

Computer usage up 6,000 per cent at Barrington library



by Carla Allen/The Vanguard

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Article online since March 31st 2009, 8:00

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THE COAST GUARD

NovaNewsNow.com

Two and a half years ago the Barrington Library opened. Since that time, the Western Counties Regional Library can report an impressive success story with explosive growth in most areas of use. The one computer in the former building was replaced with seven in a separate room in the new library, which resulted in a whopping 6,000 per cent leap in computer usage.

“It’s going up all the time,” said director Trudy Amirault.

There were 17,800 half hour sessions from March 2008 to March 2009. Mostly working age people (25-64) are using the computers to look for jobs, prepare resumes or increase their job skills.

Attendance has increased by 700 per cent and the circulation statistic for the past year is estimated at 30,000.

The number of programs offered has also grown from 34 to 68. Program attendance has increased from 218 at the old site to 1,450 at the new. Some of the programs include Baby & Me, Pre-School Story Time, Readers Anonymous Book Club and Boys Night Out.

When the Town of Clark’s Harbour library opened in 2007, boardmembers wondered what the impact would be on the Barrington Library.

“What’s happened is they’ve both had great increases,” said Amirault.

She concluded her “snapshot” of a library report to the Barrington municipal council by commenting that the board was “really happy with how things are going here”.



Western Counties Regional Library Chair Gary Archibald, and director Trudy Amirault presented a report of explosive growth in many areas at the 2 ½ year-old Barrington Library to the Barrington council. Carla Allen photo