NOVA SCOTIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

Sept. 1                  Beginning of fiscal year
Sept. 15 - Oct. 30      4.  Board of Directors meeting
                        Annual General Meeting
                        (a) Election of officers
                        (b) Financial statement from Financial Examiner
                        (c) Payment of dues
                        (d) Annual report of committees

Oct. 30 - Dec. 14       Fall membership drive
Nov. 15                 Newsletter copy deadline (Fall Issue)
                        (a) Summary report of AGM
                        (b) Conference workshop reports and “What’s New”
                        (c) President’s message
                        (d) Membership renewal form

Nov. 30                 Newsletter mailing deadline
                        Committees formed and President notified of committee members
                        1.  Board of Directors meeting deadline
                        2.  Feb. 28                  Newsletter copy deadline (Winter Issue)
                        (a) President’s message
                        (b) News from Committees
                        (c) Request for “What’s New” copy for Spring issue

March 15                Newsletter mailing deadline
March 1                 Program Committee proposed Conference plans
March 31                2.  Board of Directors meeting deadline
April 30                Newsletter copy deadline (Spring Issue)
                        (a) President’s Report
                        (b) News from Committees
                        (c) Articles
                        (d) Nomination ballots

May 15                  Newsletter mailing deadline
June 15                 Final program for Conference submitted to Executive
                        Proposed budget submitted to Executive
June 30                 3.  Board of Directors meeting deadline
August 1                Newsletter copy deadline (Summer Issue)
                        (a) President’s Message and final report
                        (b) Conference program
                        (c) Draft of any proposed bylaws amendments
                        (d) Budget for upcoming year
                        (e) Membership renewal form
                        (f) Nominations ballots
                        (g) Annual Reports from all Board members
                        (h) Other news

August 20               Newsletter mailing deadline
August 31               Deadline for submission of NSLA expenses to Treasurer
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PRESIDENTS REPORT

These are exciting times! Questions of collaboration, evaluation, Association effectiveness and our ability to respond to issues in a timely fashion are all on the table.

We (you the member and I the chair) are very fortunate to have the Board serving that we do. They are thoughtful, energetic and open-minded but unfortunately over-worked. Our Board meeting last Friday was our first attempt to improve Board governance process. How does a Board meeting using policy governance look any different from any other Board meeting?

Well, we circulate all reports ahead of time and only refer to the report if a Board decision is needed. We identify whether we are doing staff (means) work or Board (ends) work during each discussion and react accordingly. If doing staff work (ie. we all work as unpaid staff by chairing committees between Board meetings and carrying out the work of the Board/Association), we ask the committee to do the research and make a recommendation to the Board. If we are doing Board work, we create policy if we have enough information.

Last meeting, we drafted our first two policies to respond to a newsletter request for input. Hurray for the Board! We are underway using our new model. Whether or not we continue will depend on the results that we obtain. If it makes us more effective and accountable, we will continue.

I hope that the Board will agree to have all reports available on the home page so that you the membership know exactly what's going on at any given moment. Transparency is important.

I am thankful to Lisa Pinet for writing and securing a grant for the NSLA from Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions administered by the Canadian Library Association. We received eight weeks funding (and the Board voted to extend the grant to ensure it's success) to better utilize the Internet in the Association's day-to-day functioning. It's an exciting project because it also entails providing an Archival history of the Association's affairs online - all in an effort to provide the membership with as much information as possible.

I am thankful for Heather MacKenzie for her report drafting guidelines for an Award of Merit and criteria for Honorary Members - I hope this can be circulated over the Discussion List for input.

I am thankful for Lynne LeGrow's continued diligence on developing the home page and for Gillian Webster at Provincial for posting changes each week.

I am thankful for Teresa, Lynn and Peggy’s diligence and their conference committees in preparing yet another wonderful line-up of workshops and opportunities for interaction for this year's conference at White Point in October.

I am thankful for the many unmentioned others who continue to provide kindness, guidance, humour and their energy. Your support is heartfelt and inspiring.
I am thankful for all those who contribute freely of their time to help advance the goals of the Association. And I urge everyone involved or interested in libraries to join the Association and "jump in". The Board will be trying valiantly to offer opportunities for involvement - small ways to make a contribution without feeling overwhelmed.

I am thankful for other library groups like LBANS, APLA and CLA for courageously debating the issues of collaboration between organizations at their upcoming conferences. The challenges are many - but together, I feel confident that we can advance the library profession provincially and nationally.

Our challenges are many. Funding cuts force us to research why the library profession is worth protecting. Work challenges us to find ways to rise above the daily quota of demands to ponder the larger issues and find support for ourselves in our work.

I will be advising our Board to review how we operate as an Association to best serve you, our members. I will be asking that we review our Board composition. I will argue that we might wish to consider that the treasurer be a paid/stipend position next year (this is staff work, not policy). That finance change to fundraising. That training and strategic planning committees be created. This will provide the membership with more opportunities for service. We must be creative in how we operate together - whether it be by email, phone or face-to-face. There will be costs involved and we must continue to grow our membership. I hope that we will do that by offering you good value for your membership dollar. Where else can you get this kind of return for your money - certainly NSLA work rates higher than the cost of attending a movie with a bag of popcorn!

I end this message asking you to ask others to join the Association. We need everybody's active participation to be effective. I welcome all your comments. You have a very hard-working Board representing you - please be supportive by asking other's to join. Offer your comments freely. Join us on the playing field - because whether or not we win each "game" is not the point. We can still enjoy each other's company. We can still learn something new each day to both further our work in our workplace or in our personal lives. We can open new doors and energize ourselves. We can walk the path less taken. We can enrich our lives by meeting one another and sharing our experiences.

Getting involved today, will provide rich memories for you tomorrow.

I look forward to this year's conference which provides such a wonderful venue to rub shoulders with those all over the province. Many founders, former Board members, committee workers and interested individuals congregate each year to exchange viewpoints on how we advance the aims of the NSLA and libraries. I look forward to seeing them. They are our library family. We celebrate together and mourn together. We fight for what's good for the family and for what may be beneficial for the community as we see it from our unique perspective.

Come join the library family. Everyone benefits from shared community. And I particularly look forward to discovering your gifts!
Ron Bulmer, NSLA president
What’s New
ANNAPOlis VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY

CAP
The Community Access Program (CAP) proposal submitted in October 1999 has been approved. This proposal was developed in partnership with the Career Resource Centre in Kentville and will assist the Resource Centre to be open for public Internet access during some evening and weekend hours. Our Kentville Branch will receive two additional workstations complete with wiring and furniture.

We are also a partner in a CAP proposal which has been approved for the Bridgetown Development Centre. This proposal will see a training lab established in the same building as our headquarters office.

Bridgetown Development Centre

Gates Library Initiative
The Gates Library Initiative has been progressing very well. The total value of additional equipment to our branch libraries is $69,373.00. Included in the equipment we have received are 20 software packages for children, 7 reference products and 6 of the Microsoft Productivity packages.

Installation of the new equipment is slated for April with Port Williams branch hosting the first launch of the program on May 10, 2000.

Port Williams Community Centre/FireHall/Library
Open House Celebrations

As mentioned above the Port Williams branch will launch the Gates program in our region. On this date the change in service delivery for the region will also be promoted. In addition to the installation of the Gates equipment each branch will have at least one Reference Express terminal. These workstations will offer quick access to reference tools and the library’s catalogue, as well as many other services. Patron initiated holds and the submission of requests via the Internet will also be launched at this time. The final change in service to be introduced at this time is access to the Infotrac databases outside the library facilities by using library cards.

Branch News

Monthly Scrabble Fests continue in the Community Room at the Wolfville Memorial Library. This has become very popular with people of all ages bringing scrabble boards for a Saturday afternoon and enjoying hot drinks.

On March 19th a launch of Harry Thurston’s new Book, *If Men Lived on Earth*, published by Gaspereau Press took place the Wolfville Memorial Library. The author was on hand to read from this new work of poetry.

A Dr. Seuss Pancake Breakfast was held on March 25th (during March Break) to raise funds for the Friends of the Windsor Regional Library Society. The breakfast was accompanied by readings from Dr. Seuss books. Thanks to the Atlantic Superstore who offered space and food.

Marliese Kirby

Wolfville Memorial Library

Windsor Library
THE IMPACT OF PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTERS

EASTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY

The impact of public access computers is being strongly felt in the Eastern Counties region. Last year, in Sherbrooke village alone, over 4,700 ½-hour sessions were booked on the library’s public and CAP computers. The number of Internet sessions in all 7 branch libraries has increased dramatically over last year, in some cases as much as 85%. Over 19,000 ½-hour sessions were booked in our 7 small branch libraries.

Residents in small communities such as Canso, Margaree Forks or Mulgrave are discovering the ease with which they can search the online catalogue and the wealth of information available in the online periodicals and reference texts which the provincial public library consortium subscribes to. Without leaving their community, residents have access to up to date and comprehensive information resources. In the more remote communities such as Ecum Secum or Pleasant Bay, where there is no library, residents at their local CAP site, are being initiated to the use of the e-mail request form. More and more patrons are regularly sending in their book and subject requests and receiving reading materials directly through the mail.

The presence of technology in our communities is giving distance access to library services to many avid readers who previously had little or no library access. But, readers also like to look at books; to browse through books; to discuss books; kids need to be read to; to be surrounded by books. Reluctant readers need to be encouraged. As a first step in this process, the library is moving into the smaller communities with its library programs. Partnering with local groups, the library is presenting author tours, family reading programs and children’s reading activities in several small communities without close access to a public library.

Linda Travis
CUMBERLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY

Events & Publicity

Amherst will play host to the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (LBANS) on the Weekend of May 12. Events will include a Library Advocacy workshop and panel discussions on the Relationships Between Public and School Libraries and on Censorship and the Public Library.

Amherst Branch Library
Four Fathers Memorial Library

Programs

CURL has featured a number of events over the past few months including:

A Chocolate Day was held in honor of Valentine’s Day where children learned how chocolate is made and had a chance to sample some selections.

A Resume Writing and Interview Skills workshop conducted by Sue Lemon from the Mount Allison Human Resource Department

Future programs will include a Magic Show with Al Bernard, a Spring Craft Fair and Author readings featuring Elaine Breault Hammond and Lesley Choyce.

Community Partnerships

Springhill has now joined Amherst and River Hebert as a CAP site. The official opening took place on Thursday March 16. Springhill has divided their 5 Pentium III 500 computers between the Community College library and the Branch library. Their web page can be found at http://www.town.springhill.ns.ca

Keith MacKinnon
HALIFAX REGIONAL LIBRARY

Two New Branches in the Future for the Halifax Regional Library

The Halifax Regional Library has two new branch libraries slated to open in 2001. The Keshen Goodman Public Library and the a new branch in the Tantallon area of Halifax Regional Municipality. The Tantallon branch is scheduled to open January 2001. This library is proposed as a free standing building in the Tantallon Plaza, similar in size and layout to the Sackville Public Library.

Design of the Keshen Goodman Public Library is well underway. This branch of the Halifax Regional Library is designed to replace the Thomas Raddall Public Library which no longer meets the needs of a growing community. The 25,000 square foot library is funded through a bequest from Marion Keshen in memory of the Keshen Goodman family.

A 69,000 square foot Recreation Facility will also be located on the site with the library. The two new facilities will be located on a selected 6-acre site at the eastern entrance to the Mainland Commons property in the Clayton Park area of Halifax. The new single level library will have a collection capacity of over 100,000 volumes and improved access to public use computers, including a family computer area. The building will be composed of two parts: a carpeted main hall with 18-foot high ceilings, and an entry wing. The entry wing will have stone floors and café area with fireplace. An adult reading lounge will be located at the north end, facing Lacewood Drive and the children’s area will be located at the south end with views of a wooded area. The new library will have three meeting rooms with state-of-the-art audio-visual infrastructure and a computer training classroom.

Clearing of the site will begin this spring with construction to follow by September 2000. The scheduled date for opening of the Keshen Goodman Public Library is fall 2001. To keep up to date on the Keshen Goodman Public Library Project watch for a new link coming soon to the Halifax Regional Library website: [www.chebucto.ns.ca/Libraries/HCRL/HalifaxLibrary Home.html](http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Libraries/HCRL/HalifaxLibrary Home.html)

Roseann Cove
Adopt-A-Book 2000 Off to a Great Start!

The sounds of the jazz/swing quartet Chimera, The Ray Muise Trio, and karaoke performer Maria Bridgeo, heralded the regional launch of Adopt-A-Book 2000 at the Yarmouth branch library on Friday, April 7th. Launch day opened with 166 books adopted. On April 28th, just three weeks into the campaign, the bookmetre registered 500 adoptions. The dollar value of the books adopted to date stands at $9795.55. The average price of each book is $19.60. The goal of Adopt-A-Book, sponsored by CJLS, is to have 1000 books adopted by June 30th.

Major donations on opening day included $1000.00 from the Shelburne Friends of the Library Group, combined donations from Friends groups in Lockeport, Clark’s Harbour, Pubnico, & Clare totaled over $1000.00, and the Pubnico Community Centre donated $500.00. The library received many early adoptions as a result of a pre-campaign mail-out.

The bookmetre will take a leap this month when a collection of large print books, purchased with funds donated by the Tri County Labour Council, will be added. The Labour Council has donated $2,800. (not yet included in the above campaign dollar amount) in memory of former Yarmouth staff member David Glover.

You can check out the weekly progress of Adopt-A-Book on our bookmetre by logging on to our web site at http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca/regionals/wcr/index/html
Cap Site Approved

Funding for the CAP site for the Pubnico library has been approved. This brings to seven the number of CAP sites across the region. An application has been made to the Nova Scotia Technology & Science Secretariat & Industry Canada for a CAP site for the Clare branch in Meteghan.

Read On-line Magazines from Home!

Library card holders, with Internet access, can now tap into thousands of magazines from home simply by logging on to the Western Counties Regional Library web site (http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca/regionals/wcr/index.html), select Magazines, and enter the 14 digits of your library card at the prompt.

Progress on Regional Computer Lab

The regional computer lab, located in the Yarmouth branch library, is nearing completion. All desks and computers have been installed. Systems Administrator Scott MacMullen and Automation Technician, Verna DeViller are busy testing software and ensuring that everything will run smoothly for a mid-June opening of what will be formally called the Gates Computer Lab. The official launch will take place in September.
Recognition for Heritage Web Site

The Yarmouth Community Heritage website (http://www.yarmouthheritage.org/) has been nominated as one of 10 Best Practices by Library Net. The website features the Collins St. area, which consists of thirty-one homes built in the 19th century. The area was recognized as a provincial historic district in 1997.

Western Counties Regional Library, in partnership with the local heritage committee is using funding obtained from Industry Canada to add in-depth information on each of the houses in the district to the Yarmouth Community Heritage website. The library also plans to develop a virtual walking tour of Collins St.

Paulette Sweeney-Goodwin
Public Relations Manager
Library and Information Technology Program Nova Scotia Community College

Did you know that you could study for a Library and Information Technology diploma over the web? The Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) offers its complete 21-course program via distance education. Students, who must have access to the web and e-mail, can study where and when they want, although assignments and courses must be completed within certain deadlines. Assignments are submitted via e-mail and we use a web board provided by the NSCC Virtual Campus for class discussions and presentations.

Distance delivery of the Program began in the early 1990s using audio graphics packages, a combination of teleconferencing and computer graphics. As the technology improved we quickly moved through three systems provided by the Learning Resources and Technology Division of the Department of Education: Vis-à-vis, Smart 2000, and FarSite. In the fall of 1999 we changed to web-based delivery, which provides more flexibility in where and when students study and allows delivery of the Program outside Nova Scotia.

There are approximately seventy-five people enrolled in the distance education program. Most are from Nova Scotia but we have representatives from all Atlantic Provinces and from as far away as Labrador. Most registrants are already working in libraries or related institutions. Courses currently underway are Business Communications in Libraries, Popular Literature and Records Management II. Beginning in September 2000 we will offer five courses in each of the fall, winter and summer trimesters. It takes 5–7 years to complete the Program this way if a student takes one course per term.

The first graduates of the distance education program received their diplomas in 1998. Eight people have graduated so far and there are a number of students nearing graduation. To learn more about the program visit our web site temporarily located at http://home.istar.ca/~allegrow/Programindex.htm and to see all the campus locations, go to http://www.nscc.ns.ca/lrc/campus.htm.
Community Access Program (CAP) Conference

A CAP conference took place March 31 and April 1 at the Kespuwick Training Centre at Cornwallis Park in the Annapolis Valley. The Annapolis/Digby Regional CAP Coordinator, Victor Mutch, was the MC. The program featured many interesting sessions. Sharon Elliot delivered a session on Internet Safety, discussing how the RCMP Seniors Safety Program was implemented in May of 1996 to help keep seniors safe and healthy in their own homes. The program focuses on prevention by empowering seniors to access and use information to become security conscious and alert consumers. Mike Durkee spoke on the topic "Accessing Consumer Health Information via the WWW." Several speakers addressed the sustainability of CAP sites. Sandra Rowter put it this way, "Sustainability is an issue that all organizations have to deal with, and usually it boils down to money. Coming up with new ideas for fund raising is always a challenge." Walter Miller and Bill Heppell of the Port Mouton newly established CAP discussed how they hope to achieve sustainability of the Port Mouton site by using a user pay system and explained their partnership with the White Point Beach Resort. Michael Colborne introduced the conference. To read more about this conference, please visit the website at http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/page.works/confer/textpage/confer.html.

CED Conference
Promoting Libraries in Community Economic Development (CED)

Recently in Sydney, Nova Scotia there was a Community Economic Development (CED) conference called “Taking Root, Communities Standing on Solid Ground.” The 215 participants were from all four Atlantic Provinces and represented many organizations such as seniors groups, CAP sites, Rural Development Associations (RDA) and co-operatives from communities in rural and coastal areas. Wendy Robichaud, Community Liaison Officer with the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library, recently attended this first Annual Conference on Community Development sponsored by the Nova Scotia Citizens for Community Development Society, and sent the following report.

Partnerships with CED and Public Libraries

During most lectures at the conference it was possible to relate something to libraries, their unique service to communities or to their link with information and technology. Community Economic Development (CED) is a broad approach to various kinds of people-related, organizational and business relationships that create sustainability within all sizes of communities. This is a growing field of study and work relationships in Nova Scotia, in which libraries can play a vital role. The libraries have many of the basics for the CED process already in place such as library branches throughout the province and trained research staff that are part of their community. A branch in any community adds an infusion of wages; it buys locally when possible; and is an added community value to businesses looking to establish in a new location - all of which benefits the local economy.
Libraries have been supporters of family literacy, small businesses and information through technology which are three critical themes in CED. Certificate and diploma courses, which are available to public library staff, are being offered throughout Nova Scotia and once a proposal is written, costs are often covered by Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC). With CED as an established working model between government and communities, it would be appropriate for libraries to consider this approach when the branches are seeking opportunities to meet the needs of the diverse communities they serve.

In conclusion, there is more work to be done in the future for presentations on libraries working with CED so that libraries can become a recognized ingredient of community economic development since libraries are very much part of the process but not yet well acknowledged.

**Nova Scotia Provincial Library News**

**Nova Scotia's Summer Reading Programme Update**

Since 1993 the Nova Scotia Summer Reading Programme has encouraged young readers, from every age group - pre-schoolers to age seventeen. It's broken into three age categories: pre-school to age six; seven to nine; and ten and up. The programme is coordinated each year by the Council on Youth Services, which is comprised of representatives from each of the nine regional public libraries, and the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. In the summer of 1999 about 8,500 young people across Nova Scotia participated in reading programme activities.

"Each region runs its own individual program," says Arlene Watts, special services library assistant with the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, part of the Department of Education. "Students read a certain number of books, then they get to submit a form to the provincial library, and we draw for prizes."

Those prizes include a "bag of books" supplied for the past five years by Tattletales Books, and the prize book are tied to each year's theme, and the draw is coordinated with International Literacy Day. The theme of this year's programme is sailing and the Tall Ships. Students can obtain books at any one of the 75 branches of the nine Regional Public libraries. The official kick-off week for Nova Scotia's Summer Reading Programme begins June 26.

**Staffing Notes**

Shirley MacLeod began April 3 as Assistant Automation Specialist replacing Michael Vandenburg. Shirley recently completed a year long position as Media Librarian for Learning Resources & Technology. Prior to that, she was at the Halifax Campus, Nova Scotia Community College where she was employed as a Librarian and also as an Instructor in the Library Technician Program.

Frank Streicher started to revamp the old Hackmatack Web Site at the beginning of April. He is expected to finish the project by the end of May, at which time he will return to his e-commerce consulting business. Before his switch to the IT field, Frank worked as a free-lance translator...
after lecturing for a number of years at Dalhousie University.
**Where are they now?**

This is the first in a new series which will introduce some of the people who work or have worked in the Nova Scotia regional public library system over the years. If you would like to see someone in profile (who works or has worked in any capacity in the regional public library system), please give us your suggestions! Contact Gillian Webster at webstegs@gov.ns.ca or phone: 902-424-2478.

Our first feature is on Donna Bourne-Tyson, who used to be a librarian at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. Donna now lives on the south shore of Lake Nipissing, near Callander, Ontario. She spends most of her time sailing, kayaking, canoeing, roller-blading and cross-country skiing with her husband Jonathan. They are the proud parents of three cats, Newt, Larry and Moe. When duty calls, she is the Systems Manager and Head of AV & Reference at the North Bay Public Library. Lately she’s been working on special projects with the City of North Bay such as smart communities, urban CAP, digitization projects and a virtual city hall initiative. Committee work includes being a councillor for OLITA (part of the Ontario Library Association or OLA), treasurer for the Nipissing CAP Site Network, and serving on the board of governors for Nipissing University. Donna and Jonathan both miss many things about Nova Scotia including the people, the ocean, good fiddle music and lobster that isn’t $18.00 a pound!

**LINKed (very topical!)**

Since Halifax is one of the ports of call in the exciting Tall Ships 2000 race this summer, some useful sites are featured in this month's Linked column in anticipation of a demand for more information! Tall Ships 2000 Nova Scotia at [http://www.tallships2000.ns.ca](http://www.tallships2000.ns.ca) has a list of events in Halifax from July 20th to 24th when the tall ships will be in port and *The Ship's Log* section has a guide to the different types of tall ships. Tall Ships 2000: The Tall Ships race of the Century is the official site at [http://www.tallships2000.com](http://www.tallships2000.com) where you can find a race map and schedule. A live race map is featured and visitors to the site can follow the race on a daily basis by clicking on a map. This site also has a list of all the vessels taking part in the race.

The Adventures at Sea site at [http://tqjunior.thinkquest.org/6169/](http://tqjunior.thinkquest.org/6169/) was created by elementary school students. It has information on clipper ships of the 1800s and children can learn about sailor knots, sea shanties, ship navigation equipment, sailors' crafts and sailing terminology here. There is a quiz which visitors can take to test their nautical knowledge and a bibliography about sailing and clipper ships.

The American Sail Training Association at [http://tallships.sailtraining.org/](http://tallships.sailtraining.org/) has a *Ships and Events* section where there is a listing of over 225 vessels with links to some ships' web sites. For example the Bluenose II has a web site at [http://www.bluenose2.ns.ca/](http://www.bluenose2.ns.ca/) as does the "HMS" Rose at [http://www.tallshiprose.org/](http://www.tallshiprose.org/)

To get the feel of being on a tall ship visit the Tall Ship Adventure at [http://www.t-o.com/into/voyage/](http://www.t-o.com/into/voyage/) where you can take a virtual voyage aboard a 50-tonne Tall Ship.
The Sailing Page by Mark Rosenstein at [http://www.apparent-wind.com/sailing-page.html](http://www.apparent-wind.com/sailing-page.html) has a Tall Ships section which lists web sites for tall ships and related organizations. Other highlights are links to fulltext books about sea adventures in the *Online Sailing Texts* section and an extensive listing of Maritime Museums Online. Unfortunately not all of the links worked at the time of writing.

The Schooner Man site at [http://www.schoonerman.com/](http://www.schoonerman.com/) features an alphabetical listing of tall ships with information and links to their web pages as well as Schooner & Sailing Terms.

Tall Ships Books at [http://www.tallshipsbooks.com/](http://www.tallshipsbooks.com/) is an online bookstore with books on nautical fiction and maritime and naval history. There is a monthly online newsletter, Bowsprit, an author/title search page and biographical information on some popular authors with links to web sites about them such as the C.S. Forrester Society site at [http://www.csforester.org](http://www.csforester.org).

Previous "Linked" columns can be found in a file on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at [http://www.library.ns.ca/provlib/brochure/refser.html](http://www.library.ns.ca/provlib/brochure/refser.html). If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at [morrisca@gov.ns.ca](mailto:morrisca@gov.ns.ca).

Gillian Webster
The upcoming Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Conference is scheduled to take place at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, May 25-28, 2000. Entitled, Talking About People, the conference will focus primarily on the needs of library staff. You can expect a wide variety of programming including sessions on active participant learning, ergonomics, digital projects, electronic reference services, and professional development issues.

From the opening keynote address by Stephen Coffman, Director FYI, County of Los Angeles Public Library to the Banquet and Dance where you’ll enjoy the rousing music of Kilt and all points in between, this Conference promises to be enlightening, informative, and fun.

Learn more about Talking About People and find registration information by visiting http://libmain.stfx.ca/apla2000/welcome.htm

See you in Antigonish!!

Cathy Chisholm
ATLANTIC PROVINCES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Vice President - Nova Scotia
As we strive to make our services open to everyone, it is often our physical plants that need adjustment to suit the needs of the community. A case in point: our 32-year old cement ramp at the Truro Branch was too steep and had seriously deteriorated over the years. Now our main branch has a new wooden ramp with handrails and a door that opens with the push of a button. As is often the case, we did not know how great a problem it had been for some of our patrons until after we had done the work and received a great deal of positive feedback on the improved accessibility.

The spring 2000 issue of the magazine In2 Print announced the winners of the Canada Book Day Poster Contest. Organizers were amazed to receive thousands of entries from all regions of Canada, each celebrating a favourite Canadian book or series of books. Jaya Fahey, a student who works in our Truro Branch, submitted a poster on Kit Pearson’s Guests of War Trilogy and won honorable mention!

Wendy Robichaud

Truro Branch
HACKMATACK CHILDREN’S CHOICE BOOK AWARD, 2000

The Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award will have a fitting finale to its first season. The winners will be announced at the official Hackmatack Award Ceremony on May 20, 2000. The event will be held at the Alderney Landing Theatre in Dartmouth, with the participation from both authors and their young audiences. Children in more than four hundred reading groups across Atlantic Canada have cast votes for their favourite books from this year's nomination list. Their votes will decide the two Hackmatack Award recipients of the year - one in each fiction and non-fiction categories.

Hackmatack-nominated authors from Newfoundland, Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island will be arriving in Nova Scotia during the week of the ceremony to join local writers in tours to participating communities. Over a thousand Hackmatack readers in more than thirty selected schools and libraries will listen to their favourite authors read from Hackmatack-nominated books.

A book award in which children act as both audience and critics is a new concept to Atlantic Canada. In its first year, the program has been embraced by hundreds of schools, libraries and community groups in all four provinces. "A very worthwhile project," notes teacher Barbara Dickson from Bel Ayr School in Dartmouth, "one of my reluctant readers was highly motivated by this program. Thanks for taking the time to create this opportunity for students and to provide support for teachers to become involved with minimal effort!"

The Hackmatack Committee hopes to attract even more readers in the upcoming year of the award. Our current Hackmatack readers as well as new groups who join the program will be given the opportunity to examine twenty newly nominated titles for the 2001 Hackmatack Award. These books will be read in participating reading groups beginning in the Fall, 2000 through to Spring, 2001.

During this initial year, the project has stirred a great amount of interest all over Atlantic Canada.
Frances Newman, Chief Librarian for Cumberland Regional Library in Amherst says, "the choice of books was great. In my group the children particularly enjoyed 'Wings to Fly', by Celia Barker Lottridge." From Coles Island School in New Brunswick, teacher Alison MacArthur writes "We really enjoyed participating in this exploration of Canadian literature. We have already started tracking down the books for next year!"

For more information contact:
Monika Sormova, 424-3774, E-mail: sormovam@gov.ns.ca
or Carole Compton-Smith, 424-2481, E-mail: comptoca@gov.ns.ca
An Atlantic Children Choice Book Award
The Hackmatack Shortlist 2001

FICTION

*Mikayla’s Victory*
by Cynthia Bates
James Lorimer, 1998
1-55028-638-2 paper $8.95
1-55028-639-0 cloth $16.95

*Dragonfire*
by Karleen Bradford
HarperCollins, 1997
0-00-648065-9 paper $12.95
0-00-648180-9 mass market $5.99

*The Other Author Arthur*
by Sheree Fitch
Pottersfield Press, 1999
1-895900-20-4 paper $9.95

*Explosion at Dawson Creek*
by Elaine Breault Hammond
Ragweed, 1998
0-921556-75-6 paper $7.95

*The Secret of Gabi’s Dresser*
by Kathy Kacer
Second Story, 1999
1-896764-15-0 paper $6.95

*Miracle at Willowcreek*
by Annette LeBox
Second Story, 1998
1-896764-04-5 paper $7.95

*Sunwing*
by Kenneth Oppel
HarperCollins, 1999
0-00-648166-3 paper $14.95

*Boy of the Deeps*
by Ian Wallace
Douglas & McIntyre, 1999
0-88899-356-0 cloth $16.95

*The Hydrofoil Mystery*
by Eric Walters
Viking/Penguin Canada, 1999
0-14130-220-8 paper $6.99
0-670-88186-4 cloth $22.99

*The Cat That Barked*
by Budge Wilson
Pottersfield Press, 1998
1-895900-17-4 paper $7.95
NON-FICTION

A Barnyard Bestiary
by David Bouchard
Orca, 1999
1-55143-131-9 cloth $17.95

Bald Eagles
series The Untamed World
by Karen Dudley
Weigl, 1998
0-91879-94-2 paper $12.95

Circus
by Linda Granfield
Douglas & McIntyre, 1997
0-88899-292-0 cloth $19.95

Muslim Child
by Rukhsana Khan
Napoleon, 1999
0-929141-61-X cloth $13.50

Alexander Graham Bell: An Inventive Life
by Elizabeth MacLeod
Kids Can Press, 1999
1-55074-458-5 paper $6.95
1-55074-456-9 cloth $16.95

Blue Whales
series The Untamed World
by Patricia Miller-Schroeder
Weigl, 1998
0-91879-93-4 paper $12.95

52 Days by Camel: My Sahara Adventure
by Lawrie Raskin with Debora Pearson
Annick Press, 1998
1-55037-518-0 paper $14.95
1-55037-519-9 cloth $24.95

Graveyards of the Dinosaurs
by Shelley Tanaka
Scholastic, 1998
0-590-12447-1 paper $7.99
0-590-12446-3 cloth $

By Truck to the North: My Arctic Adventure
by Andy Turnbull with Debora Pearson
Annick Press, 1998
1-55037-550-4 paper $14.95
1-55037-551-2 cloth $24.95

The Inuksuk Book
by Mary Wallace
Owl Books, 1999
1-895688-91-4 paper $12.95
1-895688-90-6 cloth $19.95
The Halifax Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College offers a two year diploma in ‘Library and Information Technology’. For more information see URL: http://www.nscc.ns.ca/programs/LibraryandInformationTechnology.html

The Library and Information Technology Program is offered by both Halifax Campus and Kingstec Campus in Kentville. Beginning next year, the program is consolidating to the Halifax Campus. Kingstec will end their September enrollment in the program, and this year’s first year class will graduate from Kingstec in June, 2001. Faculty member, Harvey Ratchford, will relocate to Halifax beginning with the 2001-2002 academic year.

The program is also offered via the WWW for distance education students. Current Internet-based courses include:

- Popular Literature
- Records Management II
- Business Communications in Libraries

The next trimester begins May 29, 2000 and will include:

- Information Services I
- History of Western Civilization
- Subject Cataloguing

Also, for those students within traveling distance to the Halifax Metro area, a Psychology course is available through ‘face-to-face’ part-time studies.

For more information on the Library and Information Technology courses offered via distance education, visit URL: http://home.istar.ca/~allegrow/Programindex.htm

To register for the web-based courses, call: (902) 491-4911.
Tuition is $255, per course (not including texts).
Deadline for registration: May 1, 2000.
NOTE: Please ensure that you provide your e-mail address with your registration.

Lynne LeGrow
Canadian Poetry Archive

The National Library of Canada is happy to announce the launch of the Canadian Poetry Archive, a digitized collection of English and French Canadian poetry dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries. It features over 1,500 poems by more than 100 early Canadian poets and includes biographies of some of this period’s more prominent poets.

The Canadian Poetry Archive can be found at:
http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/canvers

or through the Canadian Literature Research Service site at:
http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/services/eclrs.htm

CLA’s Conference Program

CLA’s conference program is online -- plus you will find new career opportunities across Canada and abroad... details about Information Rights Week... and more What's New for Libraries. Visit us today at http://www.cla.ca
Nomination Forms

NSLA invites nominations for the following positions on the Board of Directors: Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Bylaws, Finance, Newsletter, Information & Publicity, Nominations, Membership, and Conference Planning Convenor.

Form A (when nominating yourself)
_____________________________, as a member of good standing of the Nova Scotia Library Association would like to run for the office of ______________________ for the 2000-2001 term.
Signed:__________________________
Address:__________________________
Date:____________________________

Form B (when nominating another person - both parts of form B must be completed)

Part I:
_____________________________, as a member in good standing of the Nova Scotia Library Association nominate _____________________________ for the office of _________________ for the 2000-2001 term.
Signed:__________________________
Address:__________________________
Date:____________________________

Part II:
_____________________________, as a member in good standing of the Nova Scotia Library Association agrees to be nominated for the office of __________________________ for the 2000-2001 term.
Signed:__________________________
Address:__________________________
Date:____________________________

Send ballots to: Patricia Lee
Western Counties Regional Library
405 Main Street, Yarmouth, NS
B5A 1G3
(902) 742-2486 (902) 742-6920 (fax)
pat@wcrl.library.ns.ca