

Letters to the Editor

Light-Herald July 27/68
REGIONAL LIBRARY

Lake Annis, N.S.
June 9, 1968

Editor,
Light-Herald

Dear Sir:

We have read with interest the "Observer" column in your Light-Herald of June 6, opposing the establishment now of a Regional Library for South-western Nova Scotia. We can hardly agree as the Observer seems to miss the whole point of the necessity of such a Library for this area. Library facilities are as much an integral part of the education process as the school and teachers. Furthermore, it is a basic need for Adult Education for those who were forced to give up school early in life.

But perhaps the most important part of both school systems and library systems is that they provide the general public a means of making their lives richer and more meaningful. Books are the precious tools in adult life as well as in school life to accomplish enrichment.

We are offered a means through the Regional Library for touching all the citizens of the nearby counties by means of bookmobiles, etc.

We note the Observer states that \$7,000 needed from the town of Yarmouth would buy enough new books for 10 years. Actually the amount required is only \$2,000 more than the present grant of \$5,000 for partial support of the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library. Also we are sure that more would not be required from the town in case some of the municipalities fail to pass the appropriation requested of them.

The Observer is aware that public opinion is strong for the idea of a Regional Library and that is the gage of the

need for the Library.

We have a beautiful and adequate Library building for the future, but a thorough reorganization administratively is needed, which only a highly trained librarian at the head can give. The dedicated women who give their time and enthusiasm to the library now are to be commended for their dedication. There are tremendous needs for reference books for our students in the community. The books in many cases are old and outdated and not adequately fitted or adapted to modern living.

We noted in your paper a couple of months ago that the town had a surplus this past year. Certainly the added cost of the Regional Library need not affect the tax rate materially. We never stint on the school system, so why should we be so loath to support an adjunct of that school system, namely the Library.

The pressure that has been put upon the town Fathers is the result of enlightened public opinion who want to have the same Library privileges the rest of the Province enjoys. We have only to witness the miracle of the phenomenal growth of the village Library in Port Maitland, which now has catalogued 3,000 books in two years' time - all the result of volunteer support on the part of the citizens.

We do not think we can afford not to support the Regional Library now as the need is vital and pressing for the life of our citizenry.

The ideas above expressed are the general consensus of opinion in our community. We too are starting a village library. The specific details are my own.

Sincerely,
Paul F. C. Vaka, Pres.,
Lake Annis Community