

# Library Report

Compiled by Ian White



## Staff profile

**Carol Surette**

If you work for or with Western Counties Regional Library, she's got your number.

Bookkeeper Carol Surette has been crunching numbers and balancing accounts for eight-and-a-half years at the regional library.

She spent 15 years at the Yarmouth branch of the Royal Bank of Canada as the head central teller and before that she was the bookkeeper of a small business. She still tends the books of her husband Christian's business C. Surette Landscapers.

Coming to work for the library came after a chance encounter with regional library office manager Yvonne LeBlanc, who was in the bank on library businesses. Yvonne mentioned there was an opening for a bookkeeper at the library and Carol decided it was time for a change.

Moving to the library opened Carol's eyes to the size and scope of the regional library.

"I didn't really know there was this big of a part to the library," she says, motioning toward headquarters and all of its people, cubicles, books and shelves. She was somewhat familiar with the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library but not the busy, inner workings.

During her time with headquarters, she says the accounting software hasn't changed much but the accounting has. Carol does all the year-end entries – done in the past by the library's accounting firm. Now the firm checks the entries and signs off on the work.

Her co-workers have turned the avid reader into an avid library user. "I always have two or three books on the go," she says, calling Bonnie Doucette of Acquisitions her "librarian."

In a way, the job brings the Wedgeport resident full circle. "I used to go to the bookmobile as a child, but when it stopped – that was it," she says. With a large collection right outside her office, she has rekindled the joy of visiting the library.



From left, Westport Branch Library Clerk June Swift presents Yvette Small with her draw prize of a bag of books as a participant in the Adult Summer Reading Club. The adult version of the children and teen clubs proved a big hit.

## Adults enjoy reading club

The addition of an adult club and more prizes has made the 2008 Summer Reading Club at Western Counties Regional the best yet.

"It was great," says Joanne Head, Coordinator of Children's Services at the regional library. "We had a lot of positive feedback from the adults, who really enjoyed the program."

The 2008 Summer Reading Club with its Laugh Out Loud theme saw nearly 2,000 participants, a record level, buoyed by the addition of an adult club and record participation in a teen club in its second year.

"I was very impressed," says library regional director Trudy Amirault. "I was pleased with all three clubs."

"I think that says good things about the number of people who are reading," she adds.

In all, 968 children, 326 teens and 649 adults participated in the club. Early feedback from participants says "reading and the books"

were the biggest draws, says Head.

However, prizes were a major incentive as well, the reader survey showed.

Nationally, TD Bank Financial Group provided a wide array of printed materials to enhance and promote the club for children and teens.

McDonald's Restaurants in Yarmouth and Shelburne counties have been a big sponsor from the beginning at the local level, providing \$500 cash and coupons.

Upper Clements Park offers free entry to the park and all of its rides to every child or teen completing his or her reading goal. Home Hardware in Digby and Barrington Passage and Manser's Bike Shop in Yarmouth provided new bicycles as the grand prize for children.

Staples Yarmouth provides teens with the chance to win an Apple iPod or two prizes of \$50 gift cards for school supplies.

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# Library prepares launch of French Web site

## *Changes coming this fall*

Western Counties Regional Library will be offering a complete French side to its Web site in the coming months, part of a plan to improve French services at the library.

“(Patrons) are going to see a whole French side to the Web site,” says Erin Comeau, Coordinator of French Services for the regional library.

When library patrons click on [www.westerncounties.ca](http://www.westerncounties.ca) they will have the option of English or French.

The new French Web site will mirror the English offering

## Adults rewarded for reading

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The potential rewards for adults included a grand prize draw of brunch for two and golf for two at the Digby Pines Golf Resort and Spa, and draws for books from Coles book store, FastPasses to Upper Clements Park, gift certificates to Charlotte’s Lane restaurant in Shelburne and the Boardwalk Café in Digby, movie passes to Empire Studio 5 Yarmouth and YMCA Yarmouth day passes.

## C@P conference energizes director

Western Counties Regional Library Director Trudy Amirault has returned confident about the future of the Community Access Program (C@P) following a provincial gathering of C@P delegates in Scotsburn in late September.

“There was a lot of energy,” she says of the meetings.

Nova Scotia C@P chairman Eric Stackhouse stated during the conference that providing basic computer and Internet access is still a critical component of the program.

Amirault added that C@P representatives were asked to look at ways to help communities take advantage of the growing access to broadband’s high-speed Internet connections.

such things as French booklists and recommended reading.

Although all the general services will be translated into French, only the Events and Calendar pages for the Pubnico and Clare branches will be in French.

The library will overhaul its French collection and increase its French Canadian content.

The Clare and Pubnico branches will also have separate sections added to their libraries for Acadian material ranging from cookbooks to history and songs to stories. These changes are expected to be in place this fall.

“This will make it easier for people to find this content at the library,” explains Comeau.



**Library Clerk IV Suzanne Grear of the Shelburne Branch has received her diploma in Library and Information Technology.**

## Diploma changes outlook

McKay Memorial Library Clerk IV Suzanne Grear has earned her diploma in Library and Information Technology from the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC).

She says the diploma gives her a greater understanding of how a library works and the resources available regionally, provincially and nationally for library users and staff.

“It gave me a whole new outlook on how a library is run,” she says.

She tackled the diploma in her spare time over a seven-year period, completing the course in the summer of 2007.

The diploma has enhanced her knowledge of cataloguing, disaster preparedness, reference interviews, new technologies and management skills.

The program trains students to assist clients in organizing and accessing information in university, school, special and public libraries as well as archives, corporations and museums. It is the only program in Atlantic Canada that follows the Canadian Library Association’s Guidelines for the Education of Library Technicians.

### Staffing Updates

Yarmouth Library Clerk Bruce Ross has accepted a position with Burrigge Campus, NSCC as Librarian. Congratulations Bruce! Bruce will be staying on as a Reserve at the branch.

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Rena Churchill will be leaving her Reserve position at the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library to pursue full-time employment elsewhere.

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Maggie Bean has been hired as a Reserve at the Barrington Municipal Library beginning Aug. 19 to replace Jade Ross who is on one-year maternity leave.

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Yarmouth Branch student assistant Evan Lawson finished working on Sept. 3.