

# Library Report

Compiled by Ian White



## Board profile

**Cathy Holmes**

For one of the newest board members of Western Counties Regional Library, the love of libraries goes back to her childhood.

"I've just always had a great contact with the library since I was a kid," says Cathy Holmes. Representing the Municipality of the District of Shelburne on the board, she remembers time spent as a teen volunteering at the Shelburne library.

She was part of a typing class in Shelburne that the local library enlisted to type the book information on the envelopes placed in the back of books. "I still remember some of the authors and books," she says.

She is very fond of the Shelburne library with its unique architecture and wonderful natural light. "Our McKay Memorial Library is such a beautiful, welcoming building," she says, adding that is an exciting time to be involved with the library and the library board. The Shelburne library is investigating an expansion and reconfiguration of the building.

The biggest surprise for her when she joined the board was the size of the Acadian population served by the regional library. She is pleased with the way the library is responding to its French patrons by increasing French services, including the recent launch of the French side of its Web site.

While she is still finding her way on the board, she believes the biggest challenge facing the regional library is funding. "I'm concerned about the funding business," she says. She believes cultural institutions such as public libraries are important to small communities and require adequate, stable funding.

A retired journalist, Cathy lives with her husband in Middle Ohio just outside of Shelburne where she bravely fights off flies while enjoying her time in her garden.



**Members of the Shelburne Friends of the Library, pictured holding the Lotta Bookz trophy for raising the most money during the 2008 Adopt-A-Book campaign, won the Gabriele Schreiber (Random House of Canada) "Friends of the Year" Award.**

## Shelburne Friends of the Library wins national award

The Shelburne Friends of the Library has won the Gabriele Schreiber (Random House of Canada) "Friends of the Year" Award for outstanding support to its library and for outstanding volunteer involvement.

"I was very pleased and a bit surprised that we won the award," says Edith Bower of the Shelburne Friends of the Library. "I knew that we would be up against other groups that were probably larger and were able to raise more funds than ours did."

The Shelburne Friends group is sharing the honour with the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association. The award is judged and presented by Friends of Canadian Libraries (FOCAL). Each Friends group will receive \$750 in Random House merchandise.

The Friends group was nominated by Western Counties Regional Library, whose Shelburne branch, the McKay Memorial Library, is supported by the Friends group.

"Although the group can be counted on during a capital campaign, it is this organization's steady support year in and year out that enriches library services at the Shelburne library," regional library director Trudy Amirault says.

The Town of Shelburne has been going through tough economic times. Despite this, the Shelburne Friends of the Library donated \$1,835 in 2008.

The Shelburne Friends group manages to give at such a level through two key annual fundraisers, a yard and bake sale in the summer and a Christmas silent auction in December.

"I want to say 'thank-you' to all the members and volunteers of the Friends of the library whose hard work made this possible," says Bower.

"The Shelburne Friends of the Library epitomizes what a Friends group should be and demonstrates that small communities can have Friends who make a big difference," Amirault says.

## Library celebrates Recreation Month

June is Recreation Month and Western Counties Regional Library is celebrating it with displays and prize draws at all 10 of its branches. Some of the branches are holding walking clinics, Wii sports and fitness programs and more throughout the month of June.

### Staffing Updates



Regional Library Director Trudy Amirault, standing, presents Veronica Hubbard, right, with a certificate and card during her retirement potluck lunch at the Yarmouth library on May 11. Veronica worked at the library for 33 years and officially retires on June 23. Her last day of work was May 15. Many of the staff from all three counties participated in the potluck, something for which Veronica was famous.

Maggie Bean left her Library Clerk Reserve position at the Barrington Municipal Library on May 2, 2009.

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Jane Roycroft left her 15-hour per week Library Clerk position in Yarmouth. Her last day was May 6, 2009.

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Heather Atkinson replaced Maggie Bean as Barrington Reserve Library Clerk. She began May 13, 2009.

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Sharlie Burnie, Headquarters Student Assistant, left her position on May 30, 2009.

## Library starts up fitness programs



Leona Comeau, right, delivers her virtual bowling ball during *Jouer pour votre santé* at the Clare Branch Library. The regional library has Nintendo Wii sports and fitness programs at nearly all of its branches for participants 55 years and over thanks to funding from community health boards in Clare, Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth.

## Campaign highlights public libraries

“Public libraries are important to me, my family, my community.”

Printed on bright yellow door hangers and posters, this is the message Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (LBANS) took to the candidates during the 2009 provincial election campaign.

The door hangers and posters have a life beyond the election as the message is timeless. They are available at the circulation desks of the library’s branches.

## Puppet Ruby joins library staff



Councillor Alan Stewart of the Town of Lockeport, right, presents Ashley Roache, middle, with her prize and introduces Ruby the Puppet Librarian. The puppet will be attending programs and events. Ruby was named by Ashley, who won a \$50 gift card to Chapters Indigo Coles.