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Regional library celebrates 40 years



Clockwise from left, Jean Brittain, Suzanne White and Gail Hersey in Digby; Cathy Holmes, Edith Bower, Suzanne Gear, Blanche Turner and Debbie Perry in Shelburne; Joanne Head and Donna LeBlanc-Messenger in Barrington; Marguerite Thibault, Trudy Amirault and Joanna Crinion in Weymouth, Gary Archibald and Phil Mooney in Yarmouth; and Glenda Comeau, right, with patrons in Meteghan helped celebrate the library's 40th anniversary on Oct. 29.

Western Counties Regional Library celebrated its 40th anniversary on Thursday, Oct. 29 at all 10 branches with cake, refreshments, branch tours and the presentation of a 10-minute video by EastLinkTV on the library's formation.

Barbara Kincaid, the first regional library director, said the formation of the library that brought a united library service to Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties was the result of strong community support.

"I think the major challenge in getting any regional library going is cooperation," Barbara Kincaid said during an interview with EastLink TV. "At that stage in our history, most (municipal) councils were operating on their own, independently, and to get them to work together for something makes it a very difficult job."

Through the hard work of many volunteers, councillors and organizations, the regional library was formed and marked by an official ceremony on Oct. 29, 1969.

"It's a positive occasion," says present regional library director Trudy Amirault.

While she believes it is a good thing to reflect on the library's past, the anniversary provided opportune time to look at the future.

"We've done a lot of good things," she says. "Now, we've got to build on that and keep going."