

# Library Report

## Volunteer shares his love of games

The Yarmouth branch of Western Counties Regional Library and board game enthusiasts are benefitting from Isaak Travis's passion for board games.

He volunteers to coordinate Adult Board Game Night every two weeks on Thursdays beginning at 5:15 p.m.

His reason for volunteering makes perfect sense for the lover of games.

"I wanted to meet like-minded people to play and appreciate games with," Travis says.

In 2022, he set a goal to play more board games with "strangers." He volunteered to run a similar night at the Elmsdale branch of Colchester-East Hants Public Library.

"We moved to Yarmouth last summer and I decided to volunteer to run a similar, bi-weekly event to meet people in the community, and play some games," he says. "The library is a great place to meet. It's one of the few public spaces left where anyone can hang out without any pressure to buy anything."



**Isaak Travis loves board games and shares his passion every second Thursday at the Yarmouth library.**

He says games are a fun way to spend time with family and friends to gather around a table to play and socialize.

"Every game is a unique experience that each player gets to influence in their own way, so many possibilities," he says.

Travis has a wide-ranging appetite for different types of games.

"I have different favourites depending on who I'm playing with," he says. "Games have

such variable vibes and complexities, it's hard to pin down a favourite."

"Sometimes I'm in the mood for a silly game, and sometimes I want something more strategic. I have favourites to play with gamers, and other favourites to play with non-gamers."

Anyone seeking tips on game designers or types of games, Travis is your guide.

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**See 'Games night.'**

# Reading club heading ‘To the Stars!’

Western Counties Regional Library’s 2024 Summer Reading Club takes readers **To the Stars!** The space/night sky themed club runs from June 22 to Aug. 24 at the library’s 10 branches in Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties.

“This program is a fun way to help children and teens keep up their reading over the summer,” says Shannon Raynard, Deputy Director at the library. “And, there are rewards for the whole family.”

The club offers reading reward

draw prizes in all three age groups, lots of in-person, space-themed programming, and StoryWalks, featuring Canadian astronaut Chris Hatfield’s book **The Darkest Dark**. StoryWalks are set up outdoors on page-by-page stands in and around many of the library’s branches.

“Area businesses and organizations continue to step up to support this literacy program for children, teens and adults by providing the prizes as reading rewards,” Raynard says.

Programs range from soccer

matches using ball-shaped robots, discovering dinosaurs, music, crafts, and science camps. All programming is listed in the events section on the library website at [westerncounties.ca/events-calendar/](https://westerncounties.ca/events-calendar/).

To enter the draws, children must register with their local branch library. Every child registering at the library receives a reading log and a web access code to register online at <https://www.tdsummerreadingclub.ca/>. Teens and adults can sign up at their nearest library branch.

## Games night attracts a wide range of ages

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“One thing I can say for sure is that my favourite game designer is Reiner Knizia. He makes approachable games that anyone can get into and enjoy, but have enough depth to keep serious gamers engaged too.”

Knizia, a German game designer, has a created successful board and electronic games.

“One of his games that we’ve been enjoying at the library is called Zoo Vadis. It’s a negotiation game that has players using spatial positioning and creative politics to earn the most points and become the ‘Zoo Mascot,’” he says.

The number and range of



**A dedicated group of card players are regulars at the Adult Board Game Night every second Thursday at the Yarmouth library.**

participants attending the program pleases Travis.

“There is a dedicated group of card players that attend regularly, as well as a good handful people at the modern game table,” he says. The age

range is from teens to older adults.

For those interested, the program runs every second Thursday through the summer. The next few sessions are June 27, July 11 and 25.

# AROUND THE BRANCHES

## Headquarters



Deputy Director Shannon Raynard, right, receives her five-year work certificate from Executive Director Erin Comeau on May 22.

## Barrington



Six children decorated flower pots and planted sunflowers as a Mother's Day surprise during this program on May 8 at Barrington Municipal Library.

## Clare

Grade 7 students from École secondaire de Clare displayed their art at the branch in April. The students worked with local artist Jay LeBlanc to put on this exhibit of art showcasing various laser-cut animals on a background of their habitat. The students dropped by to see their exhibit and were proud to see their work

displayed in a public place for everyone to enjoy.



The April exhibit *Endroit et empreinte* featured the work of Grade 7 students from École secondaire de Clare.

## Clark's Harbour



Clark's Harbour library clerk Ruth Ann Atkinson received her five-year work certificate on May 3.



Children enjoyed painting cherry blossom trees with bubble wrap in April.

# AROUND THE BRANCHES

## Digby



Artist Elly Dowson's large painting attracted a lot of attention at the Digby library in April.

## Lockeport



Lockeport Friends of the Library plant and bake sale on May 11 raised \$640 for the group. The Friends generously support the library every year.

## Westport

Westport's youngest patron, Beckett Swift, joined the library last fall at the age of two. Westport's oldest patron, Raymond Robicheau, will be turning 101 this summer and is still reading voraciously.

## Weymouth

Weymouth library patron Julian Baran loves the library's mobile print service. "This is a very convenient service, easy to do," he says. "This is my third time coming to the library for this service."

## Weymouth (continued)

Local author Louis Comeau says, "I was satisfied and happy upon entering the library and seeing my book that I wrote, *The Searing Heat*, on the new book shelf. I appreciate everything the library does for local authors."

## Shelburne

Shelburne Friends of the Library raised \$330 at the yard sale they hosted at the branch on May 25.



Shelburne library clerks Debbie Perry, left, and Loreley Himmelman have worked together so long that they come to work in the same outfit.

## Yarmouth



Library clerk Susan Young, left, receives her 20-year work certificate from Deputy Director Shannon Raynard on May 28.