



MLTA

Newsletter

Manitoba Library Trustees Association
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www.mlta.ca

April 2017

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Kudos to all of the library trustees and staff who took part in the Provincial Library Review survey and/or focus groups. Keep speaking up for the best interests of your libraries and communities.



"What would we do without books?" - Patricia Robert

Message from MLTA Chair

My mother grew up on a small farm near Roblin during the Depression of the 1930's; books were a luxury and when she got the chance to visit the homes of friends or family, she always sought out the books of the household. I grew up during the 1970's in a home with many books, scattered around the rooms of the house, including several large bookshelves in the living room, designed by my dad, a thoughtful businessman with a 7th grade education.

My favourite part of any house or apartment is the bookshelves; I have asked and been offered, borrowed *and returned* many volumes. Many in our communities don't have this luxury. Public libraries are welcoming places, like friends' or family members' homes where they can peruse and ask to borrow (and return); they are also safe places where help can be sought and refuge found.

How lucky many of us are to have at our easy access the 'libraries' of our family or friends. This month we learned of significant cuts to public libraries in Saskatchewan (see p. 4). Once again the misguided notion of public libraries being replaced by materials on the internet has been trotted out as an excuse for cutting vital funding to libraries. Such short-sightedness will deprive.....

Continued on p. 6



2017 MLTA Board of Directors

L-R: Dave Walker (Treasurer), Marilyn Bayrak (Member-at-Large), Patti Brown (Secretary), Andrew Robert (Chair), Donna Kormilo (Past Chair), Denise Weir (Ex-officio, Consultant Manitoba Public Library Services Branch), Pamela Zorn (Member-at-Large), Bud Sigurdson (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:		
Marilyn Bayrack – Headingley	mbayrak@mymts.net	Chair, Headingley Municipal Library Board
Bud Sigurdson – Gladstone	jakri@mymts.net	Gladstone Library & Parkland Regional Library Boards Councillor, 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	
- Denise Weir, Consultant, Manitoba Public Library Services	Denise.Weir@gov.mb.ca	



MLTA Board of Directors Annual mid-winter Planning Meeting

The MLTA Board met at the Portage la Prairie Library on March 14, 2017 for our annual in-person meeting (usually we meet via teleconference).

Highlights:

1. Welcomed Marilyn Bayrak, Chair of Headingley Municipal Library Board, as an additional Member-at-Large.
2. Developed priorities and a work plan for 2017.
3. Discussed upcoming advocacy opportunities and strategies, and what needed to be attended to as we transition our association to become part of the Manitoba Library Association.



2014 – 2017 MLTA Strategic Plan Communication - Advocacy - Education

Priorities for 2017:

1. Participate in discussions of the transition to one Manitoba Library Association
2. Advocate and engage in public discussion on issues important to public libraries (e.g. provincial library review, broadband Internet access)
3. Update the MLTA handbook
4. Educate trustees and library Boards about their roles and responsibilities
5. Educate our members and RM Councillors on the importance of providing library services and sustainable funding
6. Broaden and increase representation of rural and northern trustees

Why Join MLTA? What does MLTA do for its members?

Advocacy – MLTA is the voice of library boards across Manitoba and serves as a resource for library boards seeking to advocate in their own communities.

Communication - The MLTA website www.mlta.ca and newsletter keep members aware of current issues, developments and events.

Trustee Education - MLTA has put together a trustee handbook and compiled links to resources from across Canada for library board and trustee development.

Memberships: As of March 9, 26 of 59 public library boards in Manitoba had paid their 2017 fee.

Please consider renewing or joining the MLTA to participate in governance of libraries in MB!

MANITOBA LAUNCHES CULTURAL REVIEW



Sport, Culture and Heritage Minister Rochelle Squires today launched a detailed cultural review that will generate a more complete picture of the role culture plays in the province's unique identity.

"Forms of cultural expression that didn't exist 25 years ago are flourishing, while other cultural sectors are struggling to adapt to the impact of a digital world," said Squires, adding the industry has constantly evolved, but a far-reaching review has not been done in the past 25 years.

"We want to hear not only from those working within the cultural sector but also from a wide cross-section of Manitobans as we work on re-shaping the way we deliver support and services to this important area," the minister said.

Over the next three months, the province will host community meetings and forums and direct dialogue with cultural groups, arts organizations and all Manitobans who are passionate about this industry on what they'd like to see reflected in the new culture policy, the minister said.

The minister noted culture is an economic powerhouse for the Manitoba economy that creates thousands of jobs and represents nearly three percent of the province's gross domestic product (GDP). In 2015-16, the province provided \$59.7 million in grants, contributions and tax credits to the cultural and creative industries.

"Technological and social changes are rapidly transforming the manner by which arts and culture are created and consumed," said Squires. "Our supports for culture must evolve to reflect the modern realities. **This review will address current pressures within the system, identify ways to become innovative, examine return on investment and seek out private sector and third-party partnerships to enhance the industries.**"

The review will examine what has worked well, and what can be improved upon through public engagement in key areas including arts, creative industries, heritage, libraries, Indigenous culture and **cultural infrastructure**.

The review discussion paper is available online at www.manitoba.ca/imagincreative/index.html in English and in French at www.manitoba.ca/imagincreative/index.fr.html

Submissions can be made online, in-person at the public meetings, by email to imagincreative@gov.mb.ca or by mail to:

Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage
Assistant Deputy Minister's Office
6th floor, 213 Notre Dame Ave.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 1N3

The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2017. The government plans to share a summary of the responses later this fall, the minister noted.

Inform your library staff, volunteers and patrons to share their ideas!

The province wants to hear from all Manitobans, whatever their current involvement with culture may be. Speaking up will help ensure Manitoba's culture policy can reflect the insights, needs, interests and priorities of all Manitobans that reflects our communities' varied views. Speak up about the value of your community's library.



Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association

Disappointed by Library Budget Cuts

(From SLTA website: <http://slta.ca/index>) March 24, 2017

Saskatchewan's public libraries collectively support the literacy and lifelong learning needs of 1.1 million Saskatchewan residents. Now, more than ever, libraries play a critical role in the social, educational, cultural and economic success of Saskatchewan communities. Our libraries are an essential investment in the future of our communities and are essential drivers of success in school preparedness, reading readiness, economic and employment success, and social equity. Our public libraries are a vital link for every resident and every community ensuring success of all people of Saskatchewan, regardless of location or background.

The Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association is both shocked and troubled by the drastic cuts to library funding in [Wednesday's](#) Provincial budget. We are very concerned about the negative implications to residents in Saskatchewan communities.

The Province has eliminated the operating grant to the municipal library systems in Regina and Saskatoon – a loss of \$1.3 million. The seven regional library systems have received an almost 60% reduction in operating funding. This is a reduction of \$3.5 million. Funding to PNLS, in northern Saskatchewan, remains the same at \$974,000.

“We think as a province we should be getting out of bricks and mortar libraries and people should be focusing on electronic or alternate media,” said Education Minister Don Morgan following the budget announcement. Minister Morgan said the Province no longer wants to be in the library business and they're looking to electronic media and interlibrary sharing. As an organization whose very job it is to advocate for libraries in the Province we are deeply disappointed and discouraged that the work we have done promoting the value of Saskatchewan's libraries has fallen on deaf ears. Had the government been listening they would know that libraries are indeed working with promoting and developing technologies. Libraries are the wave of the future.

It was a huge disappointment that libraries were not forewarned or consulted with given the severity of the budget cuts. SLTA strongly urges the Provincial Government to find alternative solutions for keeping libraries adequately funded. We feel immediate collaboration is required.

SLTA will continue its work to advocate for necessary library funding and to support library workers. On behalf of the SLTA and libraries across the Province please contact your MLA and let them know why you value your local library. Ask them to restore funding so our libraries can continue to make their vital services and programming available to all residents of Saskatchewan. Information including phone numbers and email addresses is available online.

(MLTA Chair's message continued from page 1)

... the valuable resources that a library can deliver to the people who most need it. Sure, those of us with the knowledge and resources may be able to access the information we need, however those citizens who don't have reliable (or any) access to broadband internet, who don't know how to access materials, who benefit from child and adult reading programs among others will be abandoned, and rural, northern and urban centers will be deprived of the economic benefits that public libraries bring to a community.

In Manitoba, our government is in the middle of a review of Library Services. The Environmental Scan included in the survey disclosed that the Province views public libraries as important and successful institutions. As an Association representing public library trustees, we have encouraged our members to participate in this process – we see the input of librarians and Board trustees in this process to be essential to ensure the Province continues its funding and support and we don't experience the hardship being forced upon public libraries in Saskatchewan.

While he likely never read anything from the library he financed, my father's efforts and foresight were repaid 'sevenfold' by all his children finishing some form of post-secondary education and becoming community minded citizens.

Andrew Robert

Links to News Stories on Saskatchewan Budget Cuts

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/province-cuts-money-for-libraries-1.4035529>

<http://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/higher-saskatchewan-sales-tax-in-budget-that-eats-away-at-deficit>

<http://saskla.ca/saskatchewan-library-association-voices-concern-about-funding-cuts-to-libraries>

<http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/advocacy/cfla-fcab-urges-the-government-of-saskatchewan-to-reconsider-budget-cuts-to-public-libraries/>

<http://cjme.com/article/1219278/no-longer-sustainable-electronic-borders-close-sask-libraries-feel-budget-cuts>

<http://globalnews.ca/news/3356494/libraries-in-sask-forced-to-stop-inter-library-transfers-due-to-budget-cuts/>

<https://southeastlibrary.ca/node/26> Electronic borders between Saskatchewan libraries closing

<https://southeastlibrary.ca/node/24> Public library budget cuts: Fact Sheet

Manitoba Provincial Survey on Library Services and Forums – what we've heard from you

"The scan is fairly accurate in describing the importance of the library to our community and the benefits of collaboration in the wider community; it fails to mention challenges faced in respect of funding agreements (provincial and municipal) and the disconnect we sometimes find between the supports PLSB provides and what our library needs."

"Our reality is labour costs continue to rise while our budgets don't. Wages have steadily increased to reflect skill levels needed and to attract qualified staff."

"The Provincial survey was a bit of a challenge, time wise. My Board basically left it to me to complete, which is fine, as i they are very open, and if any questions arose that i didn't know their opinion, i simply emailed them. But there was a lot of reading prior to the survey."

"we had a meeting with all our board members and both librarians where we discussed the questions and prepared answers. We found some of the questions they asked were rather vague and redundant but we followed through and answered them the best we could."

"the council members thought the survey could have been summarized into about 4 questions. We all did wonder if some of this was to save jobs."

"As PLS is compiling the survey and running the forums, it seems a bit like the police policing themselves with regard to Part III of the survey covering the performance of themselves."

"While some of the supports PLSB provide to us are excellent and essential, some of the initiatives listed were unknown to us. We actively engage with PLSB but often the practical assistance we are seeking does not appear to be what is made available."

"We submitted the survey and our Board chairperson attended the World Café Forum ... He stated that the resounding response from the libraries was the need for an increase in provincial funding..."

"All libraries felt that co-operation among libraries (e.g. through the Inter-library loan program) was important, and virtually all felt that the provincial grant structure should be changed, since libraries are now required to do so much more than they used to, and the money given has not been adjusted for many years."

***"One subject which was brought up only at the end,
and which nearly ALL libraries felt was very important, was the desire and need for a library
to maintain its autonomy and independence in order to serve its patrons properly.
Rural patrons have local requirements and need to be dealt with as they come up."***

Please send us your comments and thoughts on the survey and process!
manitobalibrarytrusteesassn@gmail.com

Russell Library is on the Move!

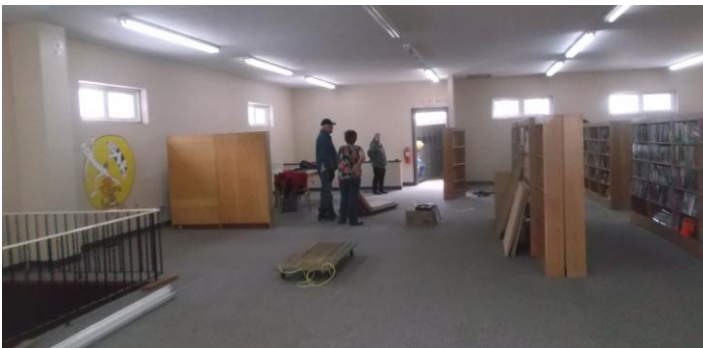
The Russell & District Regional Library has received a Canada 150 Grant and a \$20,000 Sill Foundation Award and is embarking on a huge renovation project. The capital upgrades that we are undertaking at the Russell Branch will provide for:

- a new fully accessible main entrance
- main level washroom facilities
- upgraded electrical and mechanical systems
- new shelving and circulation area
- a 750 square foot addition for added program and service space, and
- an exterior courtyard.

In addition to library services, we are working with the Prairie Arts cARTel, a local visual arts group; and the Beth Naylor Historic Clothing Collection, who possess a rare collection of artifacts dating as far back as the 1800's. By working collaboratively with these groups, we intend to create a community gathering space that provides an expanded menu of programs and services for residents of the Russell Binscarth area.

On March 18th a huge group of volunteers helped move our entire collection to a temporary location in the old Vanguard Credit Union where we are offering full library services. Our renovations will start in April and hope that we will be back in our newly renovated building by fall.
https://www.facebook.com/RussellBinscarthLibrary/?hc_ref=SEARCH&fref=nf

Submitted by Colynda Wyatt, Chairperson
Russell and District Library Board
Municipality of Russell Binscarth



Books and furnishings have been moved from the to-be-renovated building (above) to the temporary location (below) in the former Vanguard Credit Union site.



Join us at our annual International Edible Book Festival!

APPETIZERS

12-3 PM

Browse through displays and activity stations. Sample healthy treats, try cookie decorating, and play with your food at our technology stations. *Anhang and Buchwald Rooms.*

THE MAIN COURSE

12-3:30 PM

Feast your eyes on edible creations. Enter your own edible artwork to be judged, or put your name in for a chance to win a sweet treat. Celebrity judges including Chrissie Troy will announce the winners at 3:30 pm. *Carol Shields Auditorium.*

KID'S MENU

TASTY TALES: 1-2 PM

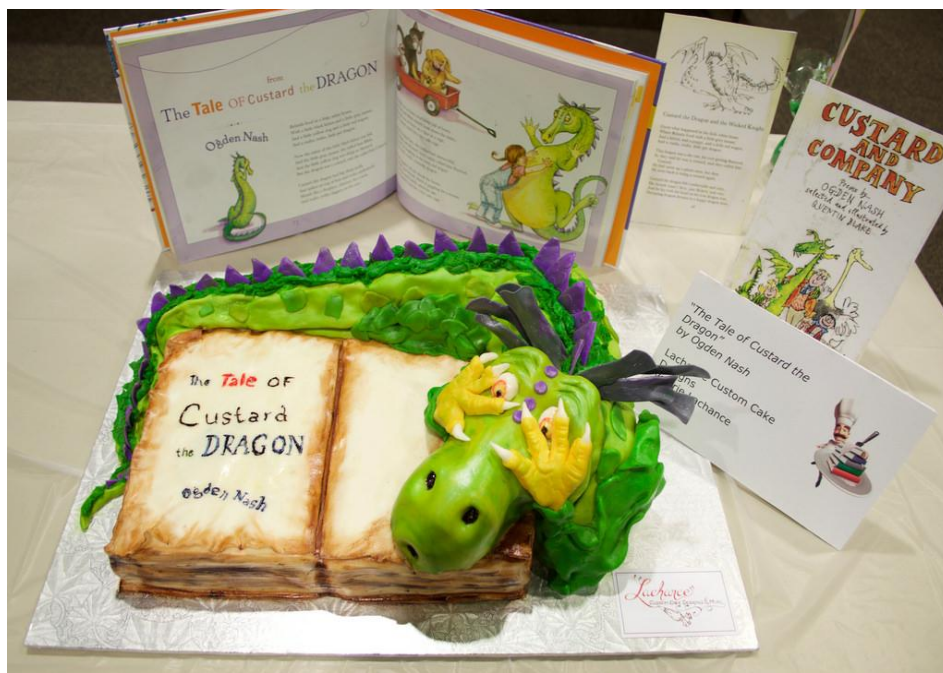
A delectable family story time filled with mouth-watering stories. *For children and families. Mona Gray Program Room. Call 204-986-6488 to register.*

SMORGASBORD SCAVENGER HUNT

12-3 PM

Hunt down food-related clues in the library! Pick up a clue sheet at Children's and Teen Services on the main floor. Hand in your answers by 3 pm to be entered to win. *For children, teens and their families. Children's Desk, main floor.*

Saturday, April 8
MILLENNIUM LIBRARY
251 Donald Street, Winnipeg



Did you know that our website www.mlta.ca has a lot of resources about the role and responsibilities of library Boards and trustees.

Check out the provincial resources section of Trustee Learning for “[Governance at a Glance](#)” and “[The Municipal and Regional Public Library Standards and Guidelines for Manitoba \(2012\)](#)”. They clearly outline Board responsibilities and duties.

<http://www.mlta.ca/trustee-learning-2/manitoba-public-libraries/>

Are you thinking about **the value of a public library**? Go to the “Talking up your Library” section of Trustee Voice, or check the News section of our website (e.g. CBC broadcast of libraries still needed in the digital age).

<http://www.mlta.ca/trustee-voice-2/tips-for-showing-off-your-library-to-politicians/>

Do you need a motion for that?

<http://www.governinggood.ca/>

We all want to have our board meetings run efficiently, smoothly, and to not waste precious time. Scroll down the opening page of this website for an article that discusses what boards should consider when dealing with the mechanism of a meeting. Many board members may not have assumed similar responsibilities in the past, and might benefit from the perspective of the writer.



Manitoba Library Trustees Association

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Did you know that . . . ?

- **Flin Flon Public Library** has a new library administrator. Best wishes to Cindy McLean on her retirement, and to Courtney Campbell, the library's new administrator.

http://www.thereiminder.ca/news/local-news/new-library-administrator-takes-over-1.11365812?utm_content=buffer1009e&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer



- **Springfield Public Library (Dugald)** is offering a 6-session series of “How I Draw Anatomy” classes, beginning Fri. April 21st. <http://springfieldlibrary.ca/library-news/73-anatomy-for-the-artist-with-jessica-anderson>
- Statistics Canada has begun to release **2016 Census data**. On February 8th it released population and dwelling counts. These updated numbers are useful for libraries for budget development, especially income from per capita levy. The info is available in both English and French.

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

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