PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year. I hope your holiday season was enjoyable.

SLTA met with the Minister of Education, Bronwyn Eyre in November 2017.

Discussion included:

1) How each library system is unique and that is why each of the directors, and possibly their executive boards, along with SLTA must be asked for input into the future of public library funding.
2) How the Minister has the advantage of already knowing how people in Saskatchewan feel about their public libraries after their response to the original 2017 budget cuts.
3) Current funding structure, especially the headquarters.
4) SLTA Essay Contest and how young people are using the resources of public libraries, like Hoopla, Flipster and Libby. The contest booklet of entries and winners was presented to the Minister. The Minister would like to send a congratulatory message to each winner and honorary mention.
5) SLTA Trustee Training Modules.
6) Public libraries providing free equitable access to all resources.
7) The impact of budget uncertainty on hiring for public libraries in Saskatchewan now.

Minister Eyre talked about her passion for public libraries and said her goal is to maintain the current 2017 budget for 2018. She would like to have consultations and look into the best way for public libraries to continue into 2018/2019. She gave assurances that SLTA and the library systems would be included in the planning for the future of public libraries.

We are feeling very optimistic!

Lorna Black (PNLS), President
NOTICE OF AGM AND CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

The Annual General Meeting of the SLTA will be held during the 2018 SLA Conference Friday, May 4, 2018, from 9:30 to 10:00 am., DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel & Conference Centre, Regina, SK

Resolutions shall be presented only by library trustees who are active members of the Association. Resolutions shall be sent to the SLTA Resolutions Committee Chair in writing at least one month prior to the Annual General Meeting. Resolutions may be presented at the Annual General Meeting on any matter with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the trustees in attendance. The resolutions from the floor must be in writing and ready for distribution at the Annual General Meeting.

Please forward resolutions to: Nancy Kennedy, Executive Director, SLTA, 79 Mayfair Crescent, Regina, SK S4S 5T9.

Motion: Moved by Treasurer Donna Hartley (Southeast), seconded by Dennis Taylor (Lakeland) that item 1.4 Institutional Membership be removed from SLTA Bylaws.

Motion: Moved by Treasurer Donna Hartley (Southeast), seconded by Leslee Serack (Wapiti) that “or institution” be added after “resident” on item 1.2 SLTA Bylaws.

Motion: Moved by Treasurer Donna Hartley (Southeast), seconded by Michael Morrow (Chinook) that “by their system” be removed from item 1.1.

Motion: Moved by Leslee Serack (Wapiti), seconded by Steven Allen (Wheatland) that “System Membership—The seven regional Library Systems, the Pahkisimon Nuye?ah Library System and the municipal library systems are eligible to appoint or elect a member to the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association Executive upon payment of their annual membership fees. (Voting member)” be added to SLTA Bylaws as item 1.1.

Motion: Moved by Dennis Taylor (Lakeland), second by Treasurer Donna Hartley (Southeast) that “it” in item 2.5 be changed to read “the executive”.

WHEATLAND

In 2017, Wheatland Regional Library branches held 1,349 programs attended by 27,732 patrons!

One of our focus points for 2018 is increasing the programing we offer for patrons. We already have some exciting programs planned as well as some new makerspace kits available for our branches to borrow. As part of Aboriginal Storytelling Month Chad Solomon, aka Rabbit and Bear Paws, will be visiting 6 of our branches – Dinsmore, Kyle, Unity, Warman, Hanley and Viscount. WRL recently purchased some “life-sized” games to be used at our branches. Jenga, Connect 4, Plinko, and Bean bag toss will be available for our branches to borrow for community events.

We recently subscribed to a new database – A to Z World Food. This database contains traditional recipes for 174 countries of the world. Using this database you can also find the food culture of these countries including the National Cuisine, Regional Cuisine, Daily Meals and Dining Etiquette.

We are currently running a Secret Snowflake contest. 20 snowflakes have been hidden in books around our region. Once a snowflake has been found it may be redeemed for a Wheatland prize bag.

Our programs will be highlighted on our website, take a look and stop by a branch!
PARKLAND

From the Parkland Website:
Page views: 505,389 -- 40% increase over 2016
4.64 page views per session, Average session duration 5 minutes

Hoopla remains our most popular e-resource with its selection of movies, music, TV programs, e-book, e-audiobook and graphic novels. There is a continuous stream of new patrons registering for this service every month. Patrons in Parkland continue to enjoy our print and media collection, but as well we are attracting new users who are enjoying the myriad of e-resources that we continue to subscribe too.

Parkland saw 2458 new patrons registered in 2017 – an increase over 2016.

Parkland Region ran branch workshops on makerspace technology and introduced the branch librarians to the new media materials for this collection. This collection includes Dash and Dot STEM robots, ipads, lego, robotic lego, duplo, flannel storyboards, button maker and 3D printing services now being offered from Parkland HQ. We will continue to add to this collection in 2018 as it has been very successful in our branches!

Parkland continued to add new e-resources in 2017 including A – Z World food, which hosts cuisine and recipes from most of the countries in the World.

For 2017 Parkland partnered with the Good Spirit School Division to host the TD Summer reading in our branches. We had a reading contest and the programs were very popular in the branches.

Parkland Regional library branches continue to innovate in the programs that they offer as we promote the libraries in our communities as an essential community hub.

Another excellent year for Parkland Regional Library!

There is no friend as loyal as a book
- Ernest Hemingway

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Meeting with the Minister of Education
(LtoR): Treasurer Donna Hartley (Southeast), Vice-President Sharon Armstrong (Parkland), Minister of Education Bronwyn Eyre, President Lorna Black (PNLS)
The PNLS 2018 Northern Reading Program is in full swing, which includes a region-wide reading challenge, writing contests, bulletin board design competitions, and of course the Northern Reading Program Author Tour, which is currently running at the time of this writing.

We are pleased to welcome Rebecca Grambo, author of twenty-six nonfiction books for adults and children, as this year’s Tour performer; her most recent book, *The Great Sand Hills: A Prairie Oasis*, was shortlisted for five Saskatchewan Book Awards.

In celebration of Archives Week, which runs February 5th through 11th this year, the Northern Saskatchewan Archives will host its 2018 Open House at PNLS Headquarters on Wednesday, February 7th, 2018 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend.

This year’s Open House will feature never-before-seen displays on renowned aircraft rescuer John Finch, on northern artist/photographer Lois Dalby, and on La Ronge Anglican Reverend Harry Hines. The event will also feature a presentation on the Saskatchewan Government Airways (SGA) by researcher and writer James Winkel, and a screening of the 1928 film “Frightening in Northern Canada”.

The PNLS Executive Committee has selected Saturday, April 21st as the date of the 2018 PNLS AGM. The Meeting will begin at 9:30 AM; first-time appointees to the PNLS Board are asked to arrive slightly earlier, at 9:00 AM, for an introduction to the composition and governance of PNLS.

PNLS is a proud participant in the new SLS mobile app, available now for both Apple and Android devices! Please visit https://pahkisman.ca/mobileapp for more information.

Mark Twain’s advice, “never let your schooling interfere with your education” still holds very true today. Critical thinking and life-long learning are essential skills for survival in our increasingly complex world. Reading is fundamental to a literate society. It is never too late for anyone to learn to read. A free public library card is a life-time key that unlocks an individual’s freedom to read. Every branch library in the Chinook region issued new library cards in 2017. 1,287 library cards were issued in the Chinook region in 2017, compared to 1,278 cards in 2016. 250,939 items circulated in the Chinook region in 2017, compared to 249,623 items in 2016. These manual circulation numbers do not include ebooks.


The Village of Prelate made the decision to close the Prelate branch library at the end of 2017, so we are starting 2018 with 31 library branches in our region.

Summer Reading Club plans are already stirring for 2018. We are looking forward to the excitement Summer Reading Club will bring to our branch libraries in 2018. The Summer Reading Club theme for 2018 is “passion”. What better time than summer for children to explore and develop their passions through reading? Our passions are integral to what we individually accomplish in our lifetime, and through the life-long joy of reading, we discover and develop our enthusiasms which motivate us to make our lives more successful.


Teaching literacy is as fundamental to a literate society as reading literacy and numeric literacy. We promote tinkering with new technology through our Makerspace programs. Last summer, Makerspace kits were developed for older children to explore STEM, which is the acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Our Makerspace kits were a big success in all our branches. With another grant from the Provincial Library and Literacy Office, we are adding more robotics and new technology kits to our Makerspace collection.

For a nominal fee to cover materials, the 3-D printer at Swift Current branch is available for making small 3 dimensional plastic items. 3-D printers are capable of making all kinds of amazingly useful things including replacement parts for mechanical things such as appliances, bicycles and automobiles. In Scandinavian countries, people receive tax credits for repairing items rather than recycling or throwing repairable things into landfills. 3-D printers are routinely used to custom make medical devices such as artificial joints for hip replacements, artificial limbs for amputees, and even tiny, artificial tracheas for premature newborns.

We are looking forward to celebrating the centennial of the Swift Current branch library in 2018. As the Resource Centre for our entire region, there are many programs and services offered at Swift Current branch, which can be found by searching on www.swiftcurrentlibrary.ca

With programming grants from Saskatchewan Library Association, we hold special events throughout the year at our branches. In February, we will have thought-provoking Freedom to Read events in Swift Current and in two of our rural branches [to be confirmed] between Sunday, 25 February and Saturday, 3 March. Stay tuned for further details.

At the end of March, for the annual One Book, One Province event, Amy Jo Ehman will be touring throughout the province this year with her delicious cookbook, *Out of Old Saskatchewan Kitchens* and will be stopping at Leader library on Monday, 26 March and Gravelbourg library on Wednesday, 28 March for events in our region. Last year, we hosted three fabulous events with David Carpenter who wrote *The Education of Augie Merasty*, which was also our most popular non-fiction book.

We are looking forward to providing everyone throughout Southwestern Saskatchewan with public library services in 2018, as we have continuously done for the past 47 years. When the Chinook Regional Library system was established on 1 June 1971, we had 24 branch libraries, 3 book deposits and 25 bookmobile stops and served 67,000 people. Prior to 1971, public libraries operated only in eight communities in Southwestern Saskatchewan. Today, we have 31 full-service branch libraries, and 14 corner libraries, which were created in 1997 when the bookmobile service was phased out. Despite changes over the years in population, funding, staffing and technology, the regional library system continues to deliver public library services to all the people of Southwestern Saskatchewan. As we state in our mission, the Chinook Regional Library is dedicated to providing inclusive and welcoming services that strengthen and sustain lifelong learning in our communities.
SLTA INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

SLTA is looking for support from local library boards. We would also suggest buying an individual SLTA membership for your mayor, and/or members of councils as a way to show support for libraries. Your support can help us help libraries!

If you would like more information please contact your region’s SLTA representative.

Name_________________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________
E-mail__________________________________________________________
Region_________________________________________________________
Library_________________________________________________________

Please remit the completed membership form along with $10.00 payment to SLTA Executive Director, 79 Mayfair Crescent, Regina, SK, S4S 5T9. Thank you for your support!

*Each region pays the membership for regional board members. This form is for members of local boards or anyone else who wishes to become a member of the SLTA.

“I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.”
- Jorge Luis Borges

SOUTHEAST

We continue to be busy at Southeast Regional Library! Our Semi-Annual Trustee meeting, held in October, launched the start of our next three-year strategic planning process. Trustees spent the day brainstorming and building on what we have already accomplished and we look forward to continuing this process and sharing more at our AGM in April.

Southeast visited several of our First Nations Reserves this Fall, setting up Take-A-Book, Leave-A-Book shelves for residents. This initiative has been greatly received and has helped to build stronger relationships with staff and educators. (See pictures).

The Oungre Public Library stepped outside their four walls and had a fantastic start to December as they offered Bowling with Santa at the Oungre Memorial Regional Park. Children of all ages attended in large numbers and enjoyed themselves whether they were naughty or nice! This program is a success story as it highlights the importance of public libraries to small rural communities.

Southeast Regional Library was invited to a Noon Years’ Eve at the Saskatchewan Science Center on December 31. Staff spent the afternoon showing families our various makerspace kits and promoting our library services. Over 850 people attended the event which was a great opportunity to provide exposure to our public libraries.

Sadly, not everything can always be positive. The Weyburn Public Library was broken into just before Christmas with approximately $17,000 worth of gaming equipment and games stolen. This theft to community resources has shocked the staff and our public. The bright side is how positively the Weyburn community has responded with donations of video games and video game systems. Again, this reflects the importance of public libraries to rural Saskatchewan and how people value them.

From all of us at Southeast Regional Library, Happy New Year!
SPL

Services
- We will be launching the addition of STEAM toys to our borrowing collection later this spring.
- We will soon be launching a service where patrons can borrow WiFi hotspots in partnership with the Food Bank.
- We are partnering with Gabriel Dumont Institute and Library and Archives Canada to show the Hiding in Plain Sight: Discovering the Métis Nation in the Archival Records of Library and Archives Canada exhibit at Round Prairie Branch.
- We launched a new program called Fun Flicks where we are showing monthly movies in the theatre at Frances Morrison Central Library including Despicable Me 3, Trolls, Captain Underpants and Lego Batman.
- We are participating in the provincial program, Aboriginal Storytelling Month in February.
- We added more public computers at Frances Morrison Central Library.
- The DVD collection (once divided between two floors of the central library) was consolidated to one area to increase circulation.

Governance
- We are working with an architect and the City of Saskatoon on creating a program and business case for the development of a new central library. We have begun our public consultation process.
- Two administration areas were renovated at Frances Morrison Central Library to make more workspaces available in these areas.
- The Board will be issuing a public statement about its leadership role in the changes at SPL.

Leadership & Staff
- We have begun our recruiting to prepare for our transition to our new Community-Led service model and organizational structure. Interviews for Librarian interviews are now complete, and we will be making employment offers following.
- We’ve signed a contract with SAIT Polytechnic to deliver training for our Library Service Associates.
- Our Director of Marketing & Communications and Manager, Digital Initiatives are speaking at a social media event in February to share our tips and tricks for running an engaging social media program.
- We launched a new intranet for our employees.

LAKELAND

2017 ended on a strong note. After a 7-month candidate search, the Executive Committee selected Darrell Yates as their new Director. Darrell, originally from Gander, Newfoundland, completed his MLIS at Dalhousie University in Halifax, bringing nearly 30 years of library and administrative experience.

2017 was also a time of staffing farewells, as Headquarters bid adieu to its Processing Clerk, Operations Manager, and Community Services Librarian, not to mention the departure of the former Director, Eleanor Crumblehuime, who has since accepted a position within the Saskatchewan Information Library Services Consortium (SILS). Nearly one-third of all Branch Librarian positions required filling, most of which became vacant shortly after the Spring budget announcement.

Branch workshops in the fall were well-attended and included sessions on library advocacy, MEPP, eResources, and Makerspace kits, ensuring services remain current and user-driven. The Community Services Librarian, Colin Evans, was successful in his “STEAM in a box” grant application. Most of the funds received went toward the purchase of a 3D printer, which has toured the region, garnering considerable interest within the communities.

The region enters 2018 with optimism, recognizing the opportunities large-scale turnover offers in terms of the development of organizational staffing and service models. The North Battleford Public Library was honored to be chosen to launch Aboriginal Storytelling Month (February 1, 2018) and the Winter Reading Program is ramping up. The 3D printer service model will see a redesign as more focus is placed on marketing the resource, with our Network and Systems Administrator, Chris Bajak, networking production at Headquarters. 2018 will also see promotional campaigns specifically targeting the rural branches, which will include taking advantage of the strategic placement of the branches within the region.
WAPITI

As Wapiti Regional Library enters 2018, all systems are “go,” and we are “full steam ahead” into another year of financial uncertainty from our Saskatchewan Provincial Government. Thankfully, Wapiti had begun making substantial changes to our operations and our budget processes in 2015, all with an eye to not only weathering continued government funding shortfalls, but also to be prepared for the potential – now eventual – departure of the City of Prince Albert and the John M. Cuelenaere Public Library from the Wapiti Region. These organizational changes have included new workflow and staffing models and reorganization at the Regional Office. The most substantive of these changes include staffing adjustments at both the in- and out-of-scope levels, and the move to as close to 100% shelf-ready materials acquisition for the regional libraries. The move to “shelf-ready” is not only decreasing Wapiti’s costs, but is also efficiency in materials acquisitions, putting new materials in our branches much more quickly.

The only genuine uncertainty for Wapiti remains that surrounding our government funding. Saskatchewan’s regional libraries continue to forge ahead, putting communities at the forefront, and Wapiti is no exception.

2018 will see the Wapiti Regional Office team and Wapiti’s Executive Committee working towards a new three-year strategic for our regional library system. 2018 will also see continued fresh marketing efforts like those aimed at our rural municipalities in 2017, as well as continued innovative efforts toward community engagement, such as Wapiti’s two Job Search Resource Centres located in Nipawin and Melfort.

As well, 2018 will see Wapiti continue to bring fresh, innovative programming to the region’s communities. Wapiti Regional Library is expanding its existing collection of maker-space kits, with the addition of four additional kits to increase Wapiti’s branch libraries’ ability to offer STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) programming. The new kits will add a Cubelets Robot Construction Kit and an Ozobots Kit, which help introduce children to robotics and computer programming, a 3D Pen Kit, which can be used to elaborate on complex curriculum concepts in math, art, history and science, and an additional Lego Kit designed to tie in to provincial math and science curriculums. All kits include lesson plans and programming ideas for branch librarians, providing them with fully developed programs right out-of-the-box. The four kits will make their debut in June of 2018, in time to be used by branch libraries as part of their TD Summer Reading Club programming.

In other words, Wapiti Regional Library continues, and will continue to provide the same level of innovative service excellence that we have been providing to the Wapiti library region for almost seventy years.

YOUR SLTA BOARD MEMBERS

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SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARIES MATTER

You too can advocate for your library system.

See http://slta.ca/advocacy to see what you can do.
YOUR SLTA STRIVES TO:

- Promote and foster the development of libraries and library services in Saskatchewan.
- Provide for exchange of ideas and experiences among library board members through conferences and publications.
- Assist members by understanding their responsibilities as library trustees.
- Cooperate with associations of library trustees outside the province.
- Seek improvements and foster necessary changes in the legislation affecting Saskatchewan libraries.
- Work in close cooperation with the Saskatchewan Library Association.

Contributions are welcome. Please send suggestions for articles, photos, and stories to njk@sasktel.net.

Visit SLTA on the web at www.slta.ca

SLA 2018 CONFERENCE—MAY 1-4, 2018, DOUBLETREE HOTEL, REGINA, SK

SLTA is pleased, for the second year in a row, to sponsor a session facilitated by Ms. Pope. The session is called “Really, how safe is your library?”

To smell the roses, you first have to plant them. However to accomplish this, public libraries first must be a welcoming and safe place. They need to be safe for customers and staff but in 2018, exactly how do we do that? Join Kitty and learn some practical ways to make your library safer and free of workplace violence and harassment.

A native of the city of Windsor, Kathleen (Kitty) Pope has been working in the library sector for nearly 40 years. She began her career in 1976 as the Family Resource Librarian at the Owen Sound Public Library. Between 1976 and 2014 Ms. Pope has held numerous library roles spanning administration, teaching, directing and lecturing.

For further information and details on the conference please see http://saskla.ca/programs/conference.

SLTA was pleased to sponsor a teen essay contest during Saskatchewan Library Week. To read submissions please visit www.slta.ca

Winners from left to right are: Kelsey Acton, Sierra Holzer, Hanna Schmidt.

LIBRARY SUCCESS STORIES

We are looking for more library success stories for our website.

Do you have a great story about some way your library has affected a patron’s future, a service or resource that has really made a difference, or friendly help—just when it was needed the most?

We encourage you to share. Please visit http://slta.ca/advocacy/story-submission to upload your story.