

Library Report

Compiled by Ian White



Volunteer profile

Mark Pitman

Super volunteer Mark Pitman has twin passions for reading and movies, so helping out at Western Counties Regional Library fit like his favourite T-shirt.

For 16 years, Mark has volunteered at the library starting out in the mailroom in 1991, the same year he graduated with a High School Special Education Certificate with the Grade 10 class in Yarmouth.

"My mom wanted me to find work so why not the library," he said. "I read all the time."

He loves a good mystery and cites books by author James Patterson involving cases of ace detective Alex Cross as his favourites.

His brings with him a determination that served him well throughout his life. His parents ensured Mark had the support necessary for him while he attended Yarmouth Central Elementary School, Arcadia School, Yarmouth Junior High School and Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School.

He has moved out of the mailroom and gathers, sorts and prepares all of the recyclable materials at library headquarters in Yarmouth. His easy going, social nature is infectious, making every Tuesday a pleasant day to be at work. His efforts are also rewarding because his time at the library helps him keep on top of new material arriving at the library, including the latest DVDs.

He has seen a lot of changes over his time at the library, watching technology sweep the library as it went from one computer to dozens. He still answers to a supervisor named "David." The late David Glover guided Mark along when he first started and now Mark checks in with Caretaker David Porter.



Stan Orlov photo

From right, Western Counties Regional Library Director Trudy Amirault is presented the Norman Horrocks Award by Dr. Norman Horrocks and Nova Scotia Library Association President Charlotte Janes at the NSLA conference on Sept. 22.

Director honoured for leadership

Western Counties Regional Library Director Trudy Amirault was named the 2007 recipient of the Norman Horrocks Award for library leadership at this year's Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA) conference in Antigonish on Sept. 22.

The award recognizes leadership in a Nova Scotia library community and is given by the NSLA for distinguished contributions to the promotion and development of library services in the province.

The award is named for Dr. Norman Horrocks, an Officer of the Order of Canada and Professor Emeritus at the Dalhousie School of Information Management. Dr. Horrocks is an internationally known library educator, writer and editor.

Trudy is a tireless promoter and developer of library services and the interconnection between libraries and the greater community.

She has been active in partnering with non-profit health charities and mental health organizations to provide the best information possible to library customers, including the Yarmouth Stroke Project and Canadian Mental Health Association.

The Vice-Chair of Nova Scotia Community Access Program (CAP) Association, she was an early participant in Industry Canada's CAP initiative bringing public access computers to all 10 branches of the regional library.

She is involved in many regional, provincial and national committees and organizations and her work has resulted in numerous awards for the regional library.

Summer Reading Club sets participation records

The TD Summer Reading Club set attendance records this summer as more than 1,000 children and teens participated in the program.

In all, 813 children and 215 teens participated with 448 children and 103 teens completing the reading requirement.

The club maintains or enhances reading levels among young people over the summer months and sponsorship was key to attracting club

Headquarters keeps things moving

Behind every good regional library is a good headquarters crew. Headquarters Library Coordinator Debbie Little was impressed by the amount of work done by the headquarters crew in 2006-2007.

At the end of the fiscal year, members of the headquarters staff assisted in the packing up and unpacking of the Clark's Harbour Branch Library to its temporary location at the Rebekah Lodge in Clark's Harbour.

Over 14,100 new and donated items were processed and delivered to the branches in 2006-2007. Staff also processed 8,900 inter-library loan requests and deleted 4,200 items from the collection.

Due to the success of the 2006 Adopt-A-Book campaign, the staff at Headquarters processed 1,000 new books for the branches in addition to processing 1,000 new titles for the opening of the new Barrington Municipal Library. Approximately, 40,000 items passed through the hands of the staff at Headquarters. Of those, 4,000 books were mailed to patrons, including 2,700 items mailed through the Library Express service.

The book does not stop at Headquarters, and that is a good thing.

members.

Upper Clements Park, McDonald's in Yarmouth and Barrington Passage, Staples Yarmouth, Staples, Wilson's Home Hardware in Digby, For Kids Sake of Wilson's in Barrington Passage, Manser's Bike Shop in Yarmouth and Norco Performance Bikes provided the incentives to help draw in young readers.

The *Lost Worlds* Children's Summer Reading Club was for readers up to the Grade 6 level. When children completed the reading requirement, they received a FastPass to Upper Clements Park and a chance to win the grand prize of a bicycle and helmet.

With the theme of *Get Lost!* teens completing their reading log were rewarded with a FastPass and a chance to win an Apple iPod Nano or gift cards. The teen reading club was open to youth from the Grade 6 level to the Grade 12 level.

McDonald's provided cash to cover program costs and coupons for prizes while Wheelans White Chartered Accountants provided program funding.

Eternitee Muise of Grosse Pointe won the Apple iPod, Dominique d'Entremont of Pubnico and Colton Smith of Barrington each won \$50 gift cards from Staples, Greg LeBlanc of Pubnico won the

bike and helmet from Manser's, Erin Frankland won the bike and helmet from Digby Home Hardware and Connor Nickerson of Barrington won the bike from Wilson's in Barrington.

NSLA Madness



Yvonne LeBlanc photos

Clockwise from left, Board member Gail Hersey shows off her door prize; Board member Pat Nickerson became the Mad Hatter for Saturday's theme night; NSLA President Charlotte Janes congratulates Trudy Amirault on her award; staff and board members from Western Counties Regional Library celebrate Trudy's receipt of the Norman Horrocks Award; and Board Chair Gary Archibald and his wife Judi enjoy their winnings after being awarded a door prize at the 2007 Nova Scotia Library Association conference in Antigonish in September.

Staffing Updates

The fall season has brought about many changes in our staff as some return to school or retire.

Erin Comeau, French Services Manager, returned from her one-year educational leave on Aug. 27 following completion of her Masters of Library and Information Science degree at the University of Western Ontario. She is responsible for the Clare, Pubnico and Weymouth branches

Rena Churchill left her 15-hour-per-week position at the Yarmouth branch library on Aug. 25 to pursue her education at NSCC. She has agreed to remain on as a Reserve Clerk.

Karen Doucet went from Reserve Clerk to the 15-hour-per-week position at the Yarmouth branch library.

Student Assistant **Ryan Macneil's** last day was Sept. 1. He's off to university in Halifax.

Allison Robicheau has moved from Student Assistant in the Yarmouth branch library to the Headquarters Student Assistant position.

Three new Student Assistants for the Yarmouth branch library have been hired as of Sept. 28: **Sarah Cooke**, **Laura Duncanson** and **Sharlie Burnie**.