



MLTA

Newsletter

Manitoba Library Trustees Association
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January 2017

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***A note of appreciation to all
of the library trustees and
guests who attended our
AGM on Nov. 21.***

Thank you!

News Release November 22, 2016

MANITOBA LAUNCHES PROVINCEWIDE REVIEW OF LIBRARY SYSTEM

Improved Access Sought: Squires

Manitoba will launch a program and policy review of libraries and the services they provide across the province, Sport, Culture and Heritage Minister Rochelle Squires announced today.

"Libraries can build bridges between communities, inspire young readers and offer the key that unlocks the imagination," Squires said. "We want to ensure the support we provide and the services that are offered are delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible."

While public libraries have undertaken significant modernization efforts, provincial policies have changed very little over the past 30 years the minister said. She added this review will look at issues impacting public libraries as well as identify priorities and opportunities for efficiency.

The minister said stakeholder surveys and forums will gather information that will be used to guide the development of improved library policies, noting the goal is to achieve high-quality service at a reasonable cost to taxpayers. More information on how library service providers can contribute to this effort will be available in the coming weeks.



2017 MLTA Board of Directors

L-R: Andrew Robert (Chair), Dave Walker (Treasurer), Donna Kormilo (Past Chair), Bud Sigurdson (Member-at-Large), Trevor Surgenor (Director of Manitoba Public Library Services Branch).
Missing: Patricia Brown (Secretary), Pamela Zorn (Member-at-Large).

2017 MLTA Board of Directors

Past Chair – Donna Kormilo , Brandon	kormilod@mymts.net	Independent MLTA member
Chair – Andrew Robert , Stonewall	acmarob@mymts.net	South Interlake Regional Library Board
Secretary - Patricia Brown	pattibrown_3@hotmail.com	Portage la Prairie Regional Library
Treasurer – Dave Walker	carol.dave.walker@gmail.com	Erickson, Parkland Regional Library
Members-at-large:		
Bud Sigurdson – Gladstone	jakri@mymts.net	Gladstone Library & Parkland Regional Library Boards Councilor, RM of Westlake-Gladstone
Pamela Zorn , Winnipeg	zornitude@gmail.com	Winnipeg Public Library Board
Ex-Officio Member - Trevor Surgenor, Director, Manitoba Public Library Services	Trevor.Surgenor@gov.mb.ca	

Please Volunteer

MLTA will be undertaking some important issues this year and would like to have a few more members on our Board of Directors.
If interested please contact Chair Andrew Robert at acmarob@mymts.net

Welcome to 2017!

While 2016 was a very active year for the public library community, let's look forward to the opportunities and challenges of the upcoming year!

The **provincial government** announced in November that it will begin its **program and policy review of libraries and the services they provide** across the province. We understand that the Province will soon be sending surveys to all public libraries to gather information. While we encourage all public libraries to participate in these surveys, it is important that all stakeholders (including patrons and the municipal partners) take the opportunity to voice their concerns, needs, suggestions and even praises, whether through the surveys or by other means, including writing letters and attendance at forums.

A recent news item highlighted the **provincial government's intention to consider the 'return on investment' for its funding**. Obviously public libraries provide much more than simply economic benefits, but such an approach cannot be ignored, and it's up to library stakeholders to make a case for all the benefits. Some libraries have conducted **economic impact studies** (Bibliothèque Allard in Manitoba, Toronto Public Library) that provide quantitative evidence of economic return. We also note the Winnipeg Public Library website has a 'Library Value Calculator' that allows members to calculate the value of services they receive in a month.

<http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/canada/manitoba/arts-culture-squires-pc-government-infrastructure-1.3917263>

While there were many **news items about libraries** in 2016, many were positive stories about the joy and benefits people express about their public library. MLTA has contributed to articles in our newsletter, the *AMM Municipal Leader* ("The economics of public libraries" Fall 2016, p. 34) and were interviewed for an article in the *Manitoba Cooperator* ("Funds for libraries will be key talking points during Manitoba's public library" Dec. 13, 2016). We share these stories in our newsletter and website, and would welcome your submissions.

<http://www.kelmanonline.com/httpdocs/files/AMM/leaderfall2016/index.html>

2017 will be a year of transition as our membership voted in principle for MLTA to become a Division in a newly restructured Manitoba Library Association. Expected to take effect on Jan. 1, 2018, representatives of the different Manitoba library associations will continue to work together to develop the appropriate structure and governance to create one library association to speak with one voice on common interests.

Finally, MLTA would ask library Boards to **consider joining our organization and encourage their Trustees to participate on our Board**. We speak on behalf of library Trustees who represent public libraries - whether rural, urban, northern or some combination – but we also know that Trustees heed the opinions and counsel of their librarians. In the proposed MLA, Library Trustees will have a permanent voice on the MLA Board, but its real influence will be based upon participation of Trustees and the memberships of public library Boards.

Looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Andrew Robert, 2017 MLTA Chair

November 21, 2016 Annual General Meeting Business Highlights



1. 23 people attended the meeting; the best attendance ever. Regretfully Hon. Rochelle Squires was unable to attend as our guest speaker, as originally arranged. This was disappointing.
2. Election of a Board of Directors for 2017 that will be led by new Chairperson Andrew Robert.
3. Annual membership fee rate for MLTA will remain the same for 2017.
4. **Proposal and ratification vote for MLTA to become a Division of the Manitoba Library Association in 2018**

Donna Kormilo highlighted the purpose of the restructuring, the pros and cons, and the position that the MLTA Board of Directors has taken regarding the dissolution of MLTA per se and becoming a “division” of MLA. The following motion received approval:

MOTION: That the MLTA agrees, in principle, to dissolve as a stand-alone organization in order to become a Division of a reformed Manitoba Library Association, provided that the transition and operating terms are amenable. Dissolution and reformation is expected to take effect on January 1, 2018.

MLTA Board members (L – R):
Pamela Zorn (Winnipeg), Donna
Kormilo (Brandon), Dave Walker
(Erickson).



November 21, 2016 Annual General Meeting

MLTA Chair's Report

Our priority action areas are:

- To improve communication and networking with members;
- To align MLTA priorities with provincial and municipal government priorities; and
- To further develop the MLTA Board of Directors to increase involvement.

Major Accomplishments

- Being an active member of the **Manitoba Libraries Working Group** re: formation of "One Library Association" in Manitoba, speaking up on behalf of trustee and rural interests. The rationale, benefits and terms of becoming a Division of a restructured Manitoba Library Association were discussed throughout the year at our Board table.
- MLTA planned, sponsored and hosted the sessions titled "Transformers" and "Success Stories" for the May 4-6, **2016 Manitoba Libraries Conference**.
- MLTA Board made more of an effort to **contact and network** with library trustees and staff around the province, explaining our role and how we could support them, but also to learn about their needs and situations.
- **Wrote a letter to the Newfoundland provincial government** requesting them to reconsider the proposed reduction of the number of public libraries in their province.
- Met with staff from the Public Library Services Branch and representatives from the Provincial Arts Branch to reply to their question "**What are the challenges faced by Manitoba public libraries when it comes to library funding and programming?**" Our response was based on ideas and information sent in from a variety of libraries around the province; for this we are grateful and appreciative. This info was forwarded to AMM, as support to their resolutions.
- Maintaining our **website** and **newsletter** to communicate news, educate trustees (e.g. Accessibility Plan requirements), and share success stories and projects from Library Boards around Manitoba. www.mlta.ca

Looking ahead to 2017, our priorities include:

- Continue active involvement with the Manitoba Libraries Working Group as the transition plan for restructuring the Manitoba Library Association is developed.
- Broaden and increase representation of rural and northern trustees from all areas of the province.
- To advocate and engage in public discussions on issues important to public libraries, with a particular focus on issues affecting rural and northern communities.
- Continue to provide information and education to trustees through newsletters, email communications and website.

I am grateful for the continuing support and advice provided by the MLTA Board of Directors, the Public Library Services Branch of Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage, and my colleagues on the Western Manitoba Regional Library Board.

Respectfully submitted by
Donna Kormilo, MLTA Chair



More MLTA AGM Highlights

Guest Speaker's Remarks

**Trevor Surgenor, Director
Manitoba Public Library Services Branch (PLSB)**

This year's AMM theme, New Partnerships and New Possibilities, certainly applies to libraries. Libraries are among the most innovative public institutions. They bring people and organizations together. When we work together, we accomplish more and we do it better.

I recognize the importance of MLTA in providing guidance, council, education and information to its membership and I commend your dedication to improve libraries across the province. As trustees, your diligence is critical to the impact public library service has on Manitoba as our province moves toward becoming the best version of itself.

This takes me to the Public Library Services Branch's recent Bright Spots study. Earlier this year, we studied all of the public libraries in Manitoba to determine what local factors were most conducive to success. One especially important element was board involvement. I don't expect that anyone here is surprised to learn that board involvement is crucial. You are all quite aware of just how hard you work for your library communities.

I raise this point, however, to emphasize that your contributions are invaluable. Board-driven strategic plans are especially important. In consultation with your community, you will gain the basis for crafting a strategic plan. Your strategic plan will guide day-to-day decisions, provide measurable goals by which to track your progress and allow you determine your approach for moving forward. It's an essential tool for directing your library to meet future challenges.



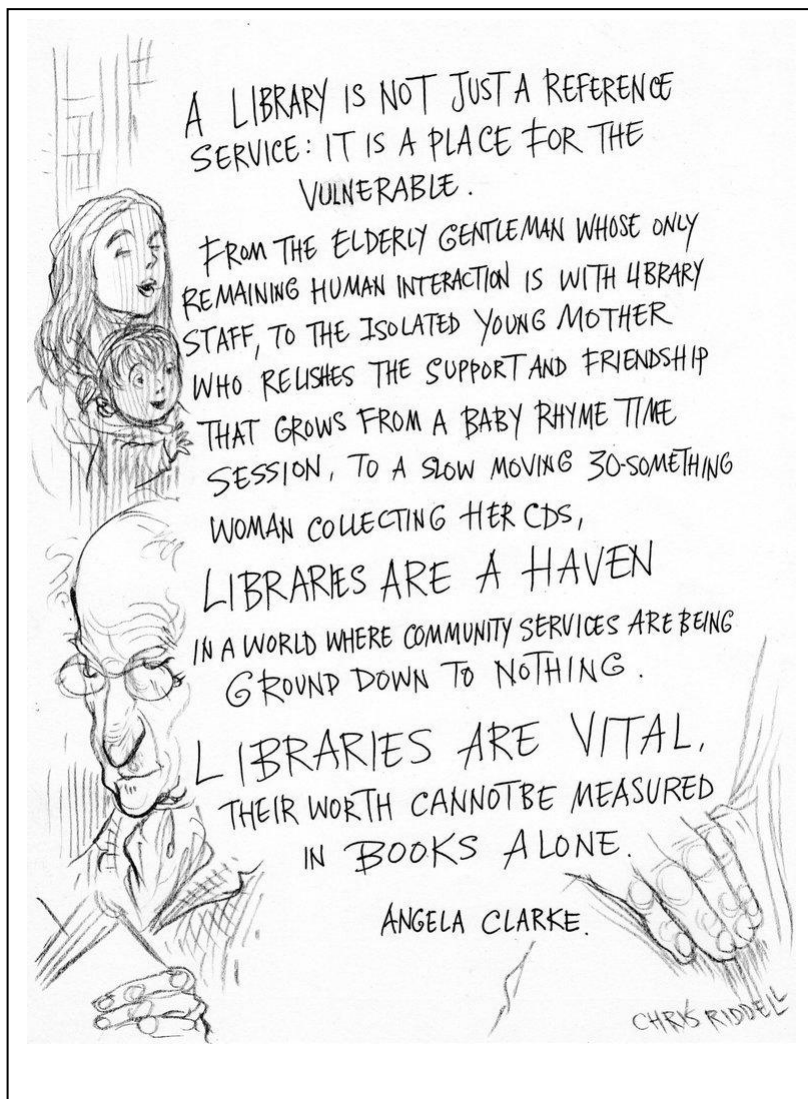
Trevor Surgenor, Director of Public Library Services Branch, delivering his message on behalf of the Government of Manitoba.



I would be remiss if I did not recognize the MLTA's contributions to the Manitoba Libraries Working Group. This effort has the power to join all of the library associations in Manitoba into one unified voice. Your contributions have been and continue to be key to this joint province-wide joint effort. Special thanks to Donna Kormilo for her leadership in the Manitoba Libraries Working Group and within the greater library sector. She has long been a passionate library champion and I wish her well as she transitions into the role of MLTA past president.

Public libraries play a key role in providing Manitobans of all ages and backgrounds with access to skill-building opportunities and services they need to navigate our increasingly complex world. Through the provision of local services, public libraries offer opportunities where people come together to learn, share and explore. Libraries of the 21st century are masterfully incorporating new technologies and are able to provide greater access to information than ever before.

Trevor Surgenor



Local media coverage of province-wide public library review announcement

Manitoba Cooperator (Dec. 13, 2016)
<http://www.manitobacooperator.ca/country-crossroads/funds-for-libraries-will-be-key-talking-point-say-public-library-advocates/>

Pembina Valley Online (Dec. 1, 2016)
<https://www.pembinavalleyonline.com/local/local-librarian-welcomes-provincial-review>

Westman Journal (Nov. 29, 2016)
<http://www.westmanjournal.com/news/local-news/province-wide-review-has-local-chief-librarian-concerned-1.3382679>

Government of Canada News Release

Dec. 21, 2016
The CRTC today declared that broadband access Internet service is now considered a basic telecommunications service for all Canadians. Broadband Internet access services are necessary to the quality of life for Canadians and empowers them as citizens, creators and consumers. While most are well-served, many Canadians, particularly those in rural and remote communities, do not have access to broadband Internet access services that are comparable to those offered to the vast majority of Canadians in terms of speed, capacity, quality and price.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1172599>

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/editorials/dialing-up-the-internet-for-everyone-408020376.html>

Why we still need public libraries in the digital age

It's true, that the role of public libraries is changing in the Internet age. But some would say they're more indispensable than ever. In a time when information is power as never before, we still need guides to help navigate the bewildering sprawl of available information...and institutions that safeguard access to that information. (John Pateman, CEO, Thunder Bay Library)

CBC Radio Sunday Nov. 27, 2016
Listen to his full presentation
<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/thesundayedition/garrison-keillor-chinese-writer-xue-yiwei-christiane-amanpour-and-librarian-john-pateman-1.3866221/why-we-still-need-public-libraries-in-the-digital-age-1.3867526>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/22/libraries-dying-books-internet>

Books2Eat 2017

The **Winnipeg Public Library Board** is a proud sponsor of the Seventh Books2Eat that will be held at Millennium Library on **Saturday, April 8, 2017**.

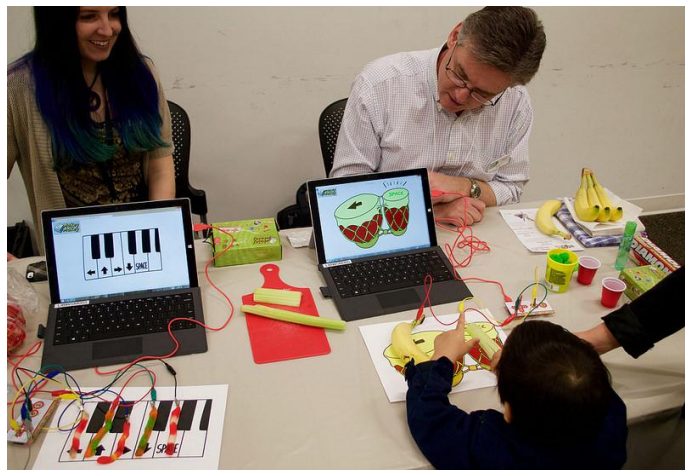
Books2Eat is based on the International **Edible Book Festival**, an annual event that takes place on or around **April 1** throughout the world. Book and food lovers unite to celebrate the ingestion of culture and its fulfilling nourishment by creating edible "books." There will be an edible art display and competition, a delectable family story time with craft activities, a smorgasbord scavenger hunt, a buffet of snack-sized displays, demonstrations of cooking techniques and food-related crafts and activities. This is a family-focused event and all are welcome!

"Teaser" events that will whet your appetite are planned for branch libraries including:

- On **Tuesday, February 14, 2017** at Westwood Library from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. join the Westwood Cookbook Club for a special presentation and tasting from artisanal bread maker Dorothy Barg Neufeld. Learn what artisanal bread is, how Dorothy got started, and tips and techniques to make your own at home. All supplies are provided. Registration is required.
- On **Saturday, March 18, 2017** at Sir William Stephenson Library from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. there will be a culinary crash course led by Commercial Baking Instructor, Terry Willerton. He will talk to teens about career possibilities in the culinary arts and assist them with practicing their cake decorating skills. All supplies are provided. For Grades 7 – 12, registration is required



Books2Eat returns in April! Create an edible piece of art inspired by a book, or just come and feast your eyes.



"Play with your food" station at the 2016 Books2Eat using "Makey Makey". Photos from previous years at <http://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/whathappening/books2eat.asp>



Did you know that our website www.mlta.ca has a slide show featuring some of the public libraries in Manitoba?

The following libraries are currently featured:

Fort Garry Branch (Winnipeg Public Library)
Gaynor Family Regional Library – Selkirk
Victoria Municipal Library – Holland
Prairie Crocus Regional Library – Rivers
South Interlake Regional Library – Teulon & Stonewall
Bibliothèque Ritchot Library (Ile des Chenes) &
Bren Del Win Centennial Library (Deloraine)
Brokenhead Regional Library (Beausejour) &
Evergreen Regional Library (Gimli)
Hamiota Centennial Library (Parkland) & WMRL
Glenboro-South Cypress
Lac du Bonnet Regional Library & Lakeland
Regional Library (Cartwright)
Lakeland Regional Library (Killarney) & Pembina
Trails (Winnipeg Public Library)
Rapid City Regional & Louise Public Library (Pilot
Mound)
Winnipeg Millennium Library
Boissevain & Morton Regional Library
Bibliothèque Allard Regional Library
South Central Regional Library, Miami Branch
Flin Flon Public Library & North West Regional
(Swan River)
Ste. Rose du Lac Branch (Parkland Regional) &
The Pas Regional Library



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Did you know that . . .?

- **Winnipeg Public Library has a “library value calculator”** on their webpage? Check it out. It will total up the estimated retail value of the library services you use in a month.
<http://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/ourlibrary/servicecalculator/calculator.asp>
- Due to financial constraints, primarily the provincial funding formula, **Flin Flon Public Library** has reduced the number of hours it is open. Since Sept. 1 they are closed on Saturdays. Time to write letters to MLAs.
<http://www.flinflonpubliclibrary.ca/index.php/news/winter-hours/>
- **Boyne Regional Library (Carman)** had a “We want to bail you out of jail” fundraiser in November for their expansion renovation project. \$35,000+ was raised. Fantastic!



Library Activity in the Province

What is your library/Board proud of?

What projects are underway/just completed?

Let Donna Kormilo know so they can be featured in a newsletter or on our website.

Send your info and photos to

manitobalibrarytrusteesassn@gmail.com