

The Trustee

Fall 2017
Volume 9, Issue 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to fall and all the changes the season brings!

SLTA has been at work over the summer.

New trustee development modules have been created and added to the website. Please visit www.slta.ca for a look at what is new. SLTA thanks the Provincial Library and Literacy Office, especially Kimberley Hintz, for their help with this project.

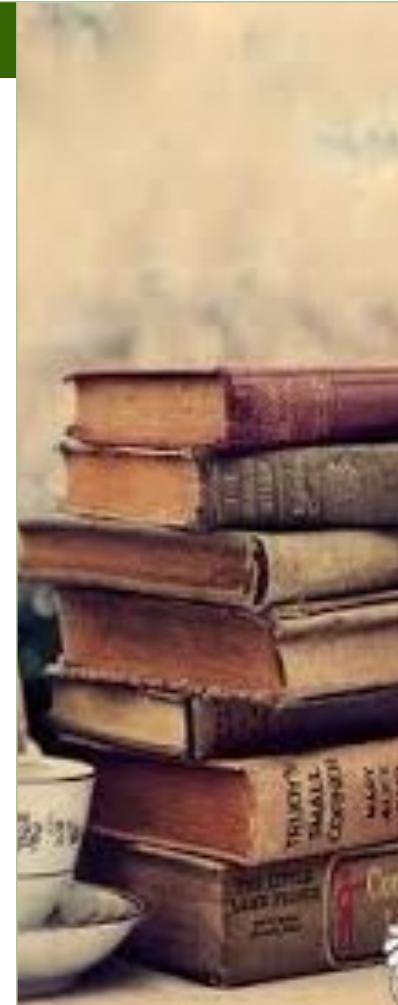
A discussion document has been prepared for presentation to the Minister of Education. A meeting was originally set for mid September but with the change in Ministers was postponed. A new date has now been set—October 16, 2017. I, Vice-President Sharon Armstrong (Parkland), and Treasurer Donna Hartley (Southeast) will attend the meeting, being held in Saskatoon, on behalf of SLTA. We look forward to meeting our new Minister, Hon. Bronwyn Eyre. A copy of the presentation will be posted to the website—www.slta.ca—following the meeting.

SLTA has partnered with SLA for Saskatchewan Library Week which runs October 15-21, 2017. In conjunction, SLTA is hosting a “What My Library Does for Me” teen essay contest. The contest is open to Saskatchewan youth 13 to 19 years of age. For more information please see page eight of this newsletter. SLTA is pleased to play a more active role in Saskatchewan Library Week.

SLTA will continue to advocate for public libraries in Saskatchewan; to support adequate, sustainable funding in order to maintain a high quality of public library services for the province. For ways you can help please see the advocacy section of the SLTA website—www.slta.ca.

Thank you.

Lorna Black (PNLS)
President



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SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY WEEK

For more information on Saskatchewan Library Week please see www.slta.ca or <https://saskla.ca/programs/slw>.

LIBRARIES MATTER

SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY WEEK

OCTOBER 15-21 • 2017

“I have found the most valuable thing in my wallet is my library card.”
- Laura Bush

My Library Matters Because...

“It’s a quiet escape for me to breath, relax and self-learn. My librarian is an amazing individual who helps me with all my needs and more!”

Wendie—Horizon College

“This is where I go to get help finding valuable information.”

Patricia—Horizon College

“I like books.”

Nicholas—Horizon College

“The librarian is extremely helpful when you need assistance.”

Kaitlyn—Horizon College

LAKE LAND

The second half of 2017 has been a busy year of transition for Lakeland, as they bid farewell to their outgoing Director Eleanor Crumblehulme whose expertise and strong work ethic is sorely missed along with Amanda Foster, former Head Librarian at North Battleford who implemented many positive changes and initiatives at North Battleford. This is also reflected at the rural branch level where there have been multiple long-term librarians leave for other opportunities. However, Lakeland is coping and excited to see what new ideas will bring to the table by new hires.

Lakeland is still dealing with the aftereffects from the ‘Budget Crisis’ of 2017, but are happy to report that as a region, they were very active in the “Save our Libraries” advocacy campaign and received a high level of support from the public, including protests with high levels of attendance and large numbers of petition signatures (3,498 for the referendum and 366 for the legislative petition). This showcases the widespread and high level of support the region enjoys. Lakeland will continue with advocacy and communication efforts as needed.

In terms of regional updates, multiple libraries have been sponsored for special events by the SLA, this is a positive trend to see and one Lakeland hopes will result in an increased level of grant funding at the rural branch level. Lakeland is also getting close to having Wi-Fi available at all branches, and the responses have been very positive. Additionally a rotational schedule of maker kits has been implemented and it is great to see the maker kits in action and being requested by libraries throughout the region at a higher level than ever before. Lastly, the region has also participated in provincial initiatives such as the SALI (Saskatchewan Access to Legal Information Project) and will be hosting the opening of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Month this year.



PARKLAND

The Director and Literacy Co-ordinator attended the National Aboriginal Day celebration and barbecue on June 21 in Kamsack. There was a large crowd again this year and students from the local elementary school attended as well. A local aboriginal musical band was in attendance.

PRL partnered with GSSD (Good Spirit School Division) and saw a huge spike in patron registration, as a result, in June and July in many of the branches. There was a draw box at each branch and children entered every time they read a book. The prizes were drawn for 22 of their branches the first week of September and they were presented to the winners at their local schools. PRL plans to expand this partnership next summer for the other school districts within our boundaries.

PRL did workshops again this summer with branches. This year the theme was Makerspace and showcased the new collection which consists of 3D printing services, Dash and DOT STEM robots, robotics and traditional lego and duplo, button maker with supplies, puppets and flannel storyboards. Many branches requested these materials throughout the summer and held programming events around them. PRL also got a grant from Provincial Library for this new collection so will be purchasing more products for next summer.

PRL video game collection continues to be a big hit in terms of circulation. They are looking to purchase a new e-resource for January called A-Z International cooking which feature recipes from around the world. PRL has a rich offering of digital resources accessible from their website www.parklandlibrary.ca : 2 video streaming services, 2 music streaming and downloading services, 3 e-book and e-audio book resources, 2 online magazine subscriptions as well as a number of educational and information databases including My Canada, My blueprint (for career and resume building skills), and a host of others.



RPL

The summer was an exciting time at Regina Public Library.

Level Up!, the summer reading program, attracted a record 6,418 participants, an increase of 37 per cent from 2016. Kids read and engaged in discovery activities for a total of 82,196 hours, an increase of 50 per cent over 2016. Regina Public Library offered 447 programs across the system, attended by 13,332 kids and their families, an increase of 33 per cent over 2016.

In July RPL relocated their Albert Branch to the new Mâmawêyatîn Centre. RPL is a part owner in this multi-purpose centre, which brings together many public and community services aimed at building, strengthening and celebrating North Central, its residents and all Regina citizens who may live, work or play in the neighbourhood. A Cree word meaning “let’s be all together,” mâmawêyatîn (pronounced ma-ma-waya-ta-tan) speaks to the shared use of the building and the cooperation of the partners. The centre is the first of its kind in Canada and will be offering integrated services in one central place to build and enhance the community. It brings people together to connect, to learn, to play and to develop skills and to celebrate culture.

RPL has participated once again in the Regina Farmers’ Market with its own booth. Staff offer information on programs, activity guides, trinkets for the kids, and the ability to sign up for a library card. Also at some of the markets this year was RPL’s “Pop-Up Store.” The store is a pilot approach to determine whether a more permanent store at Central Library could be possible. RPL is offering t-shirts, tote bags, stuffed animals and children’s water bags, alongside a small survey to see what the community thinks of the idea. The information gathered will be considered and used to create a formal recommendation.



WHEATLAND

2017 marks Wheatland Regional Library’s 50th Anniversary. Wheatland took this milestone as a reason to update and purchase a new mascot suit. The new and improved ‘Hootie’ made many appearances in the region this summer – he was involved in parades, community events, and some 50th anniversary parties!

As part of the 50th anniversary plans, Wheatland’s Executive Director and Assistant Director/Branch Manager did a tour of the region and managed to visit 41 of their 45 branches in the month of June.

Summer was a busy time for many branches as they participated in the Summer Reading Game. Wheatland had reading challenges for children, adults and staff. They also had Sylvia Chave (‘Singing with Sylvia’) tour eight of their branches – Biggar, Luseland, Watrous, Allan, Perdue, Aberdeen, Waldheim, and Osler.

This fall Wheatland hopes to increase their programming as well as expand their collection of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) kits. As well, they are hoping to finalize their Strategic Plan document and work on a framework for future library services.



PNLS

PNLS was very pleased to accept NORTEP/NORPAC's donation of its entire Library collection, contingent upon PNLS clearing the space out entirely ahead of the institution's closure. PNLS thank NORTEP/NORPAC for their generous support, and wish their staff and graduates all the best in their future endeavours.

PNLS is grateful to their partners at TD Bank and at the Provincial Library & Literacy Office for their continued support of the Summer Reading Program and its corresponding Tour. The Summer Reading Tour performer this year was Saskatoon-area musician Sylvia Chave, whose engaging performances enthralled kids and adults alike. PNLS Assistant Director Harriet Roy, having conducted the Program and the Tour, is presently hard at work compiling the participation statistics and survey feedback.

PNLS is pleased to announce the appointment of PNLS Director James Hope Howard to the provincial Multitype Library Board, as its Public Library representative, for a two-year term. The next meeting of the Multitype Library Board is scheduled for the first week of October.

By popular demand, PNLS is bringing their Northern Library Conference back for 2017! This year's Conference, with a theme of "Getting Set For Literacy: Programming and Training", will run October 10th through 12th and will feature special sessions on Family Literacy by representatives from the Saskatchewan Literacy Network.



CHINOOK

Public library services are free for anyone to use in Saskatchewan. Funding rural public library services in Saskatchewan is a collaboration by the provincial government with the municipal governments for all the residents of Saskatchewan. Today, with one library card, library materials can be borrowed for free by any resident from any public library in Saskatchewan.

You know you're in rural Saskatchewan...

...when the town you live in no longer has a school, a doctor, a grocery store, a bank, or a gas station, but it still has a church, a grain elevator and if you are lucky, a public library.
...where it's not uncommon to see shoppers at the co-op wearing spurs.
...it's not uncommon to find a live bunny or a miniature donkey attending children's story times at the local library.
...the librarian is also the mayor in some rural communities.
...rural librarians keep busy with calving in the spring, haying in the summer, combining in the fall, and driving the local school buses in the winter.
...the snowplow driver likes to download e-audiobooks from the library.
...you can order free-range eggs at the circulation desk.
...patrons ask the librarian to bring the books they put on hold over to the curling rink.
...the librarian goes home for meal breaks.
...the most popular non-fiction children's books are about farm animals, tractors and combines.
...the sign on the door says "all muddy boots are to be removed before entering the library".
...recent library programs include pumpkin pie and cowboy poetry, Batman, puppet shows, launching bottle rockets, International Rural Women's Day, Bison Biology, Aboriginal storytelling, and painting sunflowers.

So, what makes a really good rural library? A really good rural library responds to the needs of the people in the region, rather than just the latest fads. Reading a really good book from the local library has lots of social, health, and financial benefits for people of all ages.

Learning to read is possible at any age, and the pursuit of knowledge through reading is lifelong. Every child starting kindergarten in southwest Saskatchewan receives a free School Readiness Kit from the Southwest Literacy Committee. Each kit is worth \$15 and all the costs are raised through grants and fundraising. Over the years, Chinook has given thousands of kits to local children. They encourage parents to read to their children daily, which helps young children build vocabulary and hear pronunciation which is necessary before they become readers.

It can be said that quality of life in any community correlates with library use. Library services are free to use which ensures the equitable access to information and intellectual freedom which are the cornerstones of democratic societies. Charging user fees for public library services would no longer ensure equitable access.

Access to technology is another free public service offered at public libraries. All summer, older children had the opportunity to learn about technology through Makerspace kits which combine creativity, imagination and science. Makerspace kits are not just for older children, they can spark the interest of anyone at any age who likes to tinker with technology.

So, what's next? There will be programs at rural libraries throughout the fall. Look for more pumpkin pie and cowboy poetry, Oktoberfest, more Aboriginal storytelling, thought provoking film screenings and much more.

Library users, library staff and library trustees support all the great work done in our rural libraries. It's the politicians, funders and non-users of libraries that need to hear more about all the great things happening in our libraries. Talking to people about the importance of library funding as an essential service is crucial to our future success. Funding is needed for collection development and programming and services. Library staff simply want to provide the best rural library services they possibly can, and to do that, new standards for rural library services need to be developed.

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.

PROVINCIAL LIBRARY AND LITERACY OFFICE

For past reports please see the SLTA website—<http://www.slta.ca/news-events>



“Iransack public libraries, and find them full of sunk treasure.”
- Virginia Woolf

SOUTHEAST

At Southeast it is hard to believe summer is almost over. One of their summer projects had them busy on the road visiting local Aboriginal reserves. During the visits they set up a Take-a-Book, Leave-a-Book library to be utilized by all ages. A bookshelf was setup in a high traffic area and approximately 300 books filled the shelves ready to be read. Southeast hope to visit on a regular basis and replenish the book collection.

Southeast is thrilled to launch three new Makerspace kits this Fall. PlayStation 4 Virtual Reality gaming sets offer a person the experience of being in a three-dimensional environment and interact with that environment during a game. Metal stamping kits where creativity is the only requirement, and Squishy Circuits which use conductive and insulating play dough to teach the basics of electrical circuits in a fun, hands-on way.

Southeast also has some exciting staffing news. James Richards, long-time Regional Branch Manager, has added the designation of Assistant Director to his job title. James has always shown his unwavering support of public libraries and his dedication to Southeast Regional Library. Director Kate-Lee Nolin looks forward to working with him creating a vibrant and energetic future for Southeast Regional Library. Southeast has also hired a new Branch Manager for the Estevan Public Library Branch. Breanne Bannerman-Gobeil started her position on September 5th.



LIBRARY SUCCESS STORIES

We are looking for more library success stories for the new page on 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.

My Library Matters Because...

“The library provides a quiet place with no distractions for me to do work in. Also, we love Deb!”

Addie—Horizon College

“Book are important.”

Jacob—Horizon College

“It has the resources I need to complete my assignments.”

Erika—Horizon College

“We have a loving librarian (Deb). She is always eager to help even if the library doesn’t have the book I need she helps.”

Ryley—Horizon College

“It has plenty of resources and it’s close to home (good location).”

Vicente—Horizon College

“The public, students and teachers have access to it to gain knowledge and extend their knowledge. Books matter!”

Rebecca—Tawowikamik

“It’s a great place to get resources.”

Mary—ZCR

“I can’t afford the books that I can get through the library.”

George—Kennedy

“My child comes here to read books and uses their time on the computer. It is a safe place to come after school and a great place for summer programs. And I love this place.”

Priscilla—Southeast Library

SPL

Services

- The hours at Mayfair and Dr. Freda Ahenakew branch are expanding to be on par with Alice Turner and Round Prairie branches effective October 1.
- SPL expanded their STEM programming and are continuing to make significant investments into robotics and technology.
- SPL ran a successful Read for Reconciliation community challenge in the spring.
- SPL launched an all ages summer learning program called KNOWlympics that ran over the summer. Over 1,000 people registered.
- SPL opened their first Innovation Lab with a MacBook Pro, Little Bits, Snap Circuits, LEGO, a button maker, Cricut machine, Makey Makey, iPads and Chromebooks.
- SPL added Nintendo Switch games to their collection.

Governance

- SPL released their 2016 Community Report in the spring. It can be viewed here: <https://saskatoonlibrary.ca/communityreport>
- SPL is working with an architect and the City of Saskatoon on creating a program and business case for the development of a new central library. They plan to move forward with a public consultation in early 2018.
- Facing budget pressure in 2018 as a result of the provincial budget, SPL laid off 14 FTE positions (21 people). More than half of the employees were able to fill vacant positions at SPL, while some others retired, or resigned during the bumping process.

Leadership & Staff

- SPL has received the final report from their change leadership project, based on an employee survey where 75% of employees participated. The report identifies primary and secondary employee satisfaction drivers. The Executive team will be working over the coming months to develop improvement goals and an improvement plan.
- SPL launched their new community-led service model and the supporting organizational structure in June 2017. The transition will begin in fall 2017 and last approximately six to nine months.
- SPL hired a new Human Resources Director in the spring.
- SPL also began recruitment for new branch manager positions. At this time they have dedicated branch managers at seven of their eight branch locations.
- SPL won a prestigious John Cotton Dana award through the American Libraries Association for excellence in library marketing. The award came with a \$10,000 (USD) prize.



IF YOU RECEIVED THIS NEWSLETTER BY REGULAR POST BUT CAN SUPPLY AN EMAIL ADDRESS PLEASE CONTACT NANCY KENNEDY AT THE ADDRESS BELOW.

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WAPITI

After the Saskatchewan Government's 2017 Provincial Budget, which attempted to cut funding to the people of Saskatchewan's Regional Libraries by a crippling 58%, Wapiti Regional Library can report a new contender for "most impactful issue" facing Wapiti! While the Saskatchewan Government did eventually restore Wapiti's provincial funding, Wapiti is now waiting to see what the "consultation" process will look like that the SK Government is engaging in with public library stakeholders to examine "the future of SK public libraries." While the SK Government restored regional library funding after the initial budget cuts, it is important to remember that since there was no increase in funding, by inflationary measures alone Wapiti's 2017 provincial funding was cut once again, as has been the case for the past several years. Wapiti Regional Library sends a heartfelt thank you out to all of Saskatchewan's citizens and communities that rose up in protest to the cuts to our libraries.

The City of Prince Albert's attempt to become a municipal library continues on, with both Wapiti Regional Library and the City of Prince Albert held in limbo while the Province tries to decide the best way to proceed.

In the face of Prince Albert's ongoing efforts to become a municipal library, and the fiscal uncertainty for regional libraries under the current Saskatchewan Government budgeting strategies, there remains one constant for Wapiti. *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.*

For example, Wapiti continues to find new ways to create opportunities and partnerships that help us reach out to and provide more for the communities and the people in our region. Wapiti's partnership with Saskatchewan's Ministry of the Economy continues, with a second community, Melfort, receiving the benefit of a Job Search Resources Centre, located in the Melfort Public Library. Wapiti's first Ministry of the Economy sponsored Job Search Resources Centre, located at the Nipawin Public Library, continues to provide job search services to Nipawin and the surrounding area. The Nipawin Job Search Resources Centre, initially a two-year project in the Ministry of the Economy, is in its third year, which makes readily apparent the positive success of housing these employment services and resources in public libraries. Wapiti Regional Library thanks the Ministry of the Economy for these continued opportunities to help provide more and better services to our communities.

Another example is the awarding of a Department of Canadian Heritage's Canada 150 Fund grant, which enabled Wapiti Regional Library to bring Canada's milestone anniversary celebrations to several Wapiti communities. Wapiti Regional Library appears to be the only library organization in Saskatchewan to receive this funding, and greatly appreciated the opportunity to connect libraries and communities through the Federal Government's mandate to put "communities at the heart of the celebrations."

Wapiti also received Federal funding from the Young Canada Works program that enabled the Regional Office to hire a summer student to help with increased programming demands over the summer.

In yet another example beginning in the summer of 2017, the Wapiti Regional Office has also undertaken a long overdue system-wide overhaul of their "block collections" that rotate between Wapiti branch libraries. The goal is to create processes and workflows that are far more streamlined and that not only send smaller block collections around the region much more quickly, but also refreshes those collections much more frequently. The overarching goal is more and consistently better materials arriving in Wapiti's branch libraries more frequently.



Wapiti Regional Library
Serving Central Saskatchewan

YOUR SLTA BOARD MEMBERS

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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



What My Library Does for Me! A Teen Essay Contest

Saskatchewan Library Week – October 15 – 21, 2017

1. This contest is sponsored by the Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association. It is open to all teens in the Province of Saskatchewan except immediate family members of the SLTA board of directors.
2. The contest runs September 5, 2017 to November 1, 2017.
3. **Written essays** on the subject: "What My Library Does for Me!" can be in prose or verse but must be no more than 1,000 words in length and must be submitted online to njk@sasktel.net.
4. Winners must be 13 to 19 years in age. A first place prize of a \$100.00 Chapters gift card, a second place prize of a \$50.00 Chapters gift card, and a third place prize of a \$25.00 Chapters gift card will be awarded. Entries will be judged by the SLTA Executive. Winners will be notified by email. Entrants may make only one submission. An entry written by more than one person is not eligible. The decisions of the judges will be final.
5. Each entry shall be accompanied by the entrant's full name and contact information, including postal address, e-mail address, and telephone number. Each entry shall also include:
 1. A biographical sketch of the entrant, not exceeding 50 words,
 2. The word count of the essay, and
 3. Written confirmation that the entry complies with the rules of the teen essay contest.
6. Entrants agree that SLTA may publish the winning essays and finalists' essays, as well as the name and the biographical sketch submitted by the entrant, in any medium, including electronically over the internet, at a time of its choosing after the award is announced.
7. All entries shall become the property of SLTA. SLTA is not responsible for lost, misdirected, delayed or incomplete entries, however caused.
8. SLTA reserves the right to withdraw or terminate this contest at any time without prior notice.