

Library Report

Compiled by Ian White



Staff profile

Scott MacMullen

Scott MacMullen likes his machinery, enjoying a cruise on his motorcycle or boat. But the machinery he really likes to keep running in top form is the library's technical equipment.

"We have over 100 computers in the regional headquarters and 10 library branches," the System Administrator for the Western Counties Regional Library explains. Add to that managing wireless and wired routers, switches, hubs, scanners, system backups and security and software and you have a lot of work.

While this may be a full-time position for some, Scott is also charged with maintaining the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library and library headquarters. With a working background in plumbing and heating at Quickfall's and Germain's, Scott started with the library in 1990-91, handling all maintenance issues for the library.

While he keeps tabs on the air conditioning, heating, plumbing and building security, Scott has always had an interest in computers. When he started at the library, it had one personal computer that ran on two large floppy disks with no hard drive. Regional Library Director Barbara Kincaid heard of Scott's interest in computers and saw the growing need for someone with computer servicing skills at the library. She made him an offer to help train him if he took on the duties of system administrator.

The rest is history. Scott has installed every piece of equipment and software from the completion of his courses until today – with a little help from people such as David Arthur of Burridge Campus, Nova Scotia Community College.

This has kept Scott busy. He travels from branch to branch maintaining the computer system in addition to ensuring that the Yarmouth library and headquarters are sound and secure.

New Clark's Harbour library opens



Above, the new Clark's Harbour Library opened to the public on Dec. 11. Patrons have enjoyed the new furniture provided by the Friends of the Clark's Harbour Library including this pair attending the Valentine's Day Craft Program on Feb. 8.



Mental health collection launched

A room filled with user-friendly material on mental health issues left the province's coordinator of Mental Health Projects incredulous during the launch of Western Counties Regional Library's mental health collection on Monday, Jan. 28.

Tony Prime said he was overwhelmed during a brief speech before more than 30 people at the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library in Yarmouth.

A mix of mental health providers, consumers and advocates braved bad weather to attend the event that featured more than \$14,000 worth of mental health books, audio books, CDs and DVDs laid out on tables and shelves for all to see.

Eating disorders, schizophrenia, autism, bipolar illness, anger, depression, and Alzheimer's disease are just some of the topics covered by the collection.

It is all possible because of a partnership between the Yarmouth Digby Shelburne branch of the CMHA, Mental Health Services and Western Counties Regional Library.

Regional library chairman Gary Archibald said such partnerships are vital to the region. They enable organizations to combine their efforts to serve the people of Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth better, he said.

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Library and high school team up to help students

Students at Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School have greater access to materials for projects and posters thanks to a partnership with Western Counties Regional Library.

Charles Andrews, a resource program support teacher, and Joanne Morton, a program support assistant, were at the library on Friday, Jan. 25 loading their car with boxes and boxes of old

magazines and battered books no longer of use to the regional library.

Andrews says the materials will be used mainly by special needs students for projects requiring the use of images, photographs and pictures at the high school's learning centre. There are audio learners and video learners who struggle to either write things down or to do an oral presentation in

front of the class. By having access to visual materials, these students can overcome their challenges and do their presentations using creative posters.

"They would never be able to stand in front of a class and speak," says Andrews. "But they can read."

His says by cutting out the images and words from magazines and books, the students overcome their challenges in a creative way that completes the project requirements and meets the class outcomes.

Although the Internet could be a source of all kinds of images, Andrews says, not all students have the ability to use computers and not all students have access to computers.

"We don't have colour printers," he adds.

The material is a great source of high quality, col-



Resource teacher Charles Andrews and program support assistant Joanne Morton load boxes of old books and magazines.

our images for all students.

The regional library is happy to see the materials find a new life that helps other.

"We would much rather see these materials re-used to benefit students rather than discarded," says Trudy Amirault, the regional director of the library.

Library honours retired board member



Retired board member Staley Goodwin, left, is presented with a Lynn Hemeon photograph of the Yarmouth Lighthouse by Gary Archibald, chairman of the Western Counties Regional Library Board in recognition of Goodwin's 11 years of service to the library board.

Staffing Updates

Kim Adams has left her 22.5-hour position at the Barrington Municipal Library as of Dec. 14, 2007.

Eileen d'Eon, formerly with the Pubnico library, transferred to the Barrington Library to take the 22.5 hours per week position as of Jan. 22.

Joanna Crinion has joined the staff of the Weymouth library, working four hours per week. She started January 21, 2008.

Sauna Mahaney finished working as a reserve at the Lillian Benham Library in Lockeport on Feb. 23.

Danielle MacAulay-Williams is the new reserve clerk at the Lockeport library, starting on Feb. 26.

Julienne Spinney will begin as a library clerk, working eight hours per week at the Pubnico Branch Library on March 6.

CMHA adds \$14,000 worth of materials

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"The regional branch of the CMHA is there to support people dealing with mental health issues, and we are here to provide the material to help people make informed and healthy decisions relating to mental health issues," Archibald said.

Mental Health Services provided a startup grant of \$40,000 for the regional branch of the CMHA of which \$14,000 went toward the creation of the mental health collection for the regional library to serve the people of the Tri-Counties.

"It's remarkable what we've been able to pull in," said Jim Stockman, president of the regional branch of the CMHA. He said the

CMHA's job is to raise awareness about mental health issues and work toward removing the stigma attached to mental health issues.

Western Counties Regional Library Deputy Director Joanne Head compiled the collection following input from mental health professionals, advocates and consumers to make it as hands-on and user-friendly as possible while providing the critical information.

"It's been a real enhancement to our collection," Head said.

There were subsequent launches at the Isaiah W. Wilson Memorial Library in Digby and the McKay Memorial Library in Shelburne.