

Library Report

Compiled by Ian White

New era for Barrington library

The opening of the new Barrington Municipal Library heralded a new era for library service in the Municipality of Barrington. The opening ceremonies encompassed Barrington's new community economic development centre at Owaissa Park.

Since it opened for public use on June 20 the new library has seen an increase in traffic as people check out the expanded facility. With Aug. 2 official opening, comes the addition of over 1,000 new titles on the shelves at the new home of the Barrington branch of Western Counties Regional Library.

Regional director Trudy Amirault promised 1,000 new titles at the sod turning ceremonies last fall and 69 new titles were adopted by the people of Barrington during the recently completed Adopt-a-Book campaign.

Along with expanded hours, library services coordinator Joanne Head expects the new facility and the infusion of new materials will propel circulation numbers even beyond 2005 totals, which saw circulation at the branch jump nearly 13 per cent to 25,346 items.

"Our donors have made it possible to build upon this initial wealth of materials and more new books, films, music and furnishings will continue to arrive," she said.

With an accessible program room



Belle Hatfield Photo

From left, South Shore – St. Margaret's MP Gerald Keddy; Gary Archibald, Chairman of the Board of the Western Counties Regional Library and Warden Louise Halliday of the Municipality of the District of Barrington cut the ribbon to officially open the new Barrington Branch Library.

and nine computers for public use (seven with Internet access, one devoted to children and one for accessing the library catalogue), Head says there has already been an increase in demand for the computers and summer visitors and tourists are now dropping in. She anticipates there will be expansion of programming at the branch in the coming months. The branch has an active book club and delivers many children's programs, including a multi-faceted Summer Reading Program.

"Aside from our regular line up, new programs will be added this fall," she said.

The Barrington branch opened on Nov. 30, 1981 in the refurbished former Royal Bank building next door to Wilson's Shopping Centre in Barrington

Passage and was made possible largely by a generous donation by the Royal Bank of Canada and through the diligent efforts of area residents, headed by the late Herbert R. Banks. From its beginnings the Barrington branch has been heavily used by its patrons, but as library services evolved and usage rose, Western Counties Regional Library faced challenges in trying to provide library services in Barrington. The old facility became so crowded there was little room to

do research, to use computers or just to relax and browse through a book before deciding whether to borrow it. Accessibility was an issue, especially for programming, since the program room was on the second floor.

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Belle Hatfield Photo

Marjorie Weeks and the Barrington Friends of the Library played a significant role in ensuring the new library was ready.

Photographic exhibit a piece of history

Many family albums contain them. They are the black and white images of generations past that place the chapter being written today within a context of shared history.

An exhibit traveling through all 10 branches of the Western Counties Regional Library offers that glimpse into southwestern Nova Scotia's family album.

Fishing Fundy Waters is an exhibit of photographs by celebrated American documentary photographer John Collier Jr. (1913-1992). The photographs throw the spotlight on life along Nova Scotia's southwestern tip in the immediate post-Second World War period by focusing on its source of sustenance, the fishery. Collier photographed lobster fishermen and clam diggers. His



Belle Hatfield photo
Dr. Alexander Leighton of Smith's Cove and his wife Jane Murphy-Leighton officially open *Fishing Fundy Waters* .

images captured hand lining and scallop dragging. Through his lens, the viewer can gain a better understanding of the roots from which today's diverse and flourishing fisheries grew.

The photographs in this exhibit were taken by Collier between 1950 and 1951 when he was working with Dr. Alexander Leighton of

Smith's Cove.

Based on his long-standing interest in the use of photography to record history, Leighton was able to procure a grant so that Collier could produce photographs showing the day-to-day life of residents of this area of Nova Scotia. They are a stunning visual record, says Western Counties Regional Library

director Trudy Amirault.

"The importance of such a photographic document of our area cannot be overestimated," she says. "The photographs of John Collier Jr. let us reflect upon the past to give us a better understanding of where we have come from."

Amirault is a member of the Wilson Collier Committee that has been working to realize the goal of sharing this visual legacy for more than five years. The committee acknowledges with thanks the cooperation and support of the families of the individuals depicted in the photographs, without whom this exhibit would not have been possible. The exhibit is travelling to all 10 branches of Western Counties Regional Library. During the summer of 2007 the exhibit will be on display at the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management in Halifax before returning to Digby.

Deficiencies addressed

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All of these deficiencies have been addressed in the new facility. The new library offers almost three times as much space, all of which is accessible. The number of public access computers has jumped to seven, from just one. Hours and staffing have been increased. Kimberly Adams and Kimberley Goreham have joined the staff.

The dream of opening a new library in Barrington could not have been realized without the help of the Barrington Friends of the Library, headed by the tireless efforts of Marjorie Weeks, and the support of the council and staff of the Municipality of Barrington.

Staffing Updates

The fall season has brought about many changes in our staff as some return to school or retire.

Erin Comeau, our French Services Manager, is off on her one-year educational leave and will return to us following completion of her Masters of Library and Information Science degree at the University of Western Ontario.

In Yarmouth, **Rena Churchill** has taken over the 15-hour per week position.

In Headquarters, **Erin Mohle**, student assistant, has left to attend university.

In Digby, **Meghan Geauvreau**, student assistant, has left to attend university.

Joining us as new staff are:
Leona Comeau, hired as a new Reserve in the Clare library starting on Aug. 28.

Laura Charlton has been hired as a new Reserve at the Yarmouth library beginning Sept. 7.

Connie Nickerson has been hired as a new Reserve at the Yarmouth library starting on Sept. 14.

Amy Campbell was hired as the new HQ Student as of September 21.