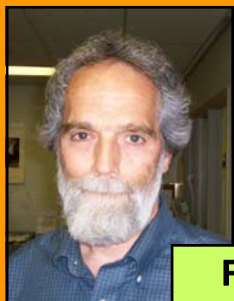


# Library Report

Compiled by Ian White



## Staff profile

**Rick Beharriell**

Rick Beharriell brings a quiet dedication to his work as Coordinator for Reference Services and librarian for the Clark's Harbour, Digby and Westport branches of Western Counties Regional Library. He has been the librarian for Lockeport and Weymouth previously and knows the region well.

He glides through his tasks without fanfare, ordering all of the adult non-fiction for the regional library. He is a director on the board of the Digby Area Learning Association. He serves as chair of the Digby Community Access Program (CAP) site, and he is the former vice-chair of the Association of Western Valley CAP Sites. He is the regional library's representative on the Nova Scotia Provincial Librarians' Working Group on Services to Older Adults and on its Reference Working Group.

After growing up in Kingston, Ont., Rick graduated from Queen's University in Kingston and went on to earn his Masters from York University in Toronto and a Doctorate in Education at the University of Toronto. After deciding to pursue a library career, he completed his Masters of Library Information Services at the University of Western Ontario.

His life path took him to Southwestern Nova Scotia and its library system – a system that impresses him with the quality of its staff and the place it has in its community.

"I'm amazed at how good the staff is – they are really good, really dedicated," Rick says. "They know their patrons, they know their community, they work hard and they care."

He says that despite a limited budget, geographic challenges and a small, rural population, the library continues to be a focal point of the communities it serves.

Rick and his wife Della have a daughter pursuing a biology degree at Rick's alma mater—Queen's University.



From left, Margo Chetwynd of the Barrington Municipal Library; Jody Breen, manager of the Royal Bank branches in Barrington and Clark's Harbour; and Shelley Smith of the Clark's Harbour Branch Library look over some of the books adopted by the RBC branches in Barrington and Clark's Harbour. The bank's staff made the libraries its charity of choice and the bank adopted \$1,000 worth of books from the two libraries on Tuesday, June 17.

## AAB campaign the 'best-ever'

Although all the final numbers are not in, the 2008 Adopt-A-book campaign has been an enormous success.

"This is the best one yet," says Trudy Amirault, Regional Director for Western Counties Regional Library.

It is the best-ever in terms of dollar value – \$30,073.57 – surpassing the 2000 total of \$24,190 and the second best ever in terms of books adopted – 1,356. There were 1,536 books adopted in 1998.

Amirault points to several factors she believes are behind the successful campaign

"I think there was a renewed enthusiasm," she explains.

Amirault believes the expanded Adopt-A-Book April Fool's Trivia

challenge was instrumental in the success of the campaign. It helped bring in over \$2,000, including a \$500 donation from TD Bank. Coastal Financial, RBC Yarmouth and Scotiabank Yarmouth all participated in the challenge and provided donations.

Other organizations including municipal governments, drug stores, chartered accountants and sponsors battled it out while supporting the cause.

She thinks the library's financial difficulties in the past year also helped boost support for the library.

"Perhaps it was because of our funding difficulties last year," she says. "People realized how important it was to support their library."

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# Support for Adopt-A-Book came from all sectors of community

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Corporate backing was also a big factor, led by CJLS's sponsorship that provided public service announcements, weekly updates and live onsite broadcasts promoting the campaign. CJLS came on board for the initial campaign in 1996 and has been there ever since.

Support came from all areas of the Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth – corporations, community organizations and individuals.

From the initial big boost of the Trivia Challenge on April 1 to an individual donation of over \$450 from Carl Hudd in Barrington in the final week, the support for the library was overwhelming.

This year's campaign was a different animal with businesses like Boston Pizza taking on a big role in helping the library promote the program, holding a library celebrity night and being big supporters, adopting \$234 worth of new books. There were evenings of entertainment where musicians and storytellers performed in support of

the library.

RBC, supported the library with big donations, providing \$500 each for branches in Barrington and Clark's Harbour. The Argyle and Pubnico branches of Coastal Financial were big adopters. Service clubs such as the Lions in many communities, the Masons in Yarmouth and the Rotary Club all supported the campaign with sizeable donations. The Friends of the Library groups were massive supporters donating thousands of dollars to the campaign.

"The Friends groups were really, really strong," says Amirault.

Many other companies and groups came through to make it work. But the goals would not have been exceeded if not for the individuals.

"There were weeks when we had some big donations, but then the overall weekly total was even higher," says Ian White, Public Relations Manager for the regional library and chief fundraiser; "We would have a \$28 adoption here and a \$68 donation there and then \$100 and

'boom' the goals were exceeded."

The library staff worked very hard across the 10 branches and headquarters. A perfect example of this is in Digby where the staff organized and ran a silent auction that brought in \$805, adopting 30 books. The staff in Digby also had great support from local artists who donated the auction items. In Pubnico the

staff had a gift basket draw for Father's Day bringing in close to \$300. Veronica Hubbard from Headquarters staff coordinated the staff gift basket draw that helped bring in hundreds of dollars.

"It was an incredible campaign made possible by the giving nature of our communities," concludes White. "I will have to work extra hard to top this in 2010."

## Adults can join summer reading club

A very successful Summer Reading Club at Western Counties Regional Library is now open to adults.

"The Summer Reading Club has been an extremely successful way for children and teens to maintain and improve upon their reading and comprehension over the summer," says Joanne Head, Coordinator of Children's Services. "It is time to offer a similar program to adults."

The theme of the Summer Reading Club is *Laugh Out Loud!* and adults can sign on to read for 25 hours over the summer months. The potential rewards, beyond the pleasure of reading, include a grand prize draw of brunch for two and golf for two at the Digby Pines Golf Resort and Spa and draws for other fun prizes. The adult reading club runs from June 22 through Aug. 22.

## Staffing Updates

Bruce Ross has been hired as the 15 hour-per-week Library Clerk I in Yarmouth effective June 26, 2008.

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Kelly-Anne MacNeil was hired as the Headquarters Student Assistant effective June 30, 2008.

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Paul Falls, Yarmouth Library Reserve Clerk, left May 30 after 2½ years service.

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Julia Plaizier, Yarmouth Library Reserve Clerk, was hired on June 11 to replace Paul Falls.

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Brendon Smith, Summer Reading Club Assistant, was hired June 16 for July and August.

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Allison Robicheau, HQ Student Assistant, left June 20 after 3½ years service in Yarmouth and Headquarters.

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Jade Malone, Barrington Library Clerk, was married on June 21.

## Computer help for the summer



Community Access Program (CAP) youth coordinator Jamie Spates, left, and Yarmouth CAP student Brian Nickerson are on the job at the Izaak Walton Killam Library. The pair is part of a large summer CAP team offering free one-on-one computer training and programs at various branches of Western Counties Regional Library. The library also has CAP students at its Clare, Clark's Harbour, Digby, Lockeport, Pubnico and Weymouth library branches. The students will be working at these sites until late August.