

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY : 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

- *Responding to the needs of our diverse community
- *Ensuring freedom of access to information
- * Offering resources for people of all ages;
- * Providing materials and programs that entertain and inspire.

We are committed to the excellent stewardship of the physical and financial assets entrusted to the library.

OUR MISSION: It is the mission of the Springfield Public Library to provide and promote open and equal access to the resources and services of the library in order to meet the informational, educational, cultural and literacy needs of the community.

A: Chairperson's Report for 2011

Report from the Chairperson: Allan Compton, Springfield Public Library Board:

2011 Highlights

A.1: Our Library:

Our library has **continued** to grow and develop during this past year. The staff, especially our manager, have worked very hard to improve our circulation, to develop programs and to make the library a place where everyone feels welcome. Donna Walby, library manager, will provide the details of these **accomplishments** in her report.

A.2: Our Board:

As a result of a retirement, we added two new people (one regular board member and one alternate board member) whose expertise and experience has contributed to the board's functioning. The on-going issues of the board continued to require a large investment of time and energy. However, we were able to finalize the development of a Vision statement and a Mission Statement. In addition, we were able to upgrade our financial procedures and record keeping which allows us to better manage our financial resources. A policy review was a major task undertaken this year in an attempt to clarify and simplify existing policies and to develop new policies where required. We are happy to report that this review has been completed. However, there are two major

issues that require action in 2012. Due to our rapid growth and changing needs, we need to reorganize our staff position with new detailed job descriptions. Secondly, we need to develop long and short term goals.

A.3: Our Community:

The number of patrons increased dramatically during the current year.

The library has become a focal point in our community because of the wide variety of activities offered to groups of all ages and interests.

We appreciate the support and encouragement by the Council and staff of the RM of Springfield.

B: Report from Manager of Library Services, Donna Walby Lawson:

2011 continued to show tremendous growth in all areas of our library. Increased membership, new programs and involvement from the community by way of partnerships and volunteer representation resulted in Springfield Public Library's increased recognition in the community.

Our volunteer base, a dedicated group who commit to regular shifts, has allowed us to focus on delivering exemplary service, while tending to the cataloguing and processing requirements of our ever growing collection.

We found that our hours of service, Tuesday & Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Thursday & Friday from 19:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. satisfied the residents, and with two evenings of later access our commuters are able to bring their families in after dinner to take advantage of not only our collection, but some of our new programs as well.

Our community newspaper, "The Clipper Weekly," publishes a submission titled "Springfield Library Corner" when space allows. Each week, I submit a detailed account of happenings here at SPL, advising the community of both upcoming events and recent happenings. **A sample of random issues is attached to this report.**

Winter months in Springfield, as in all of Manitoba, invite the warm, safe environment we strive to deliver. Purchasing an electric fireplace, and surrounding it with a couch and comfy chairs created a favourite meeting place for members to sit and enjoy a coffee and the paper, or start on their next novel.

Local author, Merv Michalysen, whose detailed account of Catholic Church bureaucracy during his three-year mission service in Africa carried his message to a group of interested members on a cold day in January. His book, titled "Above the Rest" prompts readers to support the changes that will manifest new ways of the traditional Church on its path to becoming a spiritual Church. Fellow local authors, Sue Luckay, author of "Azungu's Story," her recollection of life changing experience on a Habitat for Humanity challenge in Malawi, Africa, and Elizabeth Romance, whose tale of a lost dog, in "Kalib's Story – A Dog Worth Saving" found its way to everyone's heart. These two authors co-hosted an author reading that was attended by many local residents as well as some who drove out from Winnipeg. Marianne Clemens, a longtime favourite local author, presented her recently published "Medley- A Collection of Stories" to an interested group one Saturday afternoon. We are proud and grateful to share in the gifts of these multi-talented authors.

Storytime, facilitated again by Cherie Denorer and Michelle Minken, started up in January, running throughout the spring, with a summer break, then one last session in the fall. During these three 8 week sessions, Storytime is a

big hit as children aged 2-5 listen to exciting stories that follow the seasons and events in our community. Children participate in a craft session, and enjoy this time of fun and learning while visiting with their little friends.

In an effort to create programs that appeal to all our members, we hosted a number of workshops over the year, such as our jewelry making workshop that was open to teens in early February. We followed this with more jewelry sessions, open to those aged 10+ that were instant hits with our members.

“Tech Time with John” is a computer class for locals, led by volunteer John Gowron, who answers general questions and more specific enquiries from our residents two Wednesday evenings per month.

In February, we hired two part time clerks, Danielle Ethier, and Cherie Denorer, to cover for staff shortages due to holiday and sick leave. Both were from our pool of dedicated volunteers, so we were happy to have the opportunity to pay them for their services, and benefit from their training and experience on site.

We were pleased to provide the local Manitoba Metis Association with space to meet in our Multipurpose room beginning in February. As a cultural group, the MMA welcomes all members of our community to sit in on these meetings. In the spring, they held a tomato plant raffle, and donated half the proceeds (\$29.00) to the library.

SPL began its “Better than Therapy” book club in March, with a small group of ladies meeting monthly to discuss the works of Canadian authors on their book list.

April was a busy month, with the implementation of a few new activities. The local school division was looking for a writing competition for its grade 2 and 3 students. We responded with the “First Annual Poetry Contest” for students in grades 2 & 3, with prizes awarded to the winners including a trophy, and a plaque that hangs in the library with the current year’s winner’s name engraved on it. We had over 80 entries, making the judging panel’s choice a difficult one.

A Puzzle Exchange was also created, allowing patrons to circulate puzzles at their heart’s content, keeping them until completion with no deadline, or limit on borrowings. Many patrons donated puzzles in new condition, and our collection continues to grow, allowing for a change of scenery and themes. We also developed a “Shut-in” program for those unable to get to the library. Upon request, staff and volunteers have delivered books to those who have asked for this service.

The Canasta Club began meeting twice a week for fellowship and cards, beginning at 1:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Our Storytime leaders, and manager, attended the local Kid’s Fair in Dugald Elementary School which provides information for children beginning Kindergarten that fall. Representation from the library increases our membership, and attendance in children’s programs.

During the year, we hold craft workshops in coordination with the calendar of events, such as Easter, Mother’s Day, and so on. Following a drop in theme, families are welcome to attend, create a craft, have a cup of coffee or tea and refreshments. Our member’s attendance at these craft workshops has grown to great numbers; from 5-10 attendees when we started to 60+ at present.

Our library is also the home of dozens of paintings and sculptures by local artist, Ida MacKenzie. This year, we invited other artists to show their works, and added newcomer Genevie Henderson, and student Jessica Anderson’s art to the collection. All items are available for sale, with Ida and Genevie giving occasional art demonstrations.

The Springfield Legion was allotted an area in the northeast corner of our library to display artifacts from the Canadian Forces. Three display cases now hold various items, from WWII medals to a cadet uniform. With the army tank out front of our building, this is an exciting addition for our residents. A Legion garden has been developed on site, with walkways and landscaping creating a welcome environment.

With our Girl Guide Troops coming to clean up our grounds and plant flowers for us, we introduced the first annual fruit tree planting in front of the building. We chose to plant a plum tree, and the Brownies and Sparks that took care of this task are looking forward to watching "their" tree grow over the years as they do.

Our second anniversary celebration in May was kicked off with our book sale, as we joined in with the town of Dugald's annual "garage sale." This is a great time for folks to load up on copies of books to take to the lake, or during travel, without the worry of due dates, or protecting copies from sand and water. Cake and beverages were available for members on the Friday and Saturday of the event.

As the school year wound down, the "Splash" TC Summer Reading program found its feet. Our summer student, Karyn Fanstone, held Library Camp four days per week, from Tues. – Friday, with inside activities including reading, games and crafts, with a snack and outdoor "splash" activities following. In addition to this program, we also held Storytime once per week over the summer months for preschoolers, and the log book records maintained by our student readers resulted in thousands of minutes' worth of reading amongst our membership. Prizes were awarded at summer's end to all involved.

In partnership with our local dance club, "Cook's Creek Dance Association," we held 8 "dance & arts" sessions on Thursday afternoons: Hip Hop, Clowning, Magic, Dance, Vocal Variety & Musical Theatre all had spaces for 8 participants, and were all fully attended. Our campers created the first of many "Banners" that will hang in our multipurpose room following the theme of that year. 2011's banner features fish decorated by each child, and stitched to the background, with "2011 S.P.L. Summer Camp."

With funding assistance from "Bright Beginnings," we were excited to develop a new program called "Mind & Body" this fall devoted to 4 & 5 year olds readying for Kindergarten, particularly those who have not attended daycare or preschool. A two hour program run for 8 concurrent Friday afternoons, the children spend the first hour concentrating on numeracy and literacy development while Melinda Ives, our facilitator teaches the children as they practice in their individual work books. After a short 15 minute break (recess), where the students share a nutritious snack, the last part of the program, focusing on "Body" is led by an instructor from CCDA. This portion, compared to the physical education program in elementary schools, features creative movement, with some dancing and games. The children attending are having a great time while mothers have reported that their children are developing skills at an impressive rate.

The RM's recreation department delivered walking poles which we lend out on their behalf. Happy to include any service in our community, we have also added to our children's area many toys and games for little ones to enjoy while older siblings choose their reading materials for the week.

"Kids Cooking with Jasmin" began in September, led by Jasmin Jarisch, a member of our library who had moved to Canada from Germany, where she was a hotel pastry chef. Her skills were much appreciated as she managed to find time to teach this cooking class despite the fact that she is a new mother, with a husband working in Alberta. We do have the best volunteers ever!

In October, we extended our Saturday opening hours from 2:00 p.m. closing to 4:00 p.m. We have found our members appreciate the longer hours, as we are busy throughout the day. We will remain open until 4:00 until the May long weekend when we will revert to summer hours, with a 2:00 closing once again until Sept. long weekend.

Through a provincial grant and funding from the RM, we were able to install an automatic door opener for easy access to our building. Moms pushing strollers, people carrying an armload of books, as well as those assisted by a cane or wheelchair, now find it a snap to open the door.

We developed a small collection of CD's for loan when a patron donated over one hundred from her personal collection. Displayed on a new rack, the CD's are catching people's interest and circulate regularly.

In addition to our books and magazines, our audio books and CD's, walking poles, toys and puzzles for loan pretty much guarantee we have something of interest to everyone. Our "Wish List" binder, at our patron services counter, invites members to list titles that we do not yet have for future purchase. Leanne Henry, our Library Assistant, takes charge of ordering, and keeps our members happy with choice selections.

December brings our annual Christmas Craft Sale. Organized by board member Sally Colomy, tables are quickly booked to capacity. We enjoyed a great turn out, with a silent auction table, 50/50 and silver collection. Board members, volunteers and staff all enjoyed meeting and greeting our members, and visitors, while filling coffee and tea cups, and plates with dainties and treats. During Christmas week and New Year's week, we keep our table flowing with refreshments as a sign of our appreciation to our community and members.

As we look to the New Year, we have plans to continue upgrading our programs and services until we meet the needs of EVERY resident in the RM of Springfield! New furniture for our multipurpose room and children's area, as well as kid's computers have been ordered, and await delivery, along with some shelving and magazine racks. 2012 promises to be yet another great year!

C: Statistics:

We continue to grow in all areas as more residents become aware of our services. Displaying "Springfield Public Library – Dugald 853-2039" on door magnets on my car caught the attention of many, who still weren't sure of our location. School visits and community events also drew in new members. Our gate counter in 2010 proved to be faulty; adjusted figures are shown in this report.

Catalogued Collection: 18,455 – an increase of 6,377 items since 2010.

Items circulated: 52,565 – an increase of 16,436 from 2010.

Magazine Subscriptions: 93 – up from 75 in 2010.

Computers: Adult: 6

Children's: 1

Members: 2,724 – an increase of 567.

Non-resident Members: 4

Visitors: 27,950 (Last year's report should read 19,500) ...up 8,450 from 2010.

Interlibrary Loans processed: 858 – up 37 items in 2011.

D: Partnerships and Appreciations:

We are fortunate and grateful to benefit from the resources, financial, and by way of “manpower” through their dedication, expertise, and commitment to the R.M. of Springfield and more specifically, its library, from the following: The volunteer members of the Springfield Public Library Board, Reeve, Council and staff of the R.M. of Springfield, and all of our library volunteers.

Manitoba Culture, Heritage & Tourism, Public Library Services, the R.M. of Springfield and “Bright Beginnings,” (through the Province of Manitoba) for our funding, for operating costs and programs.

Our staff, though small in numbers, in big in “heart.” Thanks to Leanne, Cherie, Danielle and Karyn, for your dedication to our community. Your warmth and energy is what makes our patrons welcome time and again.

In the end, our library would not exist without the support of our growing number of members. From our wee group of “Biblio Babies” to our honoured senior citizens, we are pleased to have the opportunity to serve you and look forward to many years of continued service to the community.

E: Financial Performance and Accountability

See Auditor’s report: Attached

See Adopted 2011 Budget : Attached

**Also attached – copies of “Springfield Library Corner” articles from 2011 publications.

