

BULLETIN  
of the  
MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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New Brunswick Library Association Formed

The need for better library service in almost every area of New Brunswick has long been apparent. In 1929 the Public Libraries Act was passed. In the early 1930's the New Brunswick Library Commission investigated the matter and produced a report. Owing to the cuts in government expenditure being made at that time on account of the depression, no action was taken.

About three years ago the subject of regional libraries for the Province was revived informally by New Brunswick members of the Maritime Library Association. Considerable study and thought were given to this matter and a number of discussions were held. It gradually became apparent that, to further the objects they had in mind, New Brunswick librarians would have to form an organization of their own.

A meeting, with Mrs. Marjorie Thompson, Head Librarian of the University of New Brunswick, in the chair, was held in the Bonar Law-Bennett Library of the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton on November 14, 1951. Librarians from various parts of the Province attended. With the help of Miss Elizabeth Morton, Executive Secretary of the Canadian Library Association, the New Brunswick Library Association was formed.

Maurice Boone, Head of the Legislative Library, was elected President while Robert Rogers, Assistant Librarian of the University of New Brunswick, was chosen Secretary.

A Committee to assist in preparing a Constitution was formed. Its members are: Mr. Boone; Mr. Rogers; Mrs. Hugh John Flemming, Juniper; Rev. Father René Baudry, St. Joseph's University Library; Mrs. J. G. Hart, Saint John Free Public Library; Miss Elaine Malloy, Teachers' College Library; Miss Elizabeth Condon, Moncton Public Library; and Mrs. Marjorie Thompson, University of New Brunswick Library.

All members expressed the wish to work in closest co-operation with the Canadian Library Association and the Maritime Library Association. The exact relationship with the latter body has not yet been formally defined, but it is probable that the New Brunswick Library Association will seek institutional membership, as the Halifax Library Association has done.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:

1. Resolved, on motion of the Rev. Father Baudry, St. Joseph's University Library, seconded by Mrs. Hugh John Flemming, Juniper, and unanimously passed that certain books now in the collection of the Legislative Library be removed to become the nucleus of the public library regional collection: that this service be administered, for the time being, through selected Regional High Schools, under the Department of Education.

2. Resolved, on motion of Miss Margaret Webb, University of New Brunswick Library, seconded by Mrs. Marjorie Thompson, University of New Brunswick Library, and unanimously passed, that a professional library assistant be obtained for the Legislative Library to begin the technical work involved in removing the books from the Legislative Library and setting up the public library regional collection.

3. Resolved, on motion of Mrs. J. G. Hart, Saint John Free Public Library, seconded by Mrs. Marjorie Thompson, University of New Brunswick Library, and unanimously passed that a careful study, by competent authorities, of New Brunswick public library needs be made as soon as possible.

4. Resolved, on motion of Miss Nan Gregg, University of New Brunswick Library, seconded by Mrs. J. G. Hart, Saint John Free Public Library, and unanimously passed, that the Dean of Teachers' College Summer School be requested to establish a credit course in the techniques of library science at the Summer School, and that the Department of Education recognize this course by a grant to anyone who passes the course and engages in library work in one of the Regional High Schools.

(Copies of these were sent to the Premier, the Minister of Education, the Chief Superintendent of Education and to members of the Legislative Library Committee.)

After the meeting, members of the group were introduced to the Right Honourable Lord Beaverbrook, Chancellor of the University of New Brunswick, who displayed keen interest in various projects.

The activities of the New Brunswick Library Association have been given good provincial coverage in the press and on the air. Favourable editorials have appeared in at least two New Brunswick newspapers.

Knowing the interest of service clubs, women's institutes and other organizations in this matter, the New Brunswick Library Association mimeographed a letter, containing the text of the resolutions, and sent seven hundred copies to representative groups throughout the Province.

It is still too early to tell what effect this will have, but it is likely that many groups will write to their local members or to the Minister of Education on this matter.

The Department of Education has asked the New Brunswick Library Association for a more detailed statement of the steps necessary to implement the resolutions. This, we understand, would be submitted to the Legislative Library Committee and to the Legislature early in the 1952 Session.

Everything points to some type of regional library service for New Brunswick in the near future.

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### Remedial Reading and the Library

by Inez Bell

The fact that we have large numbers of children reading at a distressingly low level is well-known to teachers and librarians alike. Our changing curriculum, while greatly increasing the reading speed of some children, has left a large number of them to read below their own level. This, of course, not only hinders their enjoyment of reading but retards them in other subjects due to their lack of mastery of the mechanical skills of reading. The basic treatment of this difficulty must of necessity begin in the school, but the library can do a good deal to help. As a matter of fact, unless we in the library do our part to improve the reading ability of children, we will be destined to see our adult patronage decrease gradually.

Many methods that you have used to help remedial readers will no doubt come to your mind. Let me describe the methods we in the Saint John Free Public Library have been using recently, since they seem to be working quite successfully in the opinion of the teachers.

Standard reading tests have been used in a number of the city schools. Following this, the pupils are grouped for reading periods according to their reading level rather than by school grade. For those reading below their own level, it is felt that reading quantities of material within their ability, coupled with guided help from the teacher, will bring about the necessary improvement. In most cases the school library is not adequately supplied with books of this type so the principals have appealed to the Public Library for assistance.

At first a visit to the library is arranged for the class. The teacher comes and discusses the proposed visit giving us information as to the size and reading ability of her group and what she feels they need most to learn from the tour. Usually the teacher brings a list of the pupils with their reading level by grade, and these lists have been most helpful to us later in

guiding the children's choice of books. When the class comes to the library, we explain where they may find books, suggesting titles from the shelves as we go along, and something of the procedure of becoming a library member and borrowing books. By knowing in advance the ability of the group, it is possible to suggest and emphasize books within their reading range and also to show them certain sections where the books are not suitable. In the majority of cases, the ones suggested are borrowed before the class leaves the building.

For classes where the level is very low, we have at times set aside a particular shelf and placed a collection of easy books on it. This has helped the slow readers at the start but soon they want to choose their books from elsewhere in the library. Often they choose those beyond their ability, and not always do they take kindly to the suggestion of an easier title. However, after some experimenting they usually come back to what is suggested. On the whole, we find the children feel much more at home in the library and are more free in asking for guidance after they have visited it as a group in company with their teacher.

Another method we use in helping a remedial reading group is to send a box of books to the classroom for a two weeks' period. We send from a dozen to thirty books at a time depending on the size of the group. This has seemed even more successful than having a separate shelf in the library. The books are put on a shelf in the classroom and the pupil is allowed to choose his own book from the group. He reads it in his "library period" and when finished may choose another.

For these selections, I rely on books by Margaret Johnson, such as Snowshoe Paws, and The Smallest Puppy; biographies from the "Childhood of famous Americans series", such as Clara Barton, girl nurse, and Kit Carson, boy trapper; easy science readers, such as Science stories by Beauchamp, the "How and why science series" (Through the year, Winter comes and goes, et. cetera); the "Primary Social Studies series", such as Story pictures of our neighbors by Beaty; the Petersham story books; Timothy has ideas or Hoppity by Miriam Mason; books by Carolyn Haywood such as B is for Betsy and Little Eddie. Gradually more advanced or slightly longer books are included in the collection. The Augustus books by Henderson, Homer Price, and Herbert appeal especially to boys who like to see the funny side of things.

We have a copy of a list of books for remedial reading prepared by Helen Blair Sullivan which we obtained from Jarvis School for Boys in Toronto. This was recommended in a C.A.C.L. news letter and is useful in that it gives the vocabulary level and interest level by grades of the books mentioned.

Not only to remedial readers but to others as well have library visits proved helpful. If the class is one of the higher grades and reading at or above their own grade level, we teach

them to use the card index to find books, and give them a conducted tour of the adult department by way of introduction. These children now use the library much more extensively as a source not only of information but also of books for leisure reading. They become quite enthusiastic when they can find a book for themselves by using the card index. When these same people are transferred to the adult department upon entry into high school, we find they are able to use reference material and get information for themselves and are much more likely to continue using the library.

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M.L.A. Executive Meeting

A meeting of the Executive of the M.L.A. was held at the home of the President, Mr. Peter Grossman on Nov. 12, 1951.

The Executive approved the contribution of \$10 for a Clipping Service for the C.L.A. office. The various library associations of Canada are co-operating to obtain this service. Press items concerned with libraries will be forwarded to provincial and regional bulletin editors after Miss Morton has seen them.

Arrangements were made for listing in our Bulletin added entries to the "Union List of Scientific Periodicals".

A committee was appointed to arrange for the preparation and publication of a pamphlet to interest students of high school and college level in the profession of librarianship:

Miss Gladys Black (Chairman)

Miss Barbara Murray

Mrs. M. MacLaren

Consultants:

Mrs. G. J. Hart

Miss Dorothy Cullen

If possible this material is to be ready before the end of the school year.

Plans for the 1952 Conference were discussed. The date was set tentatively as May 22-23 - that is Thursday afternoon and Friday morning and afternoon. A pre-registration form will be sent to members so that an estimate of the number attending the Conference can be made.

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Halifax Memorial Library Opened

The Halifax Memorial Library was officially opened on Nov. 12, 1951. Deputy Mayor W. B. Moriarty presided at a brief ceremony in front of the library; Mr. Justice MacDonald of the Supreme Court gave the address. After the opening visitors toured the building and many registered as readers.

The building which stands across the north-east corner of Grafton Park is of contemporary architecture strongly influenced by classic design. The building has three floors. The ground or basement floor contains administrative offices and workrooms, and stacks. The first floor is taken up by the main circulation room, children's room and reference room, and the second floor provides an art display room, board-room, small assembly room and children's story-telling room.

The Halifax Mail Star commented editorially "Halifax citizens for the first time have access to a modern library... It will be interesting to see how a City, which never has had a real public library responds to the opportunity to read more freely... Undoubtedly many will use it but the extent of the continued use will be the extent to which civic authorities are prepared to give it continuous support on the generous scale which has marked the library's beginning."

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### Saint John Free Public Library

Mrs. Muriel Hanson has joined the catalogue dept. of the St. J.F.P.L. Before her recent marriage Mrs. Hanson was in the Collective Bargaining section of the Dept. of Labour in Ottawa.

Mrs. Mary Chandler and Mrs. Ethel Watson are leaving the St. John F.P.L. staff in January. Mrs. Watson is going to devote her time to domesticity and Mrs. Chandler will be moving to Quebec. We are very sorry to see them go.

The Boys and Girls Room of the St.J.F.P.L. held their annual Christmas Candle Story Hour on Dec.21 at 7 p.m. Carols were sung by the 75 children present and stories were told by Miss Mary McKean. The weekly story hour and the Xmas program are sponsored by the Lady Moyra Ponsonby Chapter of the I.O.D.E.

On the top floor of the St.J.F.P.L. there was constant activity during the week of Dec. 17-21. The Children's Art Centre, sponsored by the Saint John Art Association, invited parents to attend classes. Miss Eldred McAlpine teaches a total of 90 children during the week, pre-school classes in the mornings and school children in the afternoons and Saturday mornings. The project has been most successful and the development of the children very gratifying.

Mrs. J.G. Hart.

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### Annapolis Valley Regional Library

Miss Joy Scudamore of Vancouver and McGill Library School has been with us some months on the headquarters staff at Annapolis Royal.

We now have seven branches - Windsor, Wolfville, Berwick, Middleton, Lawrencetown, Bridgetown, and Annapolis Royal. These and the Bookmobile are all going strong, the latter still has

not caught up with waiting list of schools and communities but we hope to do so in January. So far this year the Bookmobile has neither broken down nor settled her Victorian self in a ditch.

Early in December, after juggling bus schedules etc., we finally managed to gather all the branch custodians together for a meeting. Although transportation difficulties meant we had only about 2 and a half hours, we really got a great deal done and many difficulties ironed out. We hope to repeat the effort more often in the future.

Diana Lockhart.

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### Cape Breton Regional Library

Two new Branch Libraries in Cape Breton Regional Library were opened in November. This brings the total to nine branches and Bookmobile service to serve a population of 111,468 with book stock of 21,143 and a circulation of 56,792 for the three months September to the end of November.

On November 9th the Florence Branch of the Cape Breton Regional Library was officially opened. This library is located in the recently constructed Credit Union Building.

The Tompkins Memorial Library in Reserve Mines held its opening ceremonies November 21st. The new library building is a memorial to the work of Dr. J.J. Tompkins, former pastor of St. Joseph's parish in Cape Breton and a pioneer in the adult education movement. The modern building was constructed as a community project and the money needed was raised largely from donations. The People's Library formerly housed in St. Joseph's rectory will be located with the Regional Library books in the new Reserve Library.

Visitors to Cape Breton Regional Library in the past few months were Miss Elizabeth Morton, Executive-Secretary of the C.L.A., Ottawa; Miss Shirley Elliot, Regional Librarian for Colchester-East-Hants, Truro; and Mr. Peter Grossman, Director, Regional Libraries, Halifax.

To all the librarians of the Maritimes and their staffs with their multiple problems, large and small - we, of Cape Breton wish to extend congratulations for work done, and a wish for a zippy 1952.

Helen Cummings.

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### Pictou County Regional Library

One of the latest developments in the Pictou County Regional library is the instituting of Story Hours: one each week at the four branches; New Glasgow, Pictou, Trenton, and Westville. We have them after school during the week and they are extremely well patronized. The children love them, and the

parents have said they now know where their child is for that afternoon.

Our Book Week celebration was not large, but we did have a number of children, from the towns and county, write book reviews which were published in the local newspapers. An article concerning Book Week also went into the newspapers.

Doreen Bailey

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### Prince Edward Island Libraries

A meeting of branch librarians was held at Headquarters in October. One session was devoted to consideration of the need and methods of promoting more worthwhile reading by adults. A new booklist for teen-agers was distributed and everyone joined in discussing specific titles of the classes of books that appeal to young people, such as adventure, romance, sports, biography.

The branches observed Book Week by giving out tags for the children to wear, displaying new books both in the library and in stores, inviting classes to the library and conducting story hours, contests and quizzes. Prizes were awarded from Headquarters to the best posters illustrating books, and to stories incorporating a set group of book titles. A radio broadcast had as its theme "A Book Tour of Canada".

Early in December we sent out a handbill (double newspaper size) to rural families to remind them of the library's facilities. This was timed to coincide with the Farm Forum discussion on Educational Outlets for Adults, and brought several enquiries from Farm Forums as well as requests for the books mentioned.

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### Field Trip of Executive Secretary, C.L.A.

Miss Elizabeth Morton, Executive Secretary of the Canadian Library Association made a field trip to the Maritime provinces Oct.20 - Nov.17.

She visited practically all libraries in the three provinces, and in her report of the trip prepared for the C.L.A. Council she gives her observations on library developments, particularly new library buildings and new libraries that have been established.

In several centres Miss Morton checked files of old newspapers for the C.L.A. Microfilm project, including the Digby Courier, Halifax Chronicle, Halifax Gazette 1752 and successors, New Brunswick Gazette.



Meeting with the Halifax Library Association she discussed "some of the early problems with regard to the 1954 Conference of the C.L.A. in Halifax, such as accommodation of delegates, meeting places, exhibits, programme, budget etc."

In Saint John she met the New Brunswick Minister of Education and the Superintendent of Education to discuss the general situation with regard to public and school libraries in the province, and later in Fredericton acted as chairman of a meeting to organize the New Brunswick Library Association, which made recommendations to these officials.

Excerpts from Miss Morton's report: "I was particularly interested in the addressograph system used (at N.S. Regional Library Commission) for cards, book pockets and circulation records. The triplicate record for handling reference inquires was extremely interesting!"

"The Library (Mount Saint Vincent College) is beautiful, functional, and amazingly well supplied with books. The use of colour in the library is most satisfying... The Library school has the finest quarters of any school in Canada".

"Mr. Redmond, (librarian at Nova Scotia Technical College) showed me his quick sort system for book ordering and other time-saving devices that he has introduced".

"The bookmobile schedule (Colchester East Hants Regional Library) is announced at the end of the morning Farm Broadcast by the radio stations in Truro and Windsor. Rural readers find this reminder valuable and the stations have been pleased to donate this daily information period."

"150 children had turned up for the story hour (in the Trenton branch, Pictou County Regional Library) and had to be taken in two shifts as only 75 children can be squeezed in the room at once."

"All the Cape Breton branches are very busy and the great need is for a larger supply of books. Mrs. Gilbank has done some interesting murals for panels in the bookmobile. Paul Bunyan and Babe ornament the front door while Jack and the Beanstalk, Pinocchio and Alice share honours at the rear entrance."

"While I was at the P.E.I. Libraries Headquarters special tags for Young Canada's Book Week arrived. I requested the original design as I feel we could use it nationally next year."

"I regretted missing three libraries - Mount Allison, St. Joseph's and Moncton, but I was fortunate in meeting two of their librarians Miss Condon (Moncton) and Father Baudry (St. Joseph's) at a later date and receiving news of library developments in these areas".

