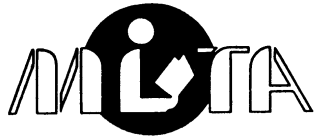


Fall Edition – October 2010

Manitoba Library Trustees Association affiliated with Canadian Library Trustees Association



NEWSLETTER

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MLTA Executive – 2009-2010

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The MLTA Newsletter is published irregularly throughout the year to assist and aid Library Trustees throughout the province of Manitoba in carrying out their trustee obligations.

MLTA Handbooks

MLTA will mail out copies at \$10.00 each available from the Treasurer upon request. The handbook is also available on the MLTA Website and can be printed free of charge.

<http://mla.mb.ca/mlta>

Chairman's Remarks - October 2010

To all library trustees and members of the Manitoba Library Trustees Association: What an incredible autumn! It's October and all libraries are in full swing. MLTA is no different.

We've been doing a lot of letter writing to our politicians on matter of great importance to our libraries – notably, on Merv Tweed's Private Member's Bill and Remembrance Day actions.

One of our biggest decisions this month: MLTA has delayed holding its 2010 AGM until it can submit to its membership a draft strategic plan for the coming year or two.

MLTA is taking time out this fall and the coming winter to reexamine its operations and its mandate: "To promote and foster the advancement of public library service." We want to make sure that our mandate is still relevant and addresses the needs of its membership. Questions of funding, of effectiveness and of efficiency must be examined. Bottom line: we really want to take a hard look at ourselves, hoping to maximize all our resources,

make any necessary changes that will keep MLTA up front and center on all issues of public library service as well as develop a strategic plan that will guide us for the coming years. Our goal is to better serve all our member library trustees by providing the guidance, training and initiative necessary to providing the best possible public library system in the country. We have work to do.

With the help of the province and other library associations, working side by side with MLTA's volunteer board, we will succeed. Please have patience with us in this year of soul searching and reflection.

As mentioned this spring, MLTA, in partnership with the Manitoba Public Library Services, is working on a short survey. It isn't completed yet; we got bogged down this summer – it is now in the designing stage. It should come out by the end of the year. We're really looking to better get to know you, your challenges and your needs. It will take but a few minutes of your time and we hope to hear from all of you. That way, we will be even better equipped to plan our next few years and better serve you and your libraries.

Enjoy the gorgeous weather – like it or not, winter is not far away. Keep warm, do lots of reading in front of your fireplaces and cozy nooks and take time to enjoy life – you only have one to live and you can't rewind to do it all over again!

Diane Bazin Chair MLTA-ACBM

Trustee of Distinction 2010

Nominations have been received and are presently being considered by the Executive of MLTA.

Frontier College Partner in Support of Literacy

Reading, writing, books galore! This past summer, Frontier College ran two very successful literacy programs: The Summer Reading Tent (sponsored by TD Bank Financial Group) here in Winnipeg and the Little Miskwaadesi summer literacy camp in Hollow Water First Nations, MB (sponsored by the Departments of Education and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Province of Manitoba).

>

> The Reading Tent travelled to over 45 sites, giving away more than 1500 books and engaging over 1700 children in fun literacy based activities to ensure kids are practicing their reading and writing skills over the summer months. Research indicates

that, "all young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer" (the John Hopkins University's Center for Summer Learning Loss, Cooper, 1996).

The Reading Tent program provided the opportunity for children to participate in games such as word tag or activities like singing songs and book making. All the of the activities are first and foremost FUN and secondly, designed or adapted to ensure kids are using their literacy skills!

Our Aboriginal Summer Literacy camp in Hollow Water First Nations is also designed to address some of the effects of summer learning loss. The camp presents an opportunity for children to have the experience of summer camp with literacy embedded into the daily activities. Since 2009, over 70 children, from the community, have participated in the camp and have collectively read more than 750 books! According to an article at

[<http://www.knoxnews.com/>](http://www.knoxnews.com/) ,

a child doesn't "have to read mountains of books to keep his or her skills sharp." It is suggested that for "younger readers (third grade and below) aim for 15 minutes of reading a day during the summer. Older students should read 5 or more books during summer vacation." The camp coordinator is quoted as saying, "For me it [camp] made my decision to become a teacher all the more clear that it was the right one...Each [staff] in our own way is leaving this camp with new teachings taught by each other, our visitors and our smallest teachers of all, our campers..."

>

> 2010 marks Frontier College's 111th year of helping people improve their literacy skills to realize their potential and seize the opportunities that come their way. Literacy is an essential skill in today's world. At Frontier College we believe it's a fundamental right. Low literacy skills are directly linked to poverty, poor health and high unemployment. Working with partners, Frontier College is at the forefront of community efforts to strengthen people's literacy skills to build stronger communities. For more information on Frontier College, visit

[<http://www.frontiercollege.ca/>](http://www.frontiercollege.ca/)

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Funding Opportunities for Libraries

Literacy = Economy= Funding Opportunities

Step1 - All Manitoba Library Boards who are near to either a Royal Bank or Scotia Bank branch should be aware that if any bank employee gives 40 hours to any charity, the bank when given proof, will gift on request to the charity up to \$500 at the branch manager's discretion.

Step 2- A simple letter of request from a Library Board for a literacy project would likely garner support from the local bank branch.

If a system wide appeal for support is made, a letter of request should be submitted to management higher up than a branch manager.

MLTA encourages all Library Boards to consult the websites of these banks for further information.

On a recent CJOB "Breakfast With the Premier" the Premier is quoted as saying "this Government supports Public Libraries".

MLTA and all member Library Boards should inform the Premier of our efforts towards literacy that will hopefully benefit the economy of Manitoba.

Library Activity in the Province

1 MINISTER OF CULTURE HERITAGE & TOURISM TOURS LIBRARY BRANCHES



Flor Marcellino, Minister of Culture Heritage and Tourism and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism, toured the branches of the South Central Regional Library in Morden, Winkler, Altona and Miami on Fri. July 23, 2010.

Joining her was Trevor Surgenor, Director of Public Library Services. They are seen here in the Altona

branch, being interviewed by Al Friesen from Golden West Radio.

2. SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY,

SPL has experienced fantastic growth this past quarter. To date, we have 1,690 memberships issued, which is not a true reflection of members, as we previously issued one card per family. Over the next few months, our numbers will reflect a truer picture as we issue one card per member, school age and up.

Our collection has grown to 14,240 items – including books and DVD's, with some 500 books pending processing by our volunteers that were moved from our prior location in Oakbank. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of talented volunteers, who not only process materials, but man the circulation counter and keep our shelves in order.

This quarter, our greatest volume of circulation was in Adult Fiction, at 3,028 followed by Easy Reader (Picture Books) at 2,049. Juvenile readers borrowed 1,824 items, followed by Young Adult circulating 808. Adult Non-Fiction checked out 886 items, with biographies being a favourite with our patrons. Our DVD collection holds 286 items, which circulated 415 times in this quarter.

We look forward to increased memberships as our facility is hosting greater numbers of events such as Storytime, various health related clinics and information sessions, meetings for local clubs, craft sales and a variety of programs, such as theme related craft days and our school age summer programs, which had an increase of six times the numbers last year, in all age groups.

Our new Manager of Library Services, Donna Walby is working closely with our Library Assistant, Leanne Henry to meet the needs of our growing community. Our board now consists of 7 members, chaired by Jack Stafford.

Day - Nov 11, 2010 - Library Related Activities (We are also now hosting a Remembrance Day film/presentation by the Red Cross on the 10th from 1:30 – 3:30 here at the library in co-operation with Diane Dumas/Springfield Services to Seniors"

3. PARKLANDS REGIONAL LIBRARY

The Parklands Regional Library Bookmobile keeps rolling along after 39 years. (excerpted from attached article)

This service was created by the Parkland Regional Library in 1971 to service remote patrons in the

Parkland catchment area. The bookmobile carries 2500 books, it visits each of the regions 21 communities on a four week schedule from September to June with a summer hiatus in July and August.

For more details on this item please go to the excerpt from the Dauphin Herald on page 7 of this newsletter.

4. IS THIS THE SMALLEST RURAL PUBLIC LIBRARY IN MANITOBA?

Linda Phillips, board member for Western Manitoba Regional Library gives us the information for the Hartney/Cameron library.

The library serves the town of Hartney ,pop. 400 and the RM of Cameron ,pop. 433.The library consists of two classrooms in the former Hartney elementary school for a total of 2400 square feet.

The main library is in the 1st room with computers and resource material in the second, open to the first . A well laid out plan using the resources available in the community.

5. WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Bequest

Former members of Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library, Margaret (Peggy) and John (Jack) Webster, bequeathed funds to the Winnipeg Foundation to set up an endowment fund to provide annual payments to WPL, specifically to purchase children's books and educational materials in French and English. Both Jack and Peggy were active Friends' members in the 1990s. When the Friends incorporated in 1992 Jack, Friends' treasurer and a former Winnipeg Police Chief, was one of the signing officers. In April 2010 a plaque was unveiled in WPL's Children's Services Department in memory of the Websters.

Annual report

The Library's 2009 annual report, entitled *Enriching Lives through Innovative Library Service* is posted at

<http://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/pdfs/2009WPLannualreport.pdf>.

Writer-in-Residence

(The following is extracted from the Library's bimonthly newsletter, September / October edition,

<http://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/libraryservices/newsletter/newsletter.asp>.)

Melissa Steele has been appointed as WPL's Writer-in-Residence for 2010-2011. The Writer-in-Residence program, which will run from October 2010 until April 2011, is co-sponsored by the Winnipeg Public Library Board, the Manitoba Writers Guild, the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library and the Manitoba Government.

"Melissa Steele won the John Hirsch Award for Most Promising Writer at the 1999 Manitoba Book Awards. She has taught Creative Writing at the University of Manitoba, acted as a mentor with the Manitoba Writers' Guild and worked as a radio journalist. Her fiction has appeared in journals including *Prairie Fire*, *Zygote*, and *City Magazine*. She is the author of two story collections, *Donut Shop Lovers* and *Beautiful Girl Thumb*, both from Turnstone Press. Melissa is currently on the shortlist for the 2010/2011 *On the Same Page* community reading campaign."

The Writer-in-Residence will accept manuscripts by mail or email from Manitoba residents. Submission information is posted at

<http://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/contact/writer.asp>.

And watch for posters in your libraries.

Manitoba's Biggest Book Club

Advocacy

Many public libraries in both Canada and the U.S. have posted **Library Use Value Calculators** on their websites, so that customers can calculate how much they are saving by using their public library. Check out Winnipeg Public Library's new online Library Use Calculator and discover your or your family's use of library services in real dollars and cents. Try it at www.winnipeg.ca/library. Go to 'Use the Library', and then select 'Library Use Calculator'. Or follow this link to take you there directly:

<http://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/libraryservices/servicecalculator/calculator.asp>.

Municipal election

WPLB conveyed pro-library messages to Winnipeg's election candidates. WPLB subsequently distributed letters of congratulations to each elected Councillor and Mayor Katz, and enclosed pewter book pins as small tokens of appreciation for their positive support of Winnipeg Public Library system.

Branch renovations

Four Winnipeg Public Library branches were renovated this year: St. Boniface, Louis Riel, Osborne and Henderson. Work included enhanced lighting, painting, lower accessible shelving, carpeting, and furniture. Louis Riel Library now has a new self-checkout and a dedicated teen area.

Recently reopened is Henderson Library, one of Winnipeg's busiest branches. The renovated library features an additional 6,000 sq. ft., for a total of 18,060 sq. ft. Henderson Library is Winnipeg's second largest branch. The Library features new shelving and furniture, an accessible layout of collections, improved accessibility, more leisure reading and study space, an area dedicated for teens, improved access for wireless laptop users, a dedicated children's program room, a new tutorial room and new bookable meeting and board rooms.

Funding was received through the Manitoba/Winnipeg Infrastructure Fund towards the cost of these projects.

Province-wide reading program lands a big one

On the Same Page announces this year's book

Released: 12:12 p.m. Winnipeg, November 3, 2010

Manitobans have selected **Jake MacDonald's novel *Juliana and the Medicine Fish*** as this year's featured book for **On the Same Page**, a province-wide reading initiative. The announcement was made today at a press conference at FortWhyte Alive.

"It is an honour to be mysteriously plucked out of the hundreds of books that are produced now in this province, to be part of this event," says author Jake MacDonald. "Sometimes, stories, you feel like you have to make them up, sometimes you're just a delivery boy. With this story I really just felt like the story arrived on my plate fully formed and all I had to do was write it down. Maybe I was just a vehicle for this story and maybe that's one of the reasons it seems to work so well."

On the Same Page, a project of The Winnipeg Foundation and Winnipeg Public Library, encourages all Manitobans to read, and talk about, the same book at the same time. The program includes book giveaways, author appearances and special events to take place early in 2011.

"Libraries have always been great places to find a book and **On the Same Page** is a great way to get people reading," says Rick Walker, Manager, Winnipeg Public Library. "Manitoba's biggest book club keeps getting better each year! With generous funding from our partner, The Winnipeg Foundation,

we look forward to hosting a series of events designed to encourage all Manitobans to read the same book and share the same story."

First published in 1997, *Juliana and the Medicine Fish* was a finalist for Ontario's Silver Birch Award, BC's Red Cedar Award, and the Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award. The coming of age story about a girl dealing with her parents' divorce is set at a rustic fishing lodge and includes themes of Aboriginal history and spirituality. It was one of four titles shortlisted for the **2010-11 On the Same Page** program and garnered the most selections through online and in-person voting between June and October.

"**On the Same Page** promotes reading, life-long literacy, local artists, and community building," says Rick Frost, CEO of The Winnipeg Foundation. "We're very pleased to partner with Winnipeg Public Library on this initiative."

On the Same Page was launched in 2008 and has featured *In Search of April Raintree* by Beatrice Mosionier and *Reading by Lightning*, by Joan Thomas.

For information, visit

www.OnTheSamePage.ca.

Elder-in-Residence

From the City of Winnipeg website

, <http://winnipeg.ca/cms/ays/phasetwo.stm>.

As part of WPL's participation in the City of Winnipeg's Aboriginal Youth Strategy (AYS) – Oshki Annishinabe Nigaaniwak (Young Aboriginal People Leading), Winnipeg Public Library is pleased to announce the Library's Elder-in-Residence, **Elder Betson Prince**. Elder Prince will be working with the Library until December 31, 2011.

To meet WPL's goal of improving and expanding the range of library services for Aboriginal peoples, the Library recognizes the importance of the role of Elders in providing cultural and spiritual knowledge and guidance. Elder Prince will work to assist WPL in incorporating culturally relevant and respectful programming and other library services for Aboriginal peoples in Winnipeg. A particular focus of his work will be to engage Aboriginal youth.

Elder Prince will work closely with the Library's Outreach Services section which will be responsible for booking related programs. We hope to host programs at Millennium Library, branch libraries and other community-based sites. The following is a list of activities that Elder Prince may be involved in:

- Storytelling

- Traditional teachings
- Sharing circles
- Workshops (for example, culturally relevant crafts)
- One-on-one meetings with members of the public (targeted to Aboriginal youth)
- Serving as an additional resource at existing Winnipeg Public Library programs conducted with Aboriginal participants

TASKFORCE UPDATE: BUILDING ON HOME DELIVERY AND BLOCK LOAN PRACTICES

Relationships are the foundation of our society. Family, business, governments, and international cooperation rely on positive relationships to function effectively. The public library is no exception.

Public libraries are institutions that function by building relationships. Public libraries are places where people exchange ideas, share cultures, and create community. However, a consumer survey conducted by the Taskforce on Library Accessibility reveals, that for some persons with disabilities, the ability to participate in the library's community is reduced by transportation issues.

The Taskforce on Library Accessibility is the result of recommendations 8 and 9 of public library review report *Reaching Our Vision: Providing High Quality, Sustainable Public Library Services For all Manitobans*. The Review Report recognized that age and disability is a factor in accessing services in the library. Recommendations 8 and 9 of the Review report urged respectively that “*public libraries strive to remove the barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from accessing the benefits of the library*” and “*that public libraries, in partnership with the Public Library Services Branch, examine co-operative options to provide library services to home bound residents*”.

The Taskforce of Library Accessibility was formed in March 2010 with representatives from Western Manitoba Regional Library; Winnipeg Public Library; The Pas Regional Library; Lakeland Regional Library; the Disabilities Issues Office; Manitoba Education; and the Manitoba Library Association. Diane Bazin, President, Manitoba Library Trustee's Association co-chaired the Taskforce with Trevor Surgenor, Director of the Public Library Services Branch. Research and secretariat support were also provided by the Public Library Services Branch. The Taskforce began research to address recommendations 8 and 9 of the Review report. The Accessible Library

Service Survey, jointly conducted with the Manitoba Library Consortia Inc. and the Taskforce, and the Consumer Survey accessed the provider and consumer perspectives on library services for persons with disabilities. The Taskforce also conducted a literature review and worked on accessibility recommendations for the *Municipal and Regional Library Standards and Guidelines* document, which will be approved by the Manitoba Librarians' Advisory Groups.

Public libraries have a tradition of providing service for people beyond the library. Home delivery to an individual's residence and block loans to facilities such as hospitals, personal care homes, and assisted living facilities are common library services. According to the Accessible Library Services Survey, the majority of Manitoba public libraries offer these services to their clients. This assertion, which is supported by the Review Report, indicates that two-thirds of Manitoba library systems deliver materials to users unable to physically access the public library.

According to the Taskforce's Consumer Survey, users of home delivery and facility block loan services are satisfied with the service. For example, approximately 80% of the eligible individuals access block loans in their facilities. However, in some instances, consumers seemed unaware of the availability of home delivery service, which suggests that direct consumer education is required. Public libraries, like retail businesses, report that directly educating consumers about services is the most effective method of building loyal support for a program.

Community awareness of the availability of home delivery service results in demand for the service. Local newspapers, school newsletters, and the library website are common methods of promoting library services. Distributing home delivery service brochures to social service agencies, town/municipal offices, health care professional offices, businesses, local community bulletin boards, and community centers for seniors are other promotion options. These partnering agencies could inform the library when the brochures need to be restocked.

Knowledgeable organizational partnerships enhance the library's ability to deliver services and builds community. If local partnering organizations are familiar with the services offered by the public library, they will educate current and potential clients and facilitate the building of the library's relationships with previously unserved individuals. According to the Accessible Library Services

Survey, some local partnerships assisting in service delivery include local health auxiliaries, community schools, and seniors' service groups.

Communication and relationships are necessary to develop a positive rapport between the library and the individual receiving home delivery services. Service usually begins with a conversation. Clients ask for the service or the library staff might suggest the home delivery service to the family, friends, or support workers of individuals with disabilities. The library staff/volunteers and the client discuss and document the client's reading interests; types of authors and formats preferred; home availability of technology and the Internet; and whether the telephone, email, or library website is the preferred method of communication. Clients are given the choice to receive only specifically requested titles or substitutions in addition to title requests.

Successful home delivery programs include eligibility and client responsibility policies. Resident members are eligible if they are unable to visit the library due to a temporary or permanent condition including illness, disability, age, or transportation. A three-month or longer duration of the condition and no alternative means of obtaining library materials – usually friends, family, or other caregivers – are typical requirements. Individuals are financially responsible for damaged or lost materials.

As mentioned previously, libraries provide block loans to facilities such as hospitals, personal care homes, and other assisted living residences within the library's legal service boundaries. A strong relationship with the facility's management is crucial to establishing, promoting, and managing block loan services in facilities.

Facility managers or their designated staff/volunteers are responsible for completing a profile that will determine the availability of technology and Internet, the size of the collection, the genre, alternate format, language assortment, and frequency of exchange. A break down of the average age and percentage of the population by male and female might also be useful to the library as a factor in the collection selection, and children's materials might be included for use by young visitors.

In addition to completing the profile form of reading interests, facility staff/volunteers also have the following responsibilities:

- picking up, packing, and returning the materials to the library
- managing the use of the block loan in the facility
- taking requests for specific materials from individuals for consideration in future block loans
- implementing circulation policies set for the block loan collection.¹

Typically, the facility management accepts financial responsibility for materials not returned.

Library relationship building and promotion of home delivery and block loans to facilities might include presentation of available physical and electronic formats. Community information nights-widely advertised and including specially invited community representatives- might be a way for libraries to display physical formats and playing devices and demonstrate downloadable e-audio books and e-books, and electronic databases. A train-the-trainer model might be a method to encourage citizens to educate their colleagues, neighbors, and family members about the services available for all citizens on demand. To ensure all ages and persons with disabilities are reached, it is particularly important for public libraries to invite school resource teachers.

Home delivery services and block loans to facilities are customized services based on the relationships the public library builds with clients, volunteers, businesses, and community organizations. As the adoption of technology continues in the general population, library services are increasingly available for clients in the convenience of their own home. Library staff/volunteers need to cultivate the relationships that will make their community aware of the expanding services available to individuals who, for a variety of reasons, cannot physically enter the public library.

Courtesy of Public Library Services Branch

¹ New Brunswick Public Library Service, New Brunswick. Appendix A: Request for Collection Deposit Service, Collection Deposit Service. Policy 1079, p. 3.

MLTA LOBBYING LETTERS GET RESPONSES

Attached are letters from our Prime Minister and NDP Leader Jack Layton in support of the Merv Tweed's private members bill. MLTA has this to show for our lobbying efforts.

Office of the
Prime Minister



Cabinet du
Premier ministre

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A2

October 5, 2010

Ms. Diane Bazin
Chair
Manitoba Library Trustees Association
P.O. Box 193
Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, Manitoba
R0G 1M0

Dear Ms. Bazin:

On behalf of the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence regarding Bill C-509, *An Act to amend the Canada Post Corporation Act (library materials)*. I regret the delay in replying.

You may be assured that your comments, offered on behalf of the Manitoba Library Trustees Association, have been carefully reviewed. I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. I am certain that the Minister will appreciate being made aware of your views.

Thank you for writing to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,

K. Saidla
Executive Correspondence Officer

Canada



JACK LAYTON, MP, DÉPUTÉ

TORONTO - DANFORTH

LEADER, NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

CHEF, NOUVEAU PARTI DÉMOCRATIQUE

September 3, 2010

Ms. Diane Bazin, Chair
Manitoba Library Trustees Association
Box 193
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, MB R0G 1M0

Dear Ms. Bazin:

Thank you for taking the time, on behalf of the Manitoba Library Trustees Association, to show your support for Bill C-509.

I share your concerns regarding the sustainability of the Library Book Rate. It is essential that this reduced rate on postage for libraries be maintained in order to facilitate the sharing of library books and audio-visual materials. I agree with you, this is essential to ensure that tax-payer funded library books are as accessible as possible. For this reason, New Democrats support this Bill.

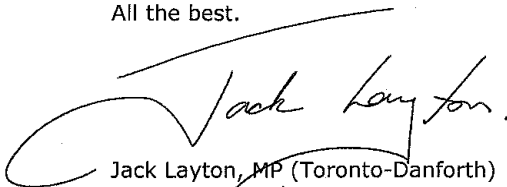
As you probably know, Bill C-509 received second reading on May 28, 2010. At this time, our party was pleased to participate in the debate. Speaking in support, New Democrat MP Jim Maloway said:

"... this is a much bigger issue than just dollars and cents. It is the effect that we have when people cannot get library books, when people have disabilities, visual impairments and cannot get facilities from their library... This is a good bill and we support it."

Bill C-509 has, thus far, received support from all major parties, and hopefully will continue to receive that type of support as it moves on to third reading. The library rate takes much of the pressure off of public library budgets that are often very tight as it is. To continue to provide such a rate is vital, not only to ensure that all libraries are not forced to purchase the same resources, but to also ensure that those living in rural areas, and those who cannot make the trip to their local libraries due to disabilities, have access to the same resources as anyone else.

Again, I appreciate the benefit of your comments.

All the best.



Jack Layton, MP (Toronto-Danforth)
Leader, Canada's New Democrats

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PARKLAND Life

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The Parkland Regional Library Bookmobile keeps rolling along after 39 years

By Jessica Rawluk
Herald Staff

The Parkland Regional Bookmobile has been operational for 39 years.

Implemented in 1971, the bookmobile came into function one year after the regional library service began its three-year trial period.

"The bookmobile was brought in as part of that experiment," said Parkland Regional Library director Jean-Louis Guillas.

"It serviced 28 different communities at that time."

Through the trial years, the library evaluated where people wanted the stops to be and which stops were appealing to patrons.

"It was a bit of working with the communities to decide where do people want to come to access the service," Guillas said.

Over time, the communities have changed, so the number of stops have been adapted to accommodate the changes.

The bookmobile now services 21 communities from as far as Gypsumville in the east, Pine River in the north, Miniota in the south and Bculah in the west.

"We make a total of 31 stops and some of those stops are in communities and some of them are in schools," Guillas said.

There are approximately 2,000 members tagged as bookmobile members.

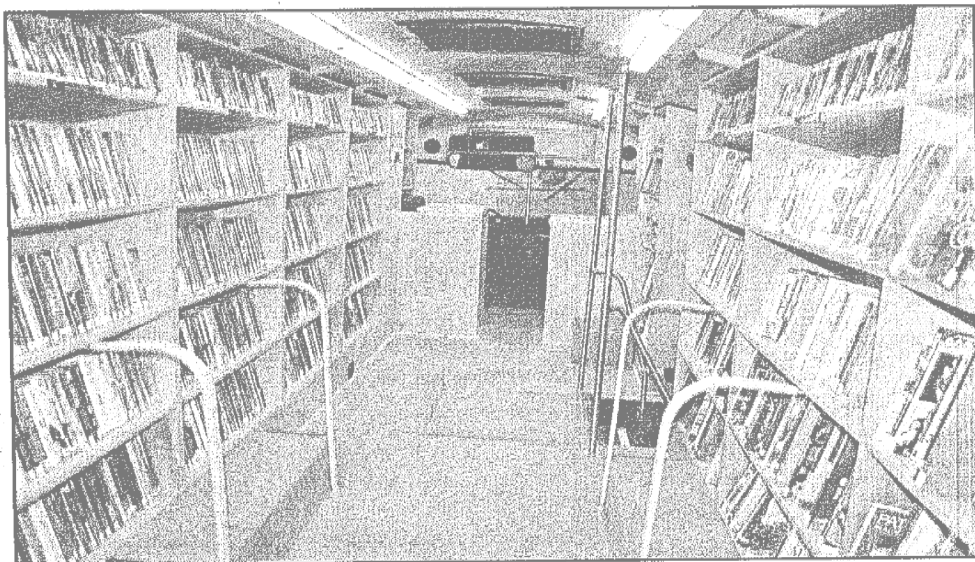
"If you are a bookmobile patron, you also have access to all of our other Parkland branches."

While the bookmobile services are part of the Interlake region, Guillas is not sure how that came to be, whether the Interlake was originally part of the trial period, or if it joined at a later date.

The Parkland Regional Bookmobile is the major library service on wheels in Manitoba.

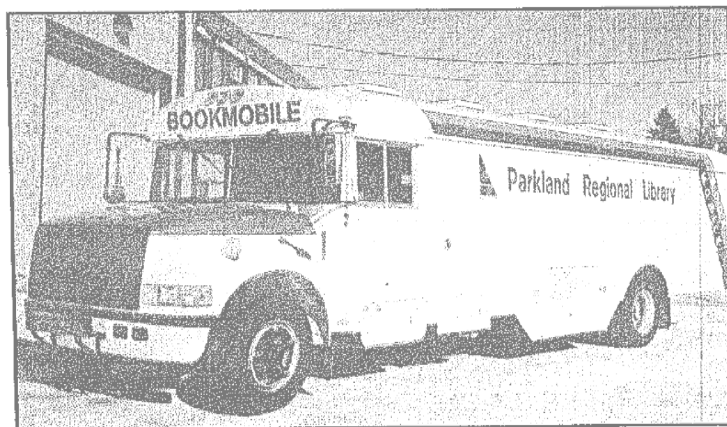
"Part of it is we have a system that works for some of these smaller communities. Whereas I think there is one other small bookmobile service in the Selkirk area. But there is no one else. Down south, nobody has this (service)."

The bookmobile carries over 2,500 books of all genres and is constantly rotating new material.



The bookmobile serves 21 communities, with 31 stops and carries over 2,500 books.

- Jessica Rawluk/Herald



The Parkland Regional Library Bookmobile has been operational since 1971.

- Submitted

replaced by the current mobile in 1994 at a cost of \$91,316.

The bookmobile operates from September to June on a four-week schedule.

"It returns to each spot every four weeks," Guillas said.

As the bookmobile is always travelling, occasionally stops have been re-scheduled due to unforeseen circumstances.

"It's different than having a physical branch, because you have people coming to a location at a specific time and if we are going to be late or we have to re-schedule, we get on the phone and try to let the patrons know."

When it comes to letting patrons know about late times or re-schedul-

ing, Guillas said they call a local business where the mobile usually parks, to let patrons know of the delay. But he also said they know their regular patrons well, they usually just call them at home.

Generally runs are just day trips from Dauphin, but two runs are overnights, due to the distance that is covered.

"The one in the Interlake is a two-day service, just because it takes so long to get out there. And there's an overnight run down south in the Miniota area."

For five years, Chris Wood has been driving the bookmobile and Guillas said Wood has really gotten to know what kinds of books his

patrons like.

"He's very knowledgeable about his patrons. He knows the kind of books that they like and he is constantly refreshing the collection on the bus," said Guillas.

"He's the driver and he is the librarian which is pretty unique."

Wood spends about three or four days a week on the road, giving himself a day to replenish the book stock and do administrative work.

Books are checked out electronically on a laptop computer, but unfortunately are not connected to the regional server, until it gets back to Dauphin.

Anyone who is a resident in one of the munic-

ipalities that is a part of the library system is eligible for a library card and will have access to the bookmobile.

Residents in municipalities not associated with the Parkland Regional Library system, but are close to bookmobile stops can access the service through an annual fee of \$60.

"We're always hoping for new people and adding new patrons, but there are, of course, people who are regular readers and regular users from year-to-year."

Patron's looking to get a library card can do so during a stop on the mobile's route.

To ensure patrons know when the bookmobile will be in town, Guillas said flyers with the schedule are sent to be posted at local businesses.

The bookmobile stops service through July and August, as Guillas said people are doing other things during the summer months.

"I was out on a run to Rorketon with the driver the other day and it was the first time since the summer and people were just like, the year has started, the bookmobile is back. And everyone was happy to come on with their big bags of books."

While students must return their books in June in preparation for summer, Guillas said adults are able to take out books in June and keep them throughout the summer, before returning the items in September.

The other service the branch offers for bookmobile patrons is books by mail.

"If they request books and the bookmobile is not coming to their community in a week or so, we will mail out the book directly to them."

It is through a program with Canada Post that makes it possible to send books through the mail at a reduced cost.

"It's facilitated through something called the Canada Post Book Rate. So we can send books through the mail at a different rate than regular mail, which makes it feasible for us."

Guillas is pleased with the offer from Canada Post, as it is a way to serve remote patrons who do not have easy access to a physical branch.