



## Library hopes prizes attract users, services keep them

Western Counties Regional Library is hoping prizes attract new users to its 10 branches during Library Card Month in October, but the vast selection of material and services keep them coming back as cardholding members.

“We have some incredible prizes such as an iPad and a Kobo eReader to give away in October, but I believe once people enter one of our branches, they will be impressed with what it offers them in services and selection,” says Western

Counties Regional Library Director Erin Comeau.

The library has an Apple iPad 2 to give away to anyone who becomes a new library member in October thanks to sponsor Transcontinental Media. There are secondary draws, one per county, for a six-month subscription to The Digby Courier, Shelburne Coast Guard or The Yarmouth Vanguard. The library will also give away a new Kobo Wi-Fi eReader provided by Coles Yarmouth on Oct. 6 as part of Take a Child to the Library Day. Children are considered 13 years of age or younger at the library and they must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Library Card Month with its theme “It’s Your Library, Everywhere You Are!” is a time to discover and explore your public library, says Gary Archibald, chair of Western Counties Regional Library board of directors.

“I look upon Library Card Month as a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our public library,” he says. “All 10 branches welcome people of all ages and offer opportunities to nurture a love of reading, to continue lifelong learning, to enjoy music and movies, to learn about computers and use our public terminals, to research ancestors and other topics, and to enjoy a community space that is friendly and just plain comfortable.”

Signing up for a library card is as easy as visiting one of the branch libraries or filling out the online registration form at [www.westerncounties.ca](http://www.westerncounties.ca). Library services are provided free of charge to all residents of Yarmouth, Shelburne and Digby counties.

In October, the library is also challenging elementary schools throughout the Tri-Counties to register 100 per cent of staff and students for library cards. Parents should be looking for registration forms arriving from school. One French or French immersion school and one English school with the highest percentage of library cardholders will win a box of new books from Scholastic Canada for its school library. There is also a prize of



**Western Counties Regional Library Director Erin Comeau holds the Kobo Wi-Fi eReader that will be given away on Take a Child to the Library Day on Oct. 6.**

a complete set of new French World book encyclopaedias to go to the French school with the highest percentage of library cardholders.

Comeau says the prizes tie in nicely to the library's growing digital collection because both act as e-book readers. Overdrive, the library's downloadable audiobook and e-book collection, has just added the Gutenberg Press collection. This collection contains a huge selection of books that are out of copyright including classics such as Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and Jules Verne's *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* and Howard Pyle's *The Adventures of Robin Hood*. These books can be downloaded in unlimited quantities.

"With a computer, smartphone, tablet or iPod, a library truly is everywhere you are," says Archibald. "You can download books. If you don't live near a branch or are a shut-in, you can order books online or by the phone and they will be mailed to your home."

The regional library has over 160,000 titles in its collection, including materials in a variety of formats. The library can also borrow materials from other libraries across the province and patrons can return items at any library in the province.

Branches are located in Barrington, Clare, Clark's Harbour, Digby, Lockeport, Pubnico, Shelburne, Weymouth, Westport and Yarmouth. Western Counties Regional Library has been serving residents of Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties since 1969.