because I love a good quest," says River.

Donna's husband Lenard bought the cookbook for his mother as a gift when he was 12. His family was visiting Expo '67 in Montreal at the time, and he found the book in the Nova Scotia pavilion, Donna says.

When his mother died, the cookbook disappeared. Knowing that he loved the cake from that cookbook, Donna began her search. Scouring the Internet, she was unable to find a decent used copy at a reasonable price. She knew the name of the cookbook and that it came from Yarmouth. From there, Donna found the name of the local library, and reached



Bluenose Cookbook, originally published in 1965, contained Donna Ward's husband's childhood favourite recipe for California Cake.

out for help.

"She was able to tell me the name of the cookbook and the recipe," says River. "The book was the *Bluenose Cookbook*, originally published in 1965, and the recipe she wanted was called *California Cake*. She said it was a white cake with some sort of coconut on top. It was a favourite of the person she was hoping to bake it for when he was younger."

River found the book in the library catalogue while they were on the phone. Promising to call back, River found the book in the library basement.

"I found the book, brought it upstairs, and started looking through it," River says. "There was no index of recipes, so I was worried at first. The index was only split up by category. Luckily there was a 'cakes' section, so I went there and started

browsing. And there it was!"

River called Donna back and sent her a copy of the recipe via email.

And how did the surprise and cake-baking go?

"It turned out very well," Donna says. Needless to say, Lenard enjoyed the cake and the surprise very much.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

Headquarters

All 10 branches are ready for the June 24 launch of the 2023 Summer Reading Club.

Digby

Seasonal library patrons are returning to the area and getting their library cards.

Lockeport

The Friends of the Lockeport Library plant and bake sale raised \$752.60 and was attended by close to 100 people.



A \$500 donation from the Holy Cross Anglican Church was used to purchase a new rug for the children's section at Lillian B. Benham Library in Lockeport.

Shelburne

The Shelburne branch has been having some maintenance done: a complete paint job on the outside, a touch-up on the inside, and new windows in the lobby.

Shelburne Friends of the Library held its annual yard sale on Saturday, May 27th and raised approximately \$400 to support the library.

Yarmouth

Library Clerk Susan Young retired after 18 years of service on May 31. She is staying on as a casual clerk.

Evacuees from Barrington Lake wildfire used the Yarmouth library, including its free Wi-Fi to gain access to the NASA fire map app.



The Estate of the late Blanche Turner funded the purchase of a bright, colourful rug for the children's section at McKay Memorial Library in Shelburne.



Susan Young ready to cut her retirement cake May 31.