

# Library Report

Compiled by Ian White

## CAP funding assured to end of March

Despite a temporary reprise, the fight to maintain funding for the Community Access Program (CAP) is far from over.

Hon. Maxime Bernier, Minister of Industry issued a statement on Oct. 12 stating that Industry Canada has "directed transitional funding" to CAP networks to ensure they remain open until March 31, 2007.

Ottawa has sent \$92,650 in transitional funding to Nova Scotia, approximately \$332 per CAP community. Eric Stackhouse, Chair of the Nova Scotia CAP Association, explains, "these funds are welcome but fall far short of what it takes to operate a CAP site and leverage partnership dollars. But combined with a financial commitment from the province, we should just make it to March 31."

Trudy Amirault, Vice-Chair of the Association, says the move is a positive one, and she received notice on Nov. 20 that more funding is in the works.

"It (CAP) is on the table now whereas it wasn't before," Amirault says.

Stackhouse says, "What is of greater concern to our members is the long-term future. We were used to an open dialogue between our provincial and federal partners; now it seems that we just have to wait for our future to be decided for us."

The province has assured the Association that it is a strong partner in CAP and will make funding available. Discussions have been ongoing and are positive.

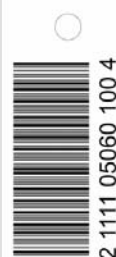
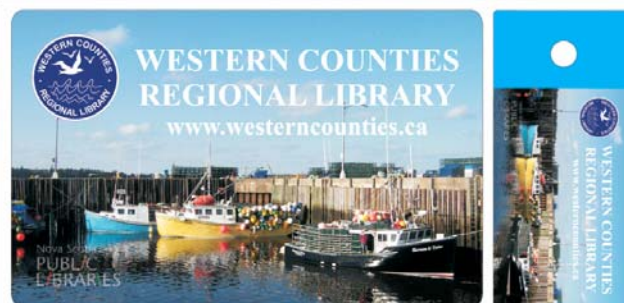
Reaction from individuals, community groups, municipalities, and others has been overwhelming. Amirault explains, "People care about this program, and they want to have input about its future. After 11 years of working at the local grassroots level, is that too much to ask?"

## Read to Me Jamboree



Clare staff photo  
**Leona Comeau of the Clare Branch Library shares a story with young readers during October's Read to Me Jamboree.**

## New Year = New Card



2 1111 05060 100 4

Please present this card each time materials are borrowed. By signing this card you agree to abide by the policies of the Western Counties Regional Library.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

Western Counties Regional Library will begin issuing new cards in the New Year. The plan is to unveil the new cards at the same time as the new Web site sometime in January. Stay tuned!

The new cards were needed because the existing supply was dwindling and the library is using the opportunity to establish a regional image. The card will stand out in people's wallets. It has the added bonus of coming with a keytag attachment to facilitate the use of the cards by our patrons.

# Library Card Month boosts membership

Membership in Western Counties Regional Library stands at its highest level in years after a successful Library Card Month campaign.

The month-long promotion brought in just under 2,500 registration, including 462 brand new members. The Yarmouth branch led the way with 214 new members followed by Barrington's 88 new card holders. Weymouth branch managed to attract 33 new borrowers!

The library renewed 1,978 members, whose cards had expired or were about to expire. At the end of the campaign the library boasted 21,516 members.

The success can be attrib-

uted to the hard work of the staff and great support from Library Card Month sponsor Transcontinental Media, publishers of the region's English language newspapers. Transcontinental provided an eight-page tabloid pullout filled with library stories, four full sponsor pages in its three weekly newspapers in the region and prizes of three six-month subscriptions and use of a Skybox at a Yarmouth Mariners game.

CJLS and Tusket Ford Sales and Service continued its support through Library Report and Boston Pizza, Jungle Jim's, Empire Theatres Studio 5, Brunswick Lanes, Coles, Wal-Mart and the

Great Canadian Dollar Store in Yarmouth provided local prizes for the Yarmouth branch.

The winners of the newspaper subscriptions were Nykolas Berry in Yarmouth County, Eugenia Killam in Digby County and Luke DesChamp in Shelburne County. The Yarmouth Branch Library also regis-

tered 74 school children during the month of October through its Primary registration campaign. The winner of the Boston Pizza party was Mme. Flynn's Primary class at Plymouth school for registering 100 per cent of the Grade Primary class.

The branch also registered 25 patrons during a day at Wal-Mart on Oct. 21.

## Reading club attracts more boys

The 2006 TD Summer Reading Program (SRP) with its Quest for Heroes theme helped attract more boys than in the past. In all 642 children signed on and 350 completed the reading requirements of 10 books, with many doing it more than once. In all, participants read 8,990 books during July and August.

Posters, reading logs, stickers and invitations to join were provided by TD Canada Trust. Invitations were distributed to all schools and some daycare centres. McDonald's Restaurants in Yarmouth and Barrington continue to be major supporters of the program, donating cash for program development and coupon prizes. Home Hardware stores in each county provided bicycle and helmet prizes for winners whose names were drawn from among those who completed the reading requirements. The winners were Emily Wilkins, 10, Shelburne; Shelby Amero, 10, Digby; and Spencer Swaine, 5, Yarmouth.

In Yarmouth, local businesses donated prizes of toys and candy to be distributed throughout the summer.

Through a Young Canada Works grant, Megan Fitzgerald was hired to provide one Captain Underpants program to be delivered to each of the 10 branches. In addition, she decorated the Yarmouth branch, entered a float in the Seafest parade, visited local "Ready Set Go" programs and created a puppet show and activities for children in the Yarmouth branch. In total, the branches throughout the region offered 48 programs. The average attendance was eight. There was an increase in the number of boys age 6-12 who participated. This is attributed to the appeal of a hero theme.

This year, each branch received a Read-O-Meter (courtesy of McDonald's funds), which meant a child could put a bead in the meter for each book read. Some branches offered a "Guess How Many Books We Read?" contest following the SRP. The average number of books read per participant is 14.

## Staffing Updates



Barrington staff photo  
**Pat Greenwood, left, enjoys a moment at her retirement party from the Barrington Branch Library with Trudy Amirault, Regional Library Director.**

After 18 years with the Western Counties Regional Library, Pat Greenwood retires Nov. 30. The staff threw a retirement potluck party on Monday, Nov. 6 at the new Barrington Municipal Library.

"She was very attentive to the borrowers," says Barrington co-ordinator Joanne Head. "And she was delighted that she had time to work in the new branch."

Pat will be keeping busy in her retirement visiting her daughter in Halifax and participating in church and community activities. Pat is an avid collector of gingerbread figures, books by Jan Brett and snowmen, in addition to being a keen "envelope recycler."

She will have more time to devote to her needlework and crafts. She will be missed greatly.

In other news at the Barrington branch, Kim Adams has moved from the 17-hour position to Pat's position and Kim Goreham will assume the 17-hour position. Congratulations to Kim A. and welcome Kim G.!