



Report to the Community

April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015

Chief Librarian's Report

South Shore Public Libraries is building better libraries! With the paint barely dry on the Margaret Hennigar Public Library in Bridgewater, we began talking to the Town of Lunenburg about the possibility of moving our branch library from its current downtown location to the Lunenburg Academy – known as the Castle on the Hill. I am pleased to report Lunenburg Council approved a business plan for the Academy that includes the library, an art gallery and the South Shore Genealogical Society. Plans are still in development but key tenants will include Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance, (LAMP), Class Afloat, and a world-class performance stage.

While SSPL is a forward thinking organization that prides itself on the pursuit of innovative public service, we also remember where we have come from. Given that 2014/15 marks one hundred years since the start of World War I, I am particularly proud of the work staff did to put together and deliver a series of programs to commemorate the beginning of this important time in Canadian history.

Lest We Forget workshops, delivered by Library staff, provide participants with a unique and enriched hands-on learning opportunity that deepens their understanding of Canada's role in World War I, and gives them an intimate look at the lives and experiences of local soldiers and nursing sisters who served at that time. To date, over 125 students at 3 schools have participated in the workshops, and the comments are positive and encouraging. Several more schools are scheduled this year. Funding for Lest We Forget is generously provided through the Cultural Opportunities for Youth Program. SSPL is grateful to Halifax Public Libraries for the use of their program materials.



CEO Troy Myers

Another program of note – and one of which I am personally proud – is our Seed Library. The Lunenburg County Seed Library is a free community seed project that is committed to increasing people's ability to grow their own fresh food. The project honours Lunenburg County's rich agricultural heritage, and promotes a culture of sharing by providing access to a collection of non-hybrid, non-GMO seeds that can be borrowed by members of the community. People grow the seeds and enjoy their harvest while letting a few plants return to seed. These seeds are returned to the library collection for the next growing season and can be borrowed by others! Hosted at the Margaret Hennigar Public Library, the Seed Library is supported by several of our local businesses and farmers. It fits nicely with SSPL's commitment to promoting sustainability while fostering an "act local, do-it-yourself" entrepreneurial spirit.

Lastly, the SSPL Board spent much time crafting policy to allow our library branches to work with Nova Scotian artists to help them promote their work and enrich our diverse communities. To kick off this new commitment to work with artists – with a big bang I might add – we hosted the opening ceremony for "Thundermaker", a multimedia art exhibit created by Alan Syliboy and other First Nations artists. The February ceremony featured a performance by Women of the Shore big drum group. Other programs celebrating Mi'kmaq culture were held throughout the month long exhibit, including drum making workshops, story times, film screenings, and a medicine tea and talk. The Thundermaker Exhibit has travelled to other libraries throughout the province.

These are just a few examples of the large variety of programming the library does. For a full look at what we have to offer please visit our website or drop in to your local branch and talk to one of our great information professionals.

Speaking of great staff, we recently bid farewell to two of the best. Wanda Kushner has retired after thirty-nine years of service and Cathy MacDonald retired after thirty-five years. Both were instrumental in building our library into what it is today. With almost eighty years of service between them we have a huge gap to fill. They are impossible to replace, and we will miss them as we carry on. On behalf of the entire SSPL Board of Directors, thanks Cathy and Wanda, and we wish you all the best as you enjoy the next chapter in your lives!

Troy Myers, Chief Librarian and CEO
South Shore Public Libraries

Margaret Hennigar Public Library

The Margaret Hennigar Public Library is well settled in our new digs in the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre (LCLC). Our collaboration with the LCLC on shared programming and cooperative ventures has been most rewarding.

We hosted and presented a diverse range of adult programs, some of which included: monthly lunch 'n learn sessions featuring local health practitioners; the popular Indie Film series; programs on waste management, edible landscaping, Alzheimer's Disease, Advance Care Planning, and Play Therapy; a book club; a presentation by the coordinator of a book about the history of local firefighters; an adult storyteller; a musical/storytelling duo; and the always-in-demand computer tutorials.

Author readings are always a highlight and this year we were pleased to welcome Dan Hennigar, Robert Mennel, Bart Walker, Ross Hebb, Quentin Casey, John O'Brien, and L. P. Suzanne Atkinson. We were thrilled to host the launch of Darren Greer's latest novel, *Just Beneath My Skin*, in the gallery of the LCLC.

An increase in hours for kids programming was welcomed by all and allows us to offer Saturday morning programming. Thanks to funding from the NS Government Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage we were able to offer two Art Jam camps in addition to the library's own Eureka Library Camp during the summer. Our March Break and Tech Camps were also very popular. Wednesday morning Story Time continues to anchor our kids programming. We also saw a significant increase in class visits and tours this year. Several schools arranged



March Break 2015; drawing by young borrower;
Drum Circle - Thundermaker Exhibit Launch, February 2015

bus trips to the facility and participated in a swim, library visit and games.

Partnerships with local initiatives strengthened our ties with several community organizations during the year, and led to some interesting programming opportunities. These included: the Bridgewater and Area Community Sustainability Network, Art Happening, the Growing Green Festival, and a local transition initiative. Thanks to the Incredible Edible program of the Bridgewater Community Garden Network and the support of the LCLC, we started a Community Garden behind the library.

Alan Syliboy's Thundermaker exhibit was a major highlight in February. A large crowd gathered in the LCLC gallery for opening ceremonies which featured the Women of the Shore drumming group. We used the three weeks of the exhibit as an opportunity to offer related programming: a Mi'kmaq Moons workshop, a drum-making workshop, Mi'kmaq story times, a film screening, and much more, as well as an exhibit featuring six local Mi'kmaq artists.

A new Art in the Library committee (with Library Board representation) has developed a set of guidelines for exhibits.

Volunteers play a key role in helping the branch work effectively. We value their work immensely, and thank them for their generosity.

Marion Moore
Branch Coordinator

Thomas H. Raddall Library

Liverpool Library continues its full schedule of successful programming. The children were entertained by the very capable Barbara Jones, who left us in the late summer. Holly Sweet has taken over the reins, and is working her magic to engage young minds.

Adult programs included author readings as well as information sessions on all things related to health. Programs pertaining to computers and information technology, for both young and old, were well attended. Demand for such offerings remains steady - "My kids gave me an e-reader for Christmas, what do I do with it?" You've got the device, we've got the program!

This year saw a tremendous influx of new materials – books, audio books, and DVDs. Staff continue to tweak our physical space, in an ongoing endeavor to create more innovative display areas.

Support for the South Shore Public Libraries annual Adopt-a-Book fundraiser remains buoyant. A thank you is extended to our many generous Queens patrons.

Thank you Liverpool staff for your hard work; together we are a team.

Wanda A. Kushner
Branch Coordinator



Teens LEGO Robotic Program, Thomas H. Raddall Library, 2014; Mobile Library, Mahone Bay, 2014; Children's Display, Dr. John C. Wickwire School, Liverpool, 2015

Mobile Library

Once again winter storms played havoc with our Mobile schedule, proving worse than last year! Patrons were extremely happy when the Mobile finally arrived at stops and they stocked up on books, magazines and videos before the next storm could hit.

We still visit the school in New Ross - a pilot project that has worked well for both parties. The vehicle underwent some bodywork in December and missed a week of road time.

Circulation continues to be healthy, thanks to the hard work of Dave and Crystal. Congratulations on another successful year for Mobile service in Lunenburg and Queens Counties!

Cathy MacDonald
Librarian

Alean Freeman Library

Winter and weather were the buzz words this year in Greenfield, where we lost numerous days due to school closures, plowing problems and lots of snow! Summer, on the other hand, was wonderful as our regular Library members enjoyed the branch and our visitors returned.

New materials were added to the collection, and our library volunteers continue to assist Ken weekly. Thank you, Ken, for your 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

Lunenburg Library

We are always working to make the Lunenburg Library a comfortable, welcoming destination for our members and visitors while also looking to best utilize our space and improve service. This year we installed new shelving for the growing DVD and audiobook collection, increased our displays of feature collections, and expanded our teen collection.

Inventing, designing, 3D-printing, building, nature exploration, games and dance, meditation, photography, and art-making - these were the summer and March Break activities that kept the kids busy (and the staff exhausted) this year, and we couldn't be happier!

Local author Jo Treggiari hosted a very successful teen book club; Friday afternoons were very lively with some intense literary discussion! We wish her great success in her new endeavour, Lexicon Books, and although we will miss the club (and the cookies) when they migrate to the store, we look forward to new partnering opportunities with Jo in the future.

We are now sporting an impressive papier-mache monster as part of our decor, built by the members of the Monster Madness after school club with guidance from new Children's Programmer Holly Sweet. This was a group effort all the way, from concept to construction to finished product, and it is truly spectacular!



iPad program, Lunenburg, 2015; Afterschool art, Lunenburg, 2014; Genealogy Talk, Lunenburg 2014;

Technology was huge this year - from one-on-one help, group Tech Talks and a workshop on preventing computer fraud for adults, to Lego Robotics, 3D-design and modelling workshops, and introductory programming classes for kids - and the public thirst for more continues to grow! Of particular note was the FutureBuild! Project. A partnership with Second Story Women's Centre, this was an 8-week workshop for preteens that focused on play-based, hands-on technology and teamwork activities.

We had a great year at the Lunenburg Library, and we haven't even talked about the author readings, genealogy workshops, history lectures, naturopathic seminars...

Jeff Mercer
Librarian

Outreach Services

Our partnership with local schools has grown significantly over the past year. It has been a pleasure to visit many SSRSB classrooms to showcase our eBook collection of services. While at school we have been able to promote other services and programs we provide and during this process several hundred students have either become new library members or renewed their cards. Last spring when local Grade 3 classes were taking part in the Lifesaving Societies Swim to Survive program it only took a few visits to the LCLC pool deck to convince teachers to add the Library to their itinerary and the kids keep on coming - we are now being added to the many class trip visit lists.

SSPL was fortunate with its partnership with Nova Scotia Community Access Program (NSCAP); funding was accessed to hire CAP Youth Initiative (YI) positions for both the summer and winter terms. During the summer the two Interns hosted several highly successful Student Technology Camps that focused on 3D-design and printing, robotics, coding, programming, and playing. Camps were held in Bridgewater, Liverpool and Lunenburg. The Interns were also able to provide one-on-one tech support in each branch. In the fall an Intern was hired to promote all things tech, based out of the Margaret Hennigar Branch, but hosting workshops and programs at all 3 branches. Highlights of this work placement included Wednesday Night Sketch Up, Electronic Touch Tank, and the children's after school program Futurebuild. Through CAPYI funds we were also able to have individual tech help sessions at each branch. The NSCAP network was successful in securing CIRA funding to teach tablet



*Pop up Library, Lunenburg; Robotics Camp, Bridgewater;
Summer Reading Program promotion, Upper Clements Park,
Summer 2014*

technology to seniors. We offered well-attended classes named "Hello iPad" and "Hello Android", as well as drop in sessions for help using tablets to borrow eBooks.

Our Pop Up Library had another fantastic summer season with invitations to attend events all over Lunenburg and Queens Counties. One of the highlights was being mobbed in the Galleria during the grand opening of the Lifestyle Centre. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery and I'm pleased to report that you might see a pop up library modeled on ours if you travel around many other parts of Nova Scotia this summer.

South Shore Public Libraries has a large number of valuable partnerships within our community. These partnerships take different forms, some formal and others informal and encompassing various sections of our community such as business, not-for-profit groups and charities. We believe that by forging vital links - by working with business, and by assisting other groups and organizations - we are helping build a strong vibrant community for all of us. Two of the new partnerships we have developed this year are with The Aging Well Together Coalition (AWT) and the Community Sector Council of Nova Scotia (CSC-NS). The Lunenburg Queens AWT concerns itself with making communities more age friendly and in promoting healthy aging in our area, while the CSC-NS helps provide training and education to non-profit & voluntary organizations as they contribute to the social, environmental, and economic needs of Nova Scotia. Over the year SSPL has been able to make significant contributions to both of these coalitions.

Christina Pottie
Outreach Coordinator

STATISTICS

CIRCULATION	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Alean Freeman (Greenfield)	4,206	3,375	2,821	2,676
Margaret Hennigar (Bridgewater)	75,479	73,501	92,380	111,095
Lunenburg	45,405	41,679	40,253	37,980
Mobile	65,042	67,479	69,165	67,916
T.H. Raddall (Liverpool)	39,578	35,518	37,411	32,193
Outreach Services	23,461	26,551	22,391	21,392
Overdrive (downloadable)	4,512	8,878	14,385	18,963
Total	257,683	256,981	278,806	292,215

INTERLIBRARY LOANS	2013-14	2014-15
Borrowed from other libraries	4,277	3,924
Lent to other libraries	2,907	2,882

INFORMATION REQUESTS	2013-14	2014-15
Alean Freeman (Greenfield)	414	375
Bridgewater	8,976	9,769
Lunenburg	3,136	3,155
Mobile	2,075	1,697
T.H. Raddall (Liverpool)	3,929	2,773
Total	18,530	17,769

SPECIFIC TITLE REQUESTS	2013-14	2014-15
Alean Freeman (Greenfield)	175	138
Bridgewater	16,185	16,992
Lunenburg	5,553	5,272
Mobile	19,365	20,125
T.H. Raddall (Liverpool)	5,424	4,992
Outreach Services	3,507	3,582
Overdrive holds (downloadable)	4,538	5,452
Total	54,747	56,553

STATISTICS

VISITS TO LIBRARIES	2013-14	2014-15
Alean Freeman (Greenfield)	1,152	672
Bridgewater	53,047	57,661
Lunenburg	21,829	17,787
Mobile	16,945	16,326
T.H. Raddall (Liverpool)	19,562	15,751
Total	103,820	108,197

OPEN HOURS	2013-14	2014-15
Alean Freeman (Greenfield)	288	291
Bridgewater	2,297.5	2,838
Lunenburg	2,420	2,407
Mobile	1,182.5	1,169
T.H. Raddall (Liverpool)	2,013	1,977
Outreach Services	1,234	2,016
Total	9435	10,698

STAFFING	2013-14	2014-15
Professional Librarians (FTE)	3	3
Non-professional staff (FTE)	16.5	16.5
Total (FTE - Full-time equivalents)	19.5	19.5

PROGRAMS	2013-14	2014-15
Alean Freeman (Greenfield)	7	-----
Bridgewater	167	280
Lunenburg	183	123
T.H. Raddall (Liverpool)	169	120
Other	1	-----
Total	527	523

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE	2013-14	2014-15
Alean Freeman (Greenfield)	14	-----
Bridgewater	2,213	2,634
Lunenburg	860	744
T.H. Raddall (Liverpool)	987	650
Other	52	-----
Total	4,126	4,028

COLLECTION EXPENDITURES (adult and children)	2013-14	2014-15
Audiovisual materials	50,160	*
Books (fiction and non-fiction)	190,096	*
Magazines and serials	12,498	*
Total	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/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/SSRL-Audit-2014-15.pdf>