

# Library Report

## Lots of work getting books on shelves

Are you surprised to see newer books available in library book sales? Do empty shelves in the library make you wonder what is going on? How do library staff make room on the shelves for all the new books and bestsellers that come out every year? The answers to these questions are all part of maintaining the library's collection.

"People would be surprised by the amount of time and steps to get materials on the shelves," says Bonnie Doucette. Doucette is the clerk in headquarters who helps maintain the catalogue and collection.

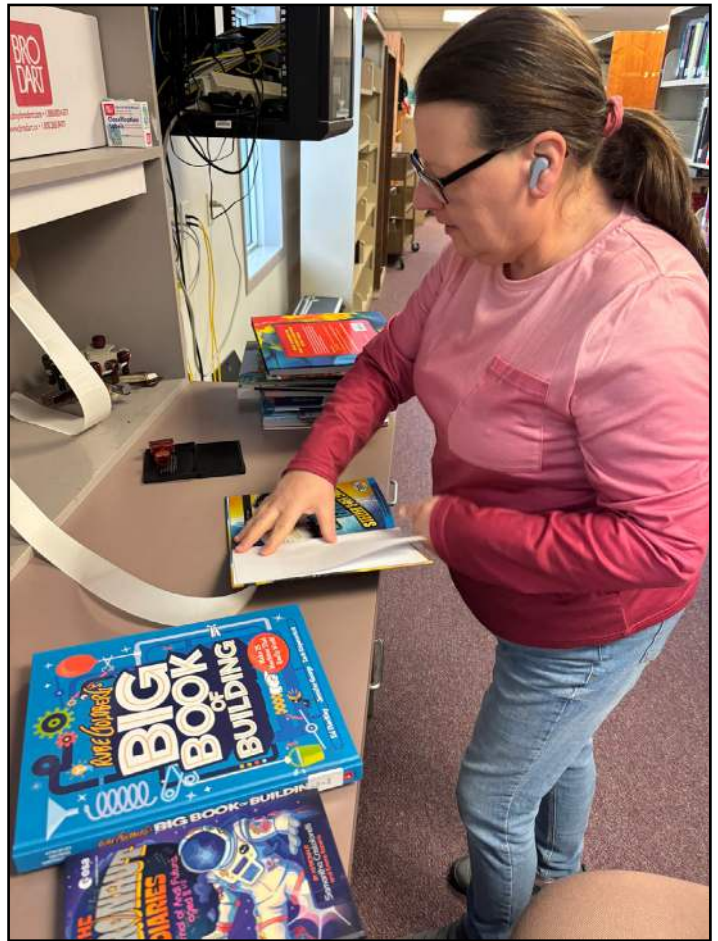
The collections librarian chooses the books. A clerk in headquarters orders the books. The bookkeeper ensures the library pays for the books. Once the books arrive, clerks add protective covers, bar codes and other identifiers. A clerk enters them into the library catalogue. The librarian chooses which books go to each branch, and a clerk delivers them to the branches.

"It's a lot of communication," says Lydia Hunsberger. Hunsberger is the librarian in charge of the collection and digital services.

Because a book can be very popular, the available copies are in people's hands and not on the shelves, she adds. "That contributes to why you're not seeing them at your branch."

Book sellers offer libraries selection plans. Hunsberger also chooses books and other material based on many sources. These include reviews by readers, trade publications and

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**— Bonnie Doucette**



**Acquisitions clerk Karen Doucet prepares newly arrived books for use in the library.**

websites.

"We need to balance what's new coming in with what's already on the shelves."

Making space on the shelves is one way that bestsellers end up in library book sales.

The library orders a lot of copies of a bestseller to meet reader demand for the books. After an early rush, demand for the book goes down and not as many copies are needed. This means extra copies get withdrawn and end up in the book sale, making room for new books on library shelves.

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# Backup collection houses 'classics'

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"Another reason a new book ends up in book sale is we get a donation of a book that we have enough copies of, so it goes into a book sale," says Hunsberger.

Sometimes older books that are still popular or considered "classics" get moved to the library's backup collection. This creates space for new books in the branch. The backup collection is in Yarmouth. It is where the library keeps older items that may still be in demand, like Canadian award winners or books that are a part of a long-running series.

Older books that are no longer getting checked out and don't find a home in the backup collection are sold or recycled, depending on what shape they are in.

If people can't find what they're looking for on the shelves, they can ask a library clerk for help tracking it down. It might be



**Ken Henry loads a books and other library material into the van for another delivery.**

in the backup collection or at another one of our branches.

There are also times when people walk in the library and see empty shelving and wonder

what is happening.

"Accessibility requirements change how we store things on our shelves," says Hunsberger.

Shelves might be empty because sections are being reviewed and updated.

They may also be empty to create space for items shifting from one library branch to another.

A book may be removed from circulation for repairs. Headquarter clerks conduct minor repairs and clean material.

This includes replacing damaged DVD cases, re-gluing broken bindings, and fixing ripped pages.

Maintaining a library collection is never-ending work by a lot of library staff. But, it is important work to keep the collection fresh and user-friendly.



**Empty shelves may be related to changing accessibility requirements, the review and updating of sections, or the need to create space for new items.**

# AROUND THE BRANCHES

## Headquarters



Public Relations Manager Ian White, right, received his 20-year work anniversary certificate on Feb. 4 from Executive Director Erin Comeau.

## Barrington



Matthew Roy of Coastal Grove Farm discussed permaculture techniques that enhance gardens or yards on Feb. 12. The program is part of a food literacy series.

The library received a big donation of seeds for its seed library from The Shelburne Garden Club. The donation coincides nicely with two library programs in April.

## Clare



Clare library branch held its second craft swap from Jan. 23 to 25.

## Digby



Students from Islands Consolidated School visited the Digby library on Feb. 28. They enjoyed storytelling while learning about and exploring the library.

## Lockeport



Lockeport library had its first class visit from the Grade 1/2 class from Lockeport Elementary School in late February. The kids listened to a story, explored the branch, and had the opportunity to get their own library cards. The class will visit again in March.

## Pubnico

Pubnico has a new branch clerk and has resumed regular hours of service.

## Shelburne

McKay Memorial Library is partnering with Shelburne County Senior Services to offer income tax services to seniors and low-income earners. The program is also at Digby and Yarmouth.

# AROUND THE BRANCHES

## Shelburne



The Nimble Thimbles quilting group continues to meet at McKay Memorial Library on the third Thursday of each month. New members are welcome.



The popularity of the Shelburne library's Christmas tree wall art project in December led to a Valentine's Day display. Branch staff is working on a giant shamrock for St. Patrick's Day. It has been a great activity for visitors to the children's room, including families and Hillcrest Academy students on class visits.

## Weymouth

One of Weymouth's young patrons was excited the library's VOX books. The child read **Nat the**

**Cat Takes a Nap.** Mother and child were very pleased that the library has children's talking books that are easy and fun to use.



Lydia Hunsberger, manager of collections and digital services, holds two VOX books. The audiobooks combined with print books are available to borrow at all 10 branches.

## Westport



The Brier Island Board Game Club meets once a month at the Westport library.

## Yarmouth



Participants got to work making pasta with chef Kate Giglio at Yarmouth library on Feb. 25, part of the food literacy series.