

Library Report

Compiled by Ian White

Deliveries Make a Difference

A library delivery of books and movies to a seniors residence provides access to things that would be out of reach for some of its tenants.

"The service is good," says Calvin Fenton, who lives at The Willows in Yarmouth. Library clerks visit The Willows on the first Wednesday of every month.

Almost all library branches do deliveries to various seniors residences in the Tri-Counties. Yarmouth library staff do four days of deliveries a month to eight seniors residences.

Fenton did not know that people could borrow movies from the library. Another resident, Donald Smith, told him about it.

"I never thought of libraries for movies, just books," Fenton says.

Two years ago, Smith was in the common area at The Willows when a library clerk told him he could borrow movies and television shows from the library with a free library card.

"I don't have cable," Fenton says, adding that there are no video-rental places anymore and he can't afford to buy a lot of DVDs. "To me, that's a waste of money."

Although the library delivers, Fenton and Smith walk to the library to pick up their shows most of the time.

Without a computer, they



Calvin Fenton holds a movie he from the library. He discovered the library had movies because of a visit by Yarmouth library clerks to his residence.

rely on the library clerks to help them find the movies and television series they want to watch if it is not available on the shelves.

Because Fenton is unable to browse the library's online catalogue from home, he also creates a list from the previews on the items he borrows.

Both Fenton and Smith would like to see a greater selection at the library, but are grateful the library is there for them.

"They (library clerks) all take care of me," Fenton says. "The library is a good thing for people who can't afford (to buy movies and books)."

Like Fenton, Smith doesn't have cable but does have a

DVD player.

"Can't afford (cable)," he says. "I get movies and box sets and that helps me out a lot."

"I had problems sleeping at night," he says. "Then I throw on a movie, and I'm good."

He has been able to watch some of his favourite old TV shows, including Matlock.

"It was good to get a new library card, and, now, they know me and Calvin," he says.

Yarmouth library clerk Nick Cook finds people are very grateful for the service.

"To people who use it, it is absolutely essential to them," says Cook. "With no mobility, no car, no family, it can be very isolating. Without it, they have no access to reading for diversion, entertainment, and enrichment."



Donald Smith can't afford cable and says the library helps him out a lot.

Library raises awareness of its services for people with disabilities

Western Counties Regional Library is raising awareness of its services for people with disabilities from Dec. 3 to 9. International Day of People with Disabilities is on Sunday, Dec. 3.

“We want people to discover the many services that we offer, and books by, for, and about people with disabilities,” says Lydia Hunsberger, manager of collections and digital services for the library.

One of the newer additions to the library’s collection are Playaways. A Playaway is a pre-loaded audiobook that gives library users the portability and freedom to take audiobooks everywhere. They are similar in size to an iPod and do not need to connect to the Internet or need to be downloaded. Borrowers do need to ensure they have headphones and suitable batteries.

“Playaways are very popular,” says Hunsberger.

Some of the services and items the library offers include:

- Large print books
- Audiobooks and eBooks
- Portable DAISY talking book players
- Access to Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) and National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS)
- Playaways
- Autism fidget and sensory tool kits
- Borrow-by-Mail and staff-assisted selection
- Videos and DVDs with descriptive text



Lydia Hunsberger of Western Counties Regional Library holds a Playaway, a pre-loaded audiobook that gives library users the portability and freedom to take audiobooks everywhere.

- Captioned videos and DVDs

Many of these items will be part of displays at library branches during the celebration. The library also has accessible computer workstations at all 10 of its branches. These stations each have a 27-inch full HD monitor, Adesso 4-times large print keyboard, and a Kensington trackball mouse.

Library staff can help people find books or audiobooks, Hunsberger says. This can be a one-time service or it can be ongoing with staff supplying people with their favourite authors and new titles based on reading preferences.

CELA and NNELS offer downloadable audio and electronic books (DAISY, MP3, and e-text formats) and braille

to people with print disabilities. People can sign up to download books to their own devices, or have items delivered to their home or library.



A display highlighting International Day of People with Disabilities at Pubnico library.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

Barrington



Children attending a Nov. 7 program at Barrington Municipal Library helped create a Remembrance Day wreath, pictured above, that spent time in the library and at the memorial in Barrington. Two of the young participants were in Grade 2. When asked about Remembrance Day and why we remember, they were quick to tell library staff that “We do this to remember those who died in the wars.”

Clare

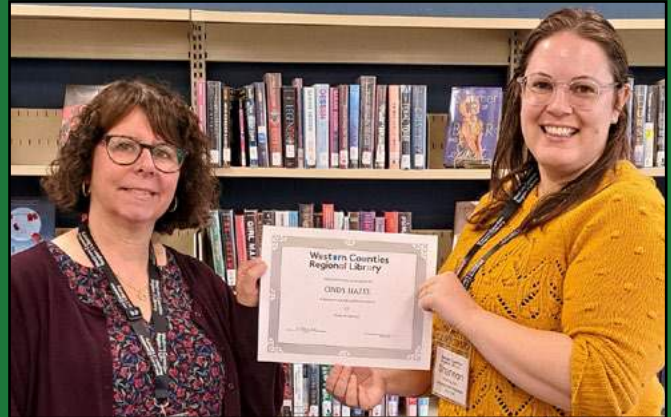
Clare’s trick-or-treat Halloween program attracted 49 people, 35 children and 14 adults, who visited the library for treats and to play games.

Clark’s Harbour



(Pictured at bottom of previous column) A Clark’s Harbour library user takes a jigsaw puzzle home as part of the library’s ongoing puzzle exchange.

Digby



Digby library clerk Cindy Hazel, left, received her 10-year work anniversary certificate in October from branch manager Shannon Raynard.



Digby Area Learning Association students Jeanette Wood and Elizabeth Berry stop in to decorate the Digby library Christmas tree in late November.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

Lockeport



Lockeport library staff got in the holiday spirit by creating a Christmas book display.

Shelburne



In September, the Ancient River Festival Songwriting Workshop met at McKay Memorial Library after the Osprey Arts Centre experienced unexpected building issues.

In October, Science Club participants Emma, Evelyn, and Peyton had a blast making bucketfuls of bubble snakes at the Shelburne library.



Weymouth



Weymouth Waterfront Library clerks Michelle Doucette, left, and Marguerite Thibault stand with their Frosty the Snowman Christmas tree entry in the Festival of Trees at Sissiboo Landing.

Westport



Sheila and Patricia enjoy their time being creative and sharing stories with the Fibre Arts Group at Westport library in November.

Yarmouth



Yarmouth library clerk Nick Cook received his five-year work anniversary certificate from branch manager Shannon Raynard in early November.