



Library News

Compiled by Acting Public Relations Manager Ian White



Summer Reading Club was a blast!



Erin Comeau brings a definite French focus to services at the Western Counties Regional Library. The new French Services Manager is boosting the bilingual aspect of the library.

"I want to improve French services for the Western Counties Regional Library," Erin says.

She joined the management staff on June 13, 2005 and spent much of the summer developing the French side of the library's Web site including translating. She also toured all of the branches and filled in for branch co-ordinators Rick Beharriell and Joanne Head while they were on holidays.

Hailing from Church Point, Erin graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Psychology from the University of Waterloo in Ontario.

Her return to the region fueled her interest in the library.



Staff Profile

French Services Manager

Erin Comeau

"I'm interested in working in community development," she explains. This led her to her first job with the regional library, familiarizing children with computers "in a crafty way" during the winter of 2003-2004.

Erin's interest in youth and community development continued the next year when she conducted the initial survey for the youth committee in its efforts to develop a youth centre in the Municipality of Clare.

She left to take on the position of

French Services Manager with the library because it was the logical next step for her.

"I want to become a librarian," says Erin. She is hoping to enroll in Dalhousie University's Masters in Library and Information Studies in September 2006.

She believes her role with the library is to help improve the bilingual delivery of services. "I would like to see equal services in French and English."

She remains active in her community. She volunteers with the youth committee as it works towards completing a youth centre. She is a volunteer swim instructor at the pool at University Ste. Anne teaching adults how to swim, and she volunteers with Les Dames Paritonnaises in its efforts to rebuild the Colonie Jeunesse Acadienne, a children's summer camp.

Kids Can Write Camp poetic

Yarmouth Fog

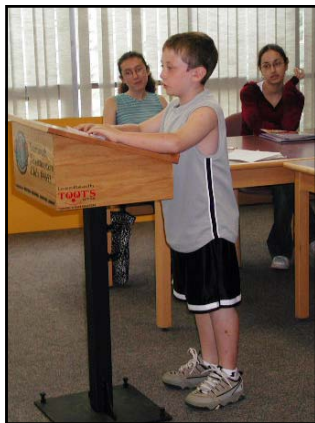
By Kelsey McIvor

Kids Can Write Camp 2005

The Yarmouth Fog is like
your old Uncle Fred,
It rarely goes away.
It's there when you get out
of bed,
And it stays throughout the
day.

At night it's hard to see the
stars,
It blocks them from your
view.
It's scary driving in your
car,
Because you can't see three feet in
front of you.

But if you've lived here all your life,
And see it all the time.
You've gotten rid of all your strife,
And you really don't mind.



A participant in the camp reads his work as fellow writers listen.

This is a sample of the work produced during the Kids Can Write Camp this summer at the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library in Yarmouth.

The camp was for students ages 9 to 15 and ran from July 18 to 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Inspired by Yarmouth-area writer Sandra Phinney, the camp was a success, attracting 10 young writers and nine instructors. It culminated in a public reading of the young writers' works on the Friday, including this piece by Kelsey McIvor.

Vanguard wins award for LCM support

In May, the Yarmouth Vanguard won the premier award for Community Service at the Atlantic Community Newspaper Association's annual convention for its partnership with the Western Counties Regional Library.

The judges noted that: "While all of the entrants are to be commended for their strong commitment to building better communities, the Vanguard is being recognized for its innovative approach to helping a local library increase membership but, just as important, build readers and interest in reading."

The Vanguard donated \$5,000 in space, including a four-page non-ad sponsored insert, which promotes the benefits of library membership. A goal of 500 new members was set. Thanks to the Vanguard's excellent

promotional campaign, the Western Counties Regional Library surpassed its membership goal by 50 per cent — 754 new members in total.



"With so much concern about people NOT reading we saw this promotion as a natural fit," Managing Editor Fred Hatfield wrote about the library promotion. "We in the newspaper world rely on readers ... so does the library and through this partnership we have ensured that hundreds more in our community will be reading."

The judges concluded by writing: "This is a great idea and a great fit, which any newspaper could easily adopt with little expense and great rewards — increasing and building readership in today's competitive media world."

Fond Farewells

Connie Mullen retired on Sept. 3, 2005 after a career of more than 24 years at the Isaiah W. Wilson Memorial Library. She joined the library as a reserve library clerk on July 17, 1981 and came on full-time in 1987.

Co-worker and friend Thelma Pulsifer says of Connie: "I worked with Connie for 23 years and in that entire time I never once saw Connie that she didn't have a ready smile and a genuine concern when she asked, 'How are you?'"

Connie was always active in programming especially when it concerned children. She shared her love of books with youngsters by sharing stories, finger plays and songs.

Connie was always ready and willing to help, and she was known for going that extra mile such as delivering books to a neighbour on her way home.

Connie has touched many lives with her positive and pleasant personality. She will be missed by staff and borrowers alike.

Lynn Surette retired on Sept. 16, 2005 from the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library in Yarmouth. Lynn came on staff on Nov. 13, 2002 after she and her husband Ralph moved back home from Halifax. In Halifax, Lynn worked for the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and brought her excellent referencing skills to the Yarmouth branch. Lynn plans to travel, and with a daughter in Australia, she will travel far.

Student volunteer Meaghan Pitman assisted at the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library in Yarmouth from Sept. 26, 2002 to Aug. 27, 2005. She has graduated from high school and is now attending Dalhousie University.