

Library Report

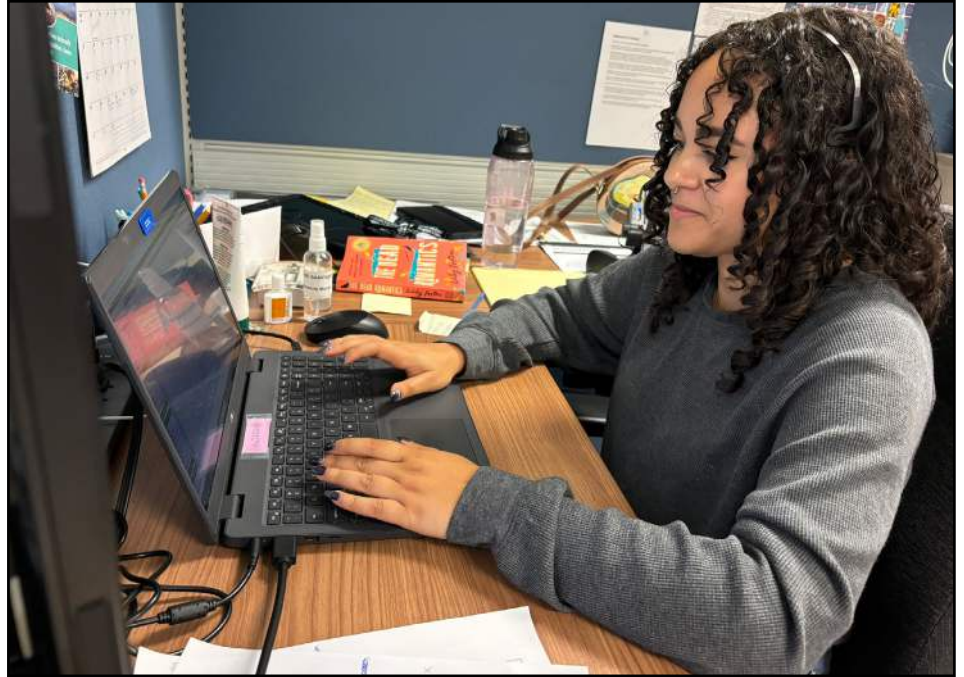
Going above and beyond during outage

Westport library's Internet connection had been down for almost a week, when library headquarters got the phone call from library clerk, Jaqueline Journey, in late August.

Journey, who was in Westport, had received boxes of books from headquarters. Without the Internet, Journey could not see if a book was meant to go to a patron or on the library's shelves. Not knowing when the Internet would be back up, she reached out to headquarters to see if there was a way to get the books in the hands of patrons without delay. Journey says her approach to any challenge is, "how can we do best for our customers."

"Basically, those holds are frozen," says Breanne Muise, Program and Services Manager, in Yarmouth headquarters. Muise got on the phone with Journey to help her solve the mystery of where each book in the delivery was going.

Journey says it was "old school" library work. She had to pull out each book or other item



Program and Services Manager Breanne Muise was busy helping Westport library clerk Jacqueline Journey determine where books and other material were going during an Internet outage at the branch.

from the box and give Muise the barcode number. Muise told her who was receiving the book, or whether the book should be returned to the library shelves. It took the pair almost two hours to complete the work.

"I am not sure people realize what happens behind the scenes at the library to ensure library users receive items they want to borrow from the library," says Erin Comeau, Executive Director at the library. "The headquarters and management

staff work very hard to keep things flowing behind the scenes," Comeau says. "Whether it is cataloguing new material, transferring items to the people who want to borrow them, returning items to the library from where they came, or repairing damaged books and other items."

Journey found the lack of Internet challenging during the outage. Internet service was restored at the branch on Sept. 5.

Story time, kids energize volunteer

For Brenda Taylor, volunteering to help out at Yarmouth library's Preschool Story Time was an easy decision.

"I recently retired and wanted to spend some of my extra time helping in my community," Taylor says.

"I love reading and I love young children. So, I reached out to my library to inquire if there was a need for volunteers."

Branch manager and Deputy Director Shannon Raynard said there was a place for a volunteer in the Preschool Story Time program and had Taylor fill out the paperwork.

"I was accepted and then I started helping (library clerk) River (Clairmont) with the story time on Thursday mornings," she says.

Volunteering has been an important part of Taylor's life. She has helped out a variety of organizations in and around Yarmouth County.

She has spent time assisting



Volunteer Brenda Taylor, right, reads a story during the Preschool Story Time program at the Yarmouth library in June.

with school lunch programs and breakfast programs. She has also helped run after-school cooking classes in junior high schools.

She finds participating in the story time very rewarding.

"I love playing with the kids, holding the babies and helping River," she says. "I also was

asked to read last Thursday (May 14) and I really enjoyed that."

She admits that she may have caught the storytelling bug, and would fill that role again if called upon.

If time permits, she would consider other opportunities helping at the library.

Library's key fundraiser runs from Oct. 1 to Nov. 30

People can help their public library in a big way over the next two months during Western Counties Regional Library's 2024 Adopt-A-Book campaign. The campaign runs from Tuesday, Oct. 1 through Saturday, Nov. 30.

The fundraiser allows people to adopt (purchase) books to put on their public library's

shelves. All 10 branches have books on display that are available to adopt and borrow right away.

People can adopt in person or online at westerncounties.ca. The goal is to have 750 books adopted, valued at approximately \$20,000

For information about the campaign visit any branch library or westerncounties.ca.

Around the Branches

Barrington



People learned the art of bottle hitching with Emma Rollin and Ryan Weir of the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic on Saturday, Aug. 10 at Barrington Municipal Library.

Clare



The Clare library branch set up a welcoming sign board during the Congrès mondial acadien 2024 from Aug. 10 to 18.

The Clare branch was happy to welcome visitors to the region during the Congrès mondial acadien 2024 in August. Some visitors were originally from the area and returned for the festivities, and a few had never been to Clare before, coming from Quebec and Louisiana. They used the library Wi-Fi and computers, asked about the services the library provides and the best local restaurants.

Family reunions are an important part of the Congrès mondial acadien. The organizing committees for the Deveau and Robichaud reunions held many meetings in the library community room throughout the summer. They

also looked through the library's local Acadian history collection to find more information and photos pertaining to their family history.

Clark's Harbour



Children enjoyed the August walk-in program at Clark's Harbour library, allowing them to create Q-tip lavender paintings.

Clark's Harbour library had a lot of people visiting from other provinces and countries, and staff received compliments about the branch. A retired librarian from Ottawa visited. She was very impressed with the selection at the branch, and welcoming atmosphere.

A library CELA (Centre for Equitable Library Access) patron who makes good use of the library's services for people with print disabilities discovered the Summer Reading Club. She signed up and really enjoyed participating in the program.

Digby



Digby library's new, accessible entrance is complete.

Around the Branches

Lockeport



Lockeport library received a new shelving unit for staff. The efficient, compact unit replaced a big metal filing cabinet, an old cupboard, and a trolley, making the aisle more accessible.

A little girl visited the Lockeport library regularly with her grandparents and enjoyed using the crayons and paper to create pictures. One evening, she and her grandfather came in, and handed library clerk Catherine Henneberry a couple new boxes of crayons. She had noticed that some of the crayons were broken or short and small. She was determined that there should be new crayons for all the other children visiting the library, so everybody can make nice pictures when they are here.

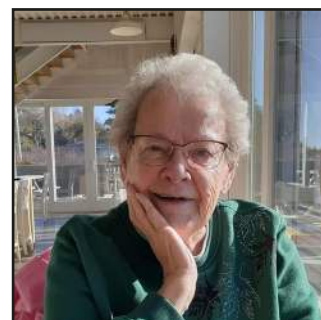
Westport



Westport library clerk Karen Walsh received her five-year work certificate on Sept. 10.

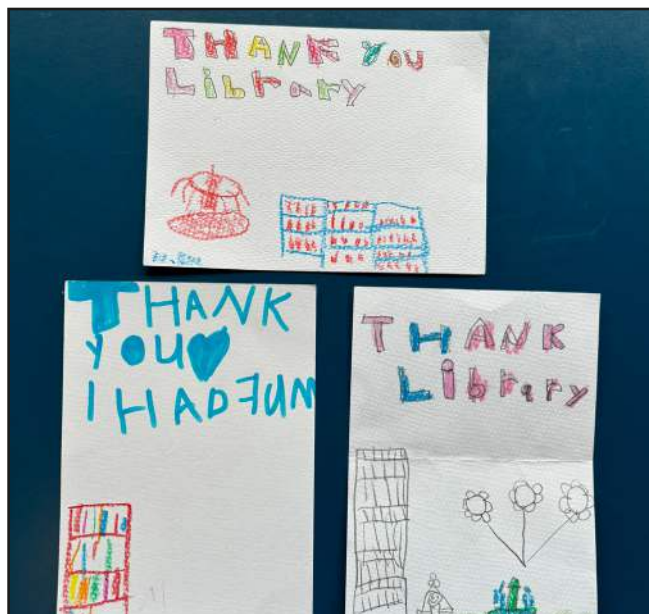
Shelburne

Former Shelburne library clerk Kathryn Acker died on Aug. 28. She worked at the Shelburne branch from 1979 to the mid-1990s. She was the senior clerk when she retired. She remained a loyal patron of the library and was a member of the Shelburne Library Building Association. The Shelburne staff has missed her in-person visits in recent years, but kept in touch with weekly calls about her library books.



Kathryn Acker

Yarmouth



Yarmouth library staff received some thank-you cards from the Mariners on Main day campers following their visit on Aug. 13. The visit included a library tour and bowling with the library's Sphero Bolt robots controlled by computer tablets (pictured above).