



# Library Report

## Kids learn food prep at the library

A snack time program at the library helps youngsters learn about healthy foods and how to prepare them.

The program has run this fall at four library branches for youngsters aged two to 12.

“Learning food literacy skills at a young age is very important,” says Mahala Sears, the library’s food literacy coordinator. “It is not widely available in our communities.”

Children make their own healthy snacks and learn to clean, chop, peel and prepare food in a safe way.

This program has been popular with children and parents. Many children have attended multiple sessions, Sears says.

“I love it,” says a mother who attended all four sessions in Yarmouth with her daughter. “It allows the child and adult to socialize.”

She says her children “gets to listen to another adult,” and “it is something different.”

She says her daughter now has an interest in helping out in the kitchen.

“It is very important to start learning about our food and nutrition, and how to prepare them at a young age to be able to build our skills for the future,” Sears says.

“We have had quite a wide age range attending,” Sears says. “The little ones seem very



**Food Literacy Coordinator Mahala Sears taught children aged 6 to 12 how to prepare a nutritious snack at Digby library (top photo) on Oct. 29 and children aged 2 to 5 in Yarmouth on Oct. 6.**

empowered and confident while getting the opportunity to make their own snack.”

Another mother has watched her daughter come out of her shell.

“Iva loved it,” she says of her daughter. “She was not social.”

She is now, she says.

Parents are frequently asking when the next program will be.

Digby library clerk Jadyn Samson has watched how parents and children enjoy attending the program.

“The kids have been loving it. Parents have said that it’s a nice way for their kids to start making snacks independently,” Samson says.

Many of the parents have asked Sears about where to purchase the child-safe tools.

“I have some very budget friendly suggestions for them and have not had many concerns about the cost,” she says.

This program was funded by the Province of Nova Scotia’s Food Security Initiative Grant.

# Dispute increases PressReader use

There was steady growth in the use of Western Counties Regional Library's digital newspaper and magazine service PressReader once the Canada Post labour dispute started in early October.

"People were unable to receive the newspapers and magazine they subscribe to during the postal disruption," says Collections Manager Lydia Hunsberger.

"PressReader in our eLibrary gives library card holders access to hundreds of newspapers and magazines for free."

When the library started promoting the service on Monday, Oct. 6, articles opened and read via the app hit a 441 per cent increase over the previous month, rising from 44 to 238.

The most popular publication PressReader users read was The Chronicle Herald, Nova Scotia's provincial newspaper.

People read 85 issues in the past month, including 2,486 articles. The Toronto Star was a close second followed by the Halifax edition of The Chronicle Herald.

Local newspaper The Tri-County Vanguard was the eighth most-read publication.

Maclean's is the most popular magazine read on PressReader while the Toronto Star is the second most popular newspaper for articles read.

PressReader.com delivers full issues of premium newspapers and magazines the moment they hit news stands.

With PressReader, library users get instant access to the



**More people used the library's free digital newspaper and magazine service during the postal dispute because they were unable to receive their subscriptions.**

editorial content they know and trust. Easy search tools help them quickly sort through to the pieces they're looking for.

With publications from over

120 countries in more than 60 different languages, people get instant access to content from home, and from around the world with their library card.

## Around the world with reading club

Western Counties Regional Library's 2025 Summer Reading Club took hundreds of children, teens and adults 'Around the World'.

Readers young and old set out on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure to faraway places through reading. The club ran from June 21 to Aug. 23 at the library's 10 branches in Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties.

"Kids, teens, adults were all part of the summer reading club," says Breanne Muise, the library's Community Outreach Manager. "And, there were rewards for the whole family."

The club offered reading reward draw prizes in all three age groups, lots of in-person, world-travel-themed programming.

"Area businesses and organizations continue to step up to support this literacy program by providing the prizes as reading rewards," Muise says.

Programs included golf using ball-shaped robots, discovering music and musical instruments, crafts, story times, learning about Mi'kmaw culture and science camps.

There were 181 children registered for this year's club, 31 teens, and 124 adults.

There were 41 in-person programs with 280 participants and 26 passive activities with 542 participants during the reading club.

# AROUND THE BRANCHES

## Headquarters



Collections Manager Lydia Hunsberger, right, receives her five-year work certificate from Library Director Erin Comeau. Her anniversary date was Oct. 19, 2025.

## Barrington



Barrington library volunteer Selina Hatt, right, works with children from the Community Play Group on a holiday reindeer craft on Thursday, Nov. 13.



RCMP Const. MacAdams goes over ways to prevent fraud and being scammed during the Fraud Prevention program at Barrington Municipal Library on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

## Clare



Community Outreach Manager Breanne Muise guided participants through safely downloading and using apps, and general cybersecurity while using their devices or browsing the web at the Clare library on Thursday, Nov. 20.

## Clark's Harbour



There was a lot of interest in creating fall trees made of sea glass during the Sea Glass Art program at the Clark's Harbour library on Tuesday, Oct. 14.

## Digby



Volunteer Joanna Jarvis, right, tells a story to students from Digby Neck Consolidated School visiting the Digby library on Nov. 20.

# AROUND THE BRANCHES

## Digby



Community Outreach Manager Breanne Muise, second from left, conducted a series of presentations on scrolling smarter to students at Islands Consolidated School on Oct. 20, Lockeport Regional High School on Oct. 27, and Saint Mary's Bay Academy on Oct. 28. The sessions are to help participants discover what misinformation is and methods to identify fake news and find reliable sources of information.

## Lockeport

Congratulations to Laurie Woollard who celebrated 5 years at Western Counties Regional Library as of Sunday, Nov. 9.



A Lockeport pre-primary class paid a visit to the library on Nov. 14. The youngsters were set up to receive their first library cards during the visit.

## Westport

Jacqueline Journeay celebrated 10 years at the library on Oct. 16, 2025. Congratulations!

## Shelburne



Library clerk Mahala Sears, right, receives her 5-year work certificate from branch manager Lydia Hunsberger on Oct. 17, 2024. She was presented the certificate a year later because she had been on maternity leave.

## Weymouth



Weymouth library clerk Michelle Doucette guided a group of budding artists in how to paint mandala stones on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

## Yarmouth



Mary Eldridge, left, and Barb Rodney, right, of the Old Ladies Home Society present a cheque for \$9,000 to library Deputy Director Shannon Raynard to help cover some of the cost of the Yarmouth library's new accessible circulation desk.