



Mobile computer lab takes computer training to seniors

A mobile training lab for seniors will be arriving at seniors' residences and complexes in the Yarmouth area, offering free training in computers and the Internet through April 17.

"The first time I visit a site, I'll be booking appointments," says project intern Jaime Spates. She will then meet with her new clients and cover everything from computer basics, such as the function of a mouse, to social media, such as Facebook.

Spates has everything necessary to carry out online training in all locations, including two laptop computers, a 4G/wireless mobile Internet connection, table and chairs.

"As long as there is interest, I'll be there," she says.

While the overall goal is to increase the comfort level of seniors with technology, she says; it is also about reducing the feelings of isolation that can happen to seniors.

"Imagine how much more connected they'll feel," says Spates, adding that programs such as Facebook and Skype can keep seniors in touch with family members around the world.

Spates hopes to provide the seniors with enough skills to allow them continue to use the technology well into the future.

Although she is only through her first week on the job, she has already set up her first site visit to Sankey Manor. She hopes more senior residences will want her services once they become aware of the project and comfortable with what it can offer people.

For information on the mobile training lab, call the Gates Computer Lab at Yarmouth library at 742-5040 option 2 or e-mail jspates@southwestcap.ca. The library is located at 405 Main St. in Yarmouth.



Jaime Spates has all the equipment necessary to train seniors in computer technology right in their residences.