



Report to the Community

April 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014



southshorepubliclibraries.ca
info@southshorepubliclibraries.ca

Chief Librarian's Report

2013-14 was a year of significant growth for South Shore Public Libraries. Most notably I am very pleased to report we opened the doors to the Margaret Hennigar Public Library early in 2014. This state-of-the-art branch opened to the public January 2nd in the impressive Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre, and we are currently planning - in partnership with our friends in the LCLC - grand opening celebrations scheduled for August.

While opening the new branch has improved South Shore Public Libraries' capacity to service our residents and visitors, it also comes with some regret as we said goodbye to our King Street location – the old bank which served our community well for over 30 years. The familiarity, character, and charm of the place will be missed. It was very humbling and heart warming to witness the community's response to our call to help us move the collections and say goodbye to King Street. In 10 days we had hundreds of residents come visit King Street, linger, share stories with staff and take as many books home as they could carry. With over twenty years in the library business, this collective act of generosity by the residents of the town and municipality stands out as a very special event for me. In the end, staff had only a few thousand items to move. I am honoured to be part of this wonderful community that took it upon itself to move a library, proving once and for all that libraries matter here on Nova Scotia's south shore. I consider myself lucky to have been part of it.

In previous annual reports you have heard me lament about the challenges of maintaining world-class library services with shrinking funding. While this was the trend



CEO Troy Myers

for four years I am pleased to report our main funding partner - Nova Scotia's Department of Communities, Culture, and Heritage – has reversed this trend for fiscal 2014/15. While it is a modest increase it allows us to keep up with the cost of living and invest in our hard working staff. Our budget will continue to be challenging but this new investment in public libraries is a step in the right direction and the Province of Nova Scotia deserves credit for it.

With a little extra money invested in our libraries SSPL will continue to expand our services - for example, offering more people a chance to learn exciting new emerging technologies such as 3D printing. We will continue to offer quality programming and author readings in all outlets.

We will continue to offer a world-leading mobile service to our most rural residents, connecting them to a wide world of information delivered to their community with outstanding customer service. Most importantly, we will continue to invest in the best collections so people can read what they want to when they want to. Our circulation metrics over the past four years continue to prove collections do matter and South Shore Public Libraries will continue to make your library experience both satisfying and rewarding.

I would also like to thank our Board of Directors, many volunteers and staff. We continue to be blessed with a

hard working staff that is truly committed to making sure you enjoy your time at the library. Our team of long serving, dedicated volunteers allow us to accomplish that much more thanks to their tireless efforts. We also have a thoughtful Board of Directors who are committed to and connected to their communities and provide stewardship and direction to staff, allowing us to continue to grow and engage thoughtfully with the communities we serve. People

continue to be South Shore Public Libraries' greatest resource. We would be nothing without them.

Lastly, I am very pleased to report we nominated the Town of Bridgewater for a Lieutenant Governor's Award for Community Spirit Excellence for helping us move the King Street collections (among other acts of community generosity). This nomination was successful and the

Lieutenant Governor will present the 2014 Community Spirit Award this summer. Thanks to all of you for helping us make this happen. It is a privilege to have been part of it and I am proud to be Chief Librarian of this great group of people and libraries.

Regards,

Troy Myers, Chief Librarian and CEO
South Shore Public Libraries

Bridgewater/Margaret Hennigar Public Library

This past year has been a year of positive change for staff and the public. Much of the year was spent preparing for the move to the new location, moving, and settling in to the new space.

A group of patrons and staff organized a Late Night at the Library event at the King Street location to help say good-bye to the much loved building. Activities, games, midnight river walk, food, and a (not quite) 24-hour Read-a-thon helped some to stay awake all night while others slept in the kid's room. A catered breakfast the next morning completed the celebration. The group also raised money to purchase games and toys for the children's section of the new library.

As the move drew even closer, another initiative which was internally dubbed the "Tuques and Bags Project" also involved the local community. In an effort to encourage long time library patrons to embrace the move, staff asked for the community's help to move the library's collection



from King Street to the new Margaret Hennigar Branch in the LCLC. People were asked to check out a couple of bags of books before the library closed in late December and return them to the new location some time in January. For their efforts they could keep the re-usable shopping bags and were given a spiffy South Shore Public Libraries tuque.

This “crowd sourced” move was a huge success. Within a week folks flocked to the library and checked out almost 10,000 items. Library staff was overwhelmed by the community’s response to this call to action. The library quickly ran out of bags and hats and had to order more as people came from all over the area to say good-bye to the old library and say hello to the new space.

Adult programming during the year included a book club, monthly Lunch ‘N Learn sessions, workshops and other presentations, the popular Hidden Film Gems series (in partnership with GG Geddes Productions), and the very popular one-on-one computer help session. Author readings are always a highlight and this year we were pleased to welcome: Brian and Janice Kenefick, Ruth Holmes-Whitehead, Paul Bennett, Rosalie Osmond, Jan Barkhouse, Joan Dawson and Greg van de Morteale.

We held a very successful Day Camp during March Break and five weeks of Day Camp programming during the summer. In addition to the two weeks of regular camps we were able (thanks to funding from the TD Bank) to add three weeks of Art Jam camps for three different age groups. These camps were led by local artist and art educator Rebecca Roher. This was the first time we were



able to offer summer programming for the younger and older age groups, and all camps were filled to capacity.

Another new venture for us was Rock the Library when local young people were invited to bring their musical talents to the library during an in-service day. One of the most popular events for wee ones was the Musical Munchkins program offered by Symphony Nova Scotia. Regular storytime sessions for toddlers and after-school continue to form the foundation of our programming.

We were happy to be part of some very interesting local initiatives during the year and strengthened our ties with several community organizations including: Nova Scotia Community College Community Sustainability EXPO, South Shore Sustainability Network, Dying With Dignity South Shore, Second Story Women’s Centre, Afterglow (Art at Night in Bridgewater), Amnesty International, Growing Green Festival, Youth Arts Week, One Billion Rising, Atlantic Council for International Cooperation, the YMCA Youth Centre and the Local Food Awareness Team.

As always, we take the opportunity to recognize the wonderful work of our volunteers whose contributions we value immensely: shelving, creating displays, analyzing statistics, running errands, putting up posters, computer assistance, setting up chairs for programs, preparing the equipment for film screenings and much, much more.

Marion Moore
Branch Coordinator



Thomas H. Raddall Library

The library's children and adult programs continue their successful run. The After School Clubs @ the Library is going great guns, and the LEGO CLUB segment has proved to be the most popular of the after school activity programs. The toddlers continue to enjoy the fun, energetic stories/songs of Miss Barbara; a rollicking good time had by all tots and parents in attendance. Fall saw the introduction of the Hodge Podge Club, a well-received after school program for the five to eight year set.

The TD Summer Reading Program was very successful. This year's theme was EXPLORE, which resonated with the children who participated. Of the 74 children who registered 51 completed the summer reading, and all received passes to Upper Clements Park, and were eligible to enter the prize draws. The library's Summer Camp continued the EXPLORE theme; a portal to discovery... space...music...movement! All camps were a rip-roaring

success; all the children in attendance were wowed with the activities, and the outstanding presenters.

Huge success...the Saturday Robotics Club, was filled to capacity. In addition, the library hosted "ILIKTRONICS", a fun-packed summer technology camp for older children 10-12 years.

The library offered One-on-One Computer and Technology Help, for adults. Help ranged from how to download e-books to their device of choice; to the basics of using a computer. The library offered in the fall, a series of Tech Talks, covering the gamut...how to sell your stuff online to utilizing your iPad. These were Liverpool's most sought out program, and many of the computer tutorials were promptly filled. The BIG event, in terms of new technology, was the opening of Liverpool's Shape Space; a space dedicated to the library's newly acquired 3-D printers. The library provides demonstrations and assistance to those who want to discover their many possibilities.

The library hosted a number of speakers, and author readings, by both local and international writers. The library was delighted to have local author/journalist Vernon



Oickle for a reading from his most recent work Four Crows A Boy. St. Mary's Professor Dr. Paul Bennett read from his most recent work the Last Stand: Schools, Communities and the Future of Rural Nova Scotia ;a very timely topic in light of the recently Ivany Report, and the proposed school closures throughout rural Nova Scotia. The Arthritis Society hosted a workshop on pain disease management ,and pain control.

The heat situation has improved with the installation of the new heating system. Exterior trim of the library was painted. More wildlife invades the library...result of an open door on fine days. A mother weasel and baby wandered into the lobby area, of the library, and then wandered out, whew! A thank you is extended to all the generous Queen's library patrons who supported the library's annual fundraiser Adopt-A-Book.

Wanda A. Kushner
Branch Coordinator

Lunenburg Library

We are always working on to make the experience at the Lunenburg Library better for all who come in the door, and this past year was no exception, from programming to layout to item displays.

With some new shelving and some creative reallocation of existing furnishings, we were able to expand and relocate several of the collections, resulting in improved access and visibility, and these changes have been a big hit with library members.

Appreciation for the Prize Winners and International

Mysteries displays continues to pour in. Other rotating displays to coincide with special events/occasions, programs, or to highlight 'undiscovered' parts of the collection also draw considerable interest.

Programming was strong this year, and attendance is getting better all the time. We had several readings, including one by the 2013 One Book Nova Scotia author Alyssa York, and were happy to support local authors promote their work to the public. The Tech Talks and One-on-One Tech Help sessions were huge draws, with everyone clamoring for more! We certainly hope to offer more of that in the future. A naturopath has made several different visits to the library over the year due to great interest from

library members, and the staff is happy to report that we're getting healthier too!

Not to be outdone, children's programming had a lot going on too. NSCAD Lunenburg Studio resident artists held a few workshops at the library, and the results are still on display! Some local authors and illustrators read and talked to the kids about what they do, and for reluctant readers we were fortunate to have Tail Waggin' Tutor Mara (a 3-year old Lab) listen patiently while they relaxed and read her some stories at their own pace. Summer was packed full of activities, with the TD Summer Reading Program and our week-long Summer Library Camps promoting reading as well as learning about astronomy, dance, music and local safety professionals - we can still taste the s'mores from the blast-off party that started it all! The iLkTronics tech camps were big success too, teaching the participants computer building and programming basics, Lego Robotics building and racing, and designing 3D models - they even saw their very own designs produced on a 3D printer right in the library!

On the staffing front, we really enjoyed having Sharon Hiltz working with us while she waited to move into the HQ space at the LCLC. We also gave a great send off at the Library to celebrate the retirement of valuable long-time employee Janet Wells. The party included a special performance by the Heaving Bosoms, homemade chocolate cake, and a hilarious video retrospective of Janet's time with SSPL! We wish her well in her well-earned retirement (although she hasn't gone too far, as she stills subs for us on occasion).

Jeff Mercer
Librarian



The Galactic Empire's Mill Village representatives are proud members of SSPL, and they strongly suggest that you get a library card.

Mobile Library

It was another busy year for Mobile operations and Mobile staff despite our numerous stormy Wednesdays this past winter which played havoc with our schedule. Patrons were extremely excited to see the Mobile pull in with new books, magazines and videos as well as their requested materials. Circulation continues to be healthy as the mobile lends out 500+ books regularly on some weekly runs. We have started a pilot program with one of our rural schools, visiting each Tuesday morning so that students may borrow materials and then we continue on to our regular community stop. The Mobile now has a new home as South Shore Public Libraries is now located in the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre.

Once again I can't thank staff enough for their continued excellent service to Library Members throughout Lunenburg and Queens Counties. Congratulations on another successful year!

Cathy MacDonald
Librarian

Outreach Services

Outreach Services brings the experience of the library and its resources to people of our communities in two ways, by taking programs and ideas out into the community and by bringing members of the community into the library. In addition to providing services to community members, outreach programs also provide us with a unique oppor-



tunity to improve the image of our library and offers excellent collaboration opportunities with community leaders, groups and organizations that will enhance overall library service.

Many Outreach activities promote our electronic services. Our partnership with NSCAP facilitates many of these endeavours. CAP funding in 2013/2014 enabled the hiring of two fulltime summer interns who developed and delivered our hugely successful summer technology camps. We held four full weeklong camps that included instruction and activity on Robotics, 3D printing, operating systems, and gaming. The two interns also held one-on-one technology instruction sessions and helped cover summer vacation slots at the circulation desk. This winter we were also granted CAP funds for two part time Technology Instructors who delivered one-on-one technology help at four branches, afterschool technology programs, March Break programming, and iPad and tablet instruction for all staff.

The opening of Shape Space at the Thomas H. Raddall

Branch provided several great outreach opportunities this year. One example is our partnership with NSCC Lunenburg campus and working with the Mechanical Drafting program to showcase our 3D printing capabilities. The culmination of this effort was a demo day at the campus illustrating students drawings reproduced in 3D from our printer. SSPL's leadership and expertise in the 3D area was also exhibited on a provincial level when we led a pre-conference session at the Nova Scotia Library Association Conference in October.

Sharing the word about borrowing electronic books has supplied many avenues for Outreach activities this year, including visits to schools, senior's residences and service clubs. During the year outreach has also participated in many presentations and public events; Health Fairs, Lunch and Learns, Home for Special Care visits, Recreation Department sponsored events and home visits, just to name a few. Our Pop Up Library venue – Library In Motion - had 14 dates this summer that included Farmers Markets, Exhibitions, Walks, and Municipal Recreation events.

The opening of the Margaret Hennigar Public Library has also given many opportunities to speak about our libraries and our services to many people and organizations. One of the main focuses of E-services this year was planning and implementing a technology plan for the new branch. It was a big challenge and very rewarding to see all the parts fit together and function, the new branch has 14 public access computers, 6 staff terminals, and two self-check kiosks. One more significant initiative undertaken by e-services this year has been the in house lending of iPads and tablets at all branches.

Outreach is constantly changing to meet the needs of a changing community, and in order to stay fresh and on top of things, it's important to keep rethinking how and why we do outreach. One person cannot be all outreach, even though they may have the title. It takes a concerted effort on the part of our whole organization at all levels to make outreach a success and I want to thank everyone for their efforts in this endeavour.

Christina Pottie
Outreach Coordinator

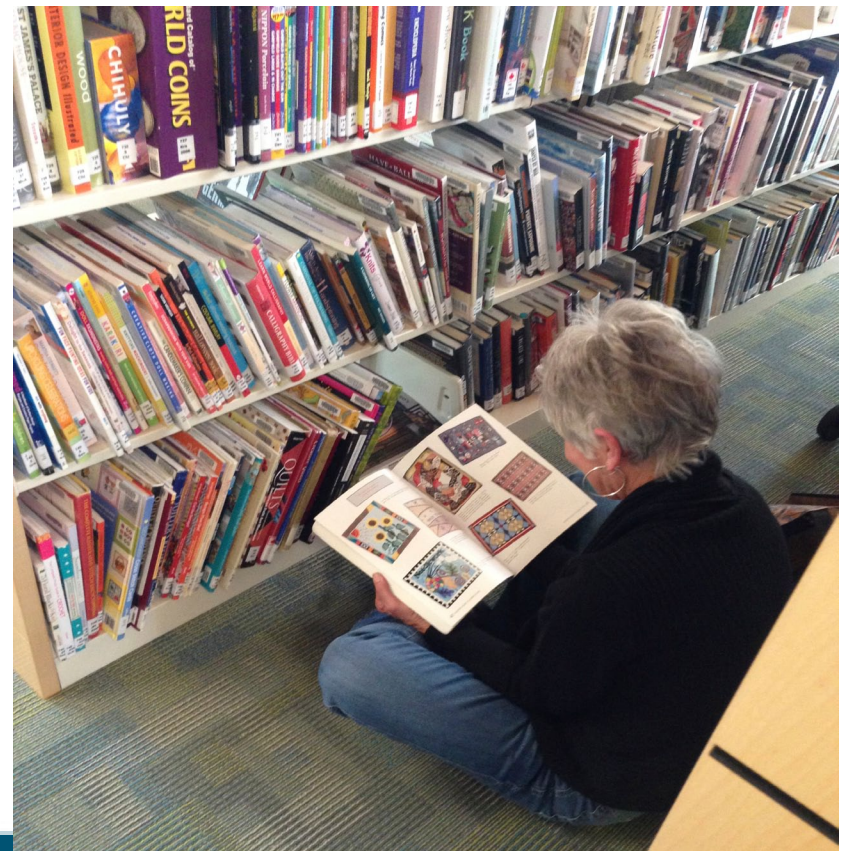
Alean Freeman Library

Our dedicated Volunteers and Library Members continue to support and bring the community into the Alean Freeman Library. The summer months were again the busy time of year and the winter storms of early 2014 ensured that numerous Wednesday evenings had to be cancelled. However, new books, audios and videos, and

magazines continued to be added to the collection, with outdated materials being removed on a regular basis. Summer visitors continue to use the library for their summer reading and occasional computer needs.

Once again I can't thank Ken enough for his continued excellent service to Library Members in Greenfield and the North Queens area. Congratulations to you and the Greenfield Library Volunteers on another successful year!

Cathy MacDonald
Librarian



STATISTICS

CIRCULATION	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Alean Freeman (Greenfield)	3,545	4,206	3,375	2,821
Bridgewater	72,653	75,479	73,501	92,380
Hebbville	17,219	23,461	26,551	18,498
Lunenburg	42,782	45,405	41,679	40,253
Mobile	57,570	65,042	67,479	69,165
T.H. Raddall (Liverpool)	38,338	39,578	35,518	37,411
Overdrive (downloadable)	1,149	4,512	8,878	14,385
Total	233,256	257,683	256,981	274,913

INTERLIBRARY LOANS	2012-13	2013-14
Borrowed from other libraries	4,817	4,277
Lent to other libraries	3,493	2,907

INFORMATION REQUESTS	2012-13	2013-14
Alean Freeman (Greenfield)	432	414
Bridgewater	7,024	8,976
Hebbville	201	0
Lunenburg	3,133	3,136
Mobile	2,557	2,075
T.H. Raddall (Liverpool)	3,090	3,929
Total	16,437	18,530

SPECIFIC TITLE REQUESTS	2012-13	2013-14
Alean Freeman (Greenfield)	224	175
Bridgewater	15,426	16,185
Hebbville	4,278	3,507
Lunenburg	5,887	5,553
Mobile	17,815	19,365
T.H. Raddall (Liverpool)	5,384	5,424
Overdrive holds (downloadable)	3,461	4,538
Total	52,475	54,747

STATISTICS

VISITS TO LIBRARIES	2012-13	2013-14
Alean Freeman (Greenfield)	2,058	1,248
Bridgewater	48,112	54,028
Hebbville	1,112	520
Lunenburg	30,023	22,984
Mobile	17,979	16,952
T.H. Raddall (Liverpool)	20,306	19,708
Total	119,590	115,440

OPEN HOURS	2012-13	2013-14
Alean Freeman (Greenfield)	294	288
Bridgewater	2,202	2,297.5
Hebbville	1,952	1,234
Lunenburg	2,396	2,420
Mobile	1,222	1,182.5
T.H. Raddall (Liverpool)	2,010	2,013
Total	10,076	9435

STAFFING	2012-13	2013-14
Professional Librarians (FTE)*	3	3
Non-professional staff (FTE)	16.5	16.5
Total (FTE - Full-time equivalents)	19.5	19.5

PROGRAMS	2012-13	2013-14
Alean Freeman (Greenfield)	0	7
Bridgewater	203	167
Lunenburg	150	183
T.H. Raddall (Liverpool)	155	169
Other	0	1
Total	508	527

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE	2012-13	2013-14
Alean Freeman (Greenfield)	0	14
Bridgewater	2,017	2,213
Lunenburg	791	860
T.H. Raddall (Liverpool)	746	987
Other	0	52
Total	3,554	4,126

COLLECTION EXPENDITURES (adult and children)	2012-13	2013-14
Audiovisual materials	44,139	50,160
Books (fiction and non-fiction)	193,126	190,096
Magazines and serials	10,673	12,498
Total	247,938	252,754

For information on the Library's finances please see the link to our audited financial statement, available on the Library website at :
<http://www.southshorepubliclibraries.ca/site-files/annual-reports/SSRL%20AUDIT%202013-14.pdf>