

# Library Report

Compiled by Ian White



Staff profile

**Thelma Pulsifer**

A love of reading and the need for work led Library Clerk IV Thelma Pulsifer to seek employment with the Digby branch of Western Counties Regional Library 28 years ago.

"I moved back to Digby in 1981 to build a house with my husband and I needed a job," Thelma says. "I still enjoy my job and reading and the personal touch with the public."

Her love of reading has reaped many rewards, especially when it comes to sharing it with others.

"The most rewarding part of the job is sharing my love of reading with young children," she explains. "Some of the children are now adults and continue to share their love of the library with their families. Children that I had in story time have brought their children, and some have even started to bring their grandchildren."

She believes the biggest challenge facing rural libraries is the lack of understanding at the provincial level of the important role public libraries play in their communities.

"The biggest problem as I see it is convincing the government that communities outside of the city have an even greater need of funds," she says. "Libraries in the smaller communities are the entertainment and social centre."

Something that keeps Thelma motivated is the support the library has from the community, but she believes the library has some work to do to reach more people to let them know about its many services.

She says the biggest change during her career has been the growing use of technology.

"If someone had told me in 1982 that my work day would centre around a computer I would have told them they were crazy," she says. "I am very thankful that the technology has been one step at a time."

## Huge community support for 2010 Adopt-A-Book

June 30 brought to a close the most successful Adopt-A-Book campaign on record for Western Counties Regional Library. When the final tally was done there were 1,621 new books on the shelves of the library's 10 branches valued at \$36,815. The previous highs were \$30,074 in 2008 and 1,536 books in 1998.

"We particularly appreciate the generosity, given the tough economic conditions in the Tri-Counties this year," says Regional Library Director Trudy Amirault.

Community support is important to any fundraising campaign, says Ian White, Public Relations Manager for the regional library.

"People knew the campaign was coming because our major sponsor Radio CJLS was airing advertisements about the campaign on a heavy rotation starting in March. By the time April 1 arrived to start the campaign, people were well aware it was here," says White.

The campaign began with the April Fool's Trivia Challenge at the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library in Yarmouth. The campaign goal is to put at least 1,000 new books, or approximately \$30,000 worth of books, on the library's shelves between April 1 and June 30.

"The trivia challenge was rowdy and fun and brought a lot of corporate attention to the campaign as well as bringing in \$2,431," says White. Not only did large financial institutions give during the challenge, he adds, but more came after the campaign started.

Another key factor was the support of staff and volunteers.

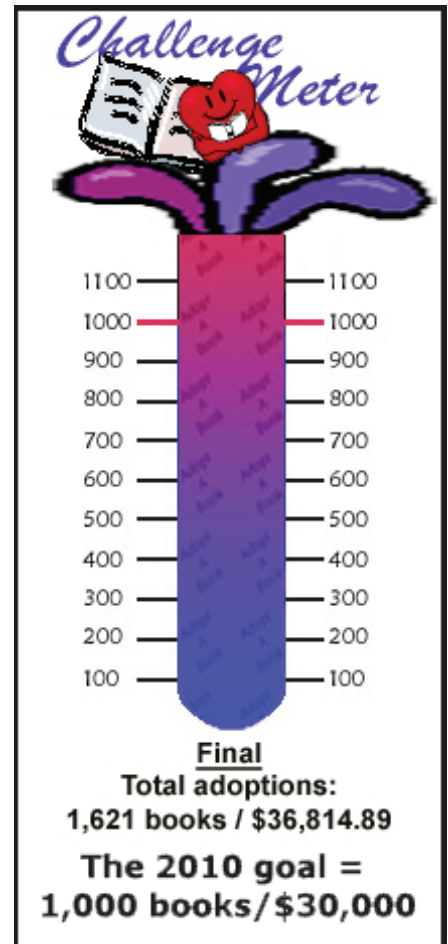
"So many hands played a role in this from the library's Friends groups to staff volunteering their time to carry out massive yard sales or other fundraising efforts on the campaign's behalf," White explains.

Friends of the Library groups helped raise thousands of dollars through various events from Mother's Day tea in Clark's Harbour to a yard sale in Shelburne.

Amirault sees the success of the campaign as public approval of the library.

"There is support for the work that we try to do this year and every year," she says.

She adds that support was evident throughout the region from the smallest branch library in Westport to the largest branch in Yarmouth.





Patrons can download audiobooks and e-books through the library's website.

## Digital downloads here

As of July 7, patrons of Western Counties Regional Library can download audiobooks and e-books to their MP3 players and e-readers from their home computers.

To access these digital materials people need a valid library card, Internet access, a computer or device that meets the system requirements for the type of digital materials people wish to check out (smartphone, etc.), and the OverDrive free software for the computer or device on which one wishes to use the materials available at the library.

To learn how to download from the library's website visit <http://www.overdrive.com/products/dlr/tour/>.

Initially, the available audiobooks and e-books will not be part of the library online catalogue, but they should be integrated into the catalogue by mid-July.

Downloadable material can be searched through Nova Scotia Public Libraries site at <http://digitalmedia.library.ns.ca>.

## Trek into the jungle this summer

Travel to exotic lands, explore tropical environments and embark on an adventure of discovery of faraway places with this year's TD Summer Reading Club's Destination Jungle at Western Counties Regional Library branches.

Running from June 28 to Aug. 21, the Summer Reading Club with its jungle theme offers fun, prizes and programs for children, teens and adults.

"All reading counts," says Joanne Head, coordinator of the program at Western Counties Regional Library. "It can be books, magazines, newspapers, comic books, manga and even audio books."

She says the club is becoming a fun tradition for families. "Since we started doing summer reading clubs for all ages, we are seeing some friendly competition between children and their parents or grandparents, who can read the most books over the summer months," she says.

To find out more, visit [www.westerncounties.ca](http://www.westerncounties.ca).



## AROUND THE BRANCHES

### Barrington

Crissi Nickerson was hired as the new Barrington Municipal Library Clerk Reserve effective June 16.

### Clare

Raised over \$1,300 through a raffle for 2010 Adopt-A-Book with the help of Saulnierville Pharmachoice.

### Clark's Harbour

Library Clerk Shelley Smith actively uses Facebook to successfully communicate with the library's Friends group and Baby Time group.

### Digby

Artist and former Digby resident Deborah Landers, who specializes in landscapes, stills and architecture, recently completed two works of art which she left for show in the program room.

### Lockeport

Almost doubled its target of 60 books for the Adopt-A-Book campaign as 105 were adopted for the branch (compared to 70 in 2008!).

### Pubnico

Is the charity of choice for the Argyle Abuptic Festival Chili Cookoff on Monday, Aug. 2 at Ye Olde Argyle Lodge.

### Shelburne

Friends group raised over \$700 at its annual yard sale for the library.

### Westport

Is being extensively renovated and has set up in Westport Village School for the summer, opening in its temporary location on July 2.

### Weymouth

Is expected to open in its new location as the Weymouth Waterfront Library in July.

### Yarmouth

Will host a Seniors Writing Memoirs program starting this fall.