



Chinook Regional Library

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Please write or call with your  
comments and ideas.

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This publication is directed to  
Library Trustees, Municipal  
Councilors and is meant also as  
an avenue of information  
between the Chinook Regional  
Library and the general public.

Contributions are encouraged  
from Trustees, library workers  
and all persons interested in  
continuing standards of library  
service.

# Update . . .

A NEWSLETTER FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES

## CHINOOK JOINS COMMUNITYNET

In a process starting in February and extending into spring and early summer, about half of the branches in Chinook Regional Library will make the transition to the new government sponsored CommunityNet.

CommunityNet is a joint undertaking under the Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program (CSIP) with SaskTel providing installation and maintenance. It is a shared, advanced communications network that will include high speed service to the Internet for libraries, schools, health care facilities, and government offices. Inclusion of public libraries resulted from an initiative by Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association (SLTA).

Chinook Regional Library will benefit from CommunityNet both in terms of service and financially. SaskTel will provide CommunityNet libraries with 24 hour service. This includes a one hour response time and completed repair time under 5 hours. In addition, across the network core, CommunityNet traffic has a higher priority than public Internet traffic.

As each qualifying branch library transfers to CommunityNet, their billing from SaskTel for Internet access will cease and all billing will be handled by Headquarters. In 2003, Headquarters will bill each branch, at the time of transfer, a reduced percentage of what would have been paid to SaskTel for Internet access and line charges for the remainder of the year. Starting in 2004, branches will receive a single bill in January as advance payment for service in that year.

Non-qualifying branches will retain their existing Internet service provider, in most cases SaskTel, and continue to receive monthly billings from them. However, the Chinook Regional Library will rebate to these branches a percentage of their Internet access and line charges annually. Consequently, for the duration of the CommunityNet contract, all branch libraries will realise a similar financial saving.

In a few cases, SaskTel will make high speed Internet publicly available in a community before the branch library's transition to CommunityNet. Where this occurs, the branch library should upgrade to the public high speed service immediately and make the transition to CommunityNet afterwards.

CommunityNet will provide the initial step towards access for over 250 rural communities across the province that have minimal or no access to advanced services today. By providing high speed Internet service at the local library, CommunityNet will help to overcome barriers of distance and market size, thereby strengthening the viability of rural communities and setting the stage for economic development. CommunityNet will help to ensure that the more than fifty percent of Saskatchewan residents without computers in their homes will have access to high quality Internet services through community libraries.

[www.city.swift-current.sk.ca/city/chinook/chinook.htm](http://www.city.swift-current.sk.ca/city/chinook/chinook.htm)

## PROFILE

### New Branch Librarians at Vanguard and Hazlet

#### Melanie Clark Vanguard

"I love books," says Melanie Clark, the new Branch Librarian in Vanguard, "both fiction and non-fiction, especially if they are well written." Melanie was appointed to fill the position left vacant by the retirement of long-term librarian, Doris Burns.

Melanie and Gordon, together with their three children, Rowan, Hailey, and Gareth, moved to Vanguard in July, 2002, where Gordon teaches at the local High School.

Originally from England, Melanie was raised and educated in Vancouver, B.C. Following her graduation from University with an M.A. in Geography, she moved with her husband, Gordon, to northern B.C. where Gordon taught High School on a reserve.

During this time, Melanie also worked in education as a teacher and college instructor, although she admits to a short stint as a guard at the local RCMP detachment.

Melanie says that the Vanguard Branch is well used and appreciated by the local patrons. They find the library a valuable resource and make good use of interlibrary loans. School-children take lots of books out, especially the Grade 1's and 2's who like the selection of books at their reading level. "I too make good use of interlibrary loans," says Melanie, "Being part of the Chinook Region really helps to get me the books I want."



*Melanie Clark*



*Tarryl Todd*

#### Tarryl Todd Hazlet

Last fall Tarryl Todd took on the responsibility of being the new librarian at the Hazlet Branch of the Chinook Regional Library.

Tarryl has lived all her life in Hazlet and is newly married to Jeff. When she was in her teens she was a keen gymnast and competed at the National Gymnastrada in Ottawa. She also participated in drama and volleyball at school. Nowadays Tarryl is a little less active but still enjoys curling.

Tarryl likes working in the library. She enjoys visiting with and helping the people who use the library for books, interlibrary loans, and to use the free Internet access. Tarryl also enjoys reading, and uses the library herself for magazines, cookbooks, and books on art.

As a new Branch Librarian in a new library building, Tarryl is working on ways to increase library usage, especially by children. "At the moment, children use the computer but not too many take out books," she says.

The Internet is a big attraction for many patrons, says Tarryl. Lots of people use the library computer for e-mail and to surf the Internet for information. They also use the interlibrary loan service provided by the Region. "There are several Book Clubs in Hazlet," says Tarryl, "and they use the library to get the new books they are interested in."

## New Help for Patrons with Sight Problems



Two Branch Libraries in the Region have received gifts of equipment to make it easier for those with low vision to enjoy reading independently.

A colour digital magnifier and television was presented to Swift Current Branch by the Saskatchewan Optometric Foundation, and a similar unit was presented to Leader Branch by Gordon and Michelle Strueck, a local pharmacist and his wife.

These digital magnifying units will allow those with low vision to enjoy reading independently by magnifying print and projecting it onto a TV screen. Books, magazines, cheques, bills, and more can be magnified using these units which are valued at approximately \$1,100.

Chinook Regional Library is very interested in providing additional resources and services to those with low vision in the community. It currently offers a wide selection of large print books for individuals with sight problems.

Swift Current and Leader Branches can now, with these new units, further increase the range of reading material available to sight challenged patrons.

## Advertise your Library on a Highway Sign

Local communities wishing to promote their library can place a library symbol on Saskatchewan Highways signage for \$25 per sign if application is made through the Chinook Regional Library. The usual cost is \$100 per sign.

Applications must be received by Headquarters before mid-March, 2003. New signs should be in place for the 2004 tourist season.

## Aboriginal Awareness At Branch Librarians' Workshop

Chinook Regional Library will be receiving a grant of \$2000 to hold a training session to promote Aboriginal Cultural Awareness. The training session is being planned for the Branch Librarian's Workshop on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Invited speakers will provide an educational program on Aboriginal culture, history, and current issues. Library staff will attend and Trustees are invited.

### CHINOOK REGIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE AWARDS

*Long Service Awards were presented on behalf of the Chinook Regional Library at its Fall Board Meeting.*

#### Ten Year Certificates

##### Board Members:

Marjorie Cator , Village of Shackleton, Cabri Library Board

Hazel Diebel, Village of Meyronne

Betty Dietrich , Central Butte Library Board

Barry Elderkin, Town of Maple Creek, Executive Committee, Maple Creek Library Board

Caroll Hildebrandt, R.M. of Swift Current #137, Executive Committee, Swift Current Library Board

Linda Linnen, Village of Neville, Executive Committee

Gloria Parker, R.M. of Pittville #169, Hazlet Library Board

Merna Sawchyn, Leader Library Board

Linda Seifert, Village of Consul, Consul Library Board

Diane Thoring, Frontier Library Board

Tannis Topham, Town of Eastend, Eastend Library Board

Dick Wells, Village of Carmichael

##### Staff Member:

Marcia Huber – 9 years branch librarian Leader Branch, 1 year Leader Library Board

#### Twenty Year Service Awards

June Buhr, Herbert Library Board

Eleanor Liggett, Hodgeville Library Board

Vern Seibel, Hodgeville Library Board

## Did You Know?

Canadian public libraries are the most heavily used public community facilities, with more than 150 million visits per year. In comparison, Canadian museums received 26 million visitors and Blue Jays baseball games 2 million spectators.

More Canadians visit libraries than take part in golf, hockey, baseball and swimming combined.

There are 3,153 library service points in Canada - that's three times as many as McDonald's restaurants in Canada.

98% of the library service points offer public access via the Internet.

The total revenue from taxes, donations, etc. at all of Canada's urban public libraries in 1998 was around \$528 million. If gamblers had taken just \$1 out of every \$15 spent on gambling and given it to the library, they would have doubled library budgets!

Library visits: 82,707,477. Canada's population: 30,750,100 (in 2000). So statistically every man, woman and child in Canada visited the library almost three times over the past year!

Canada's public libraries loaned 153,914,378 items last year. If those 154 million books were stacked one on top of the other, the tower of books would be 7000 times taller than the CN Tower.

*From Municipal World, Oct. 2002, p.20. Source cited: [www.cla.ca/divisions/CAPL/advocacy/quotes.htm](http://www.cla.ca/divisions/CAPL/advocacy/quotes.htm)*



## Branch Library of the Year



*At the Fall Board Meeting, Leader Branch Library received the second Annual Branch Library Award  
Honourable Mention went to Cabri Branch Library.*



**Jason Melhoff holds some of the children's books donated by Melhoff Electric to Chinook Regional Library**

## Bits & Pieces

Britain's first public lending library in Manchester celebrated its 150th birthday in September 2002. The 1852 opening was so significant that author Charles Dickens travelled to the Manchester Free Library to see it. The 400th anniversary of the Bodleian Library was celebrated in November by the award of honorary degrees by Oxford University.

Thousands of historical books are being digitized in New York City in an effort to preserve Tibetan literature. The Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center has 12,000 volumes of Tibetan literature, possibly the largest in the world. Many came from refugees fleeing the Chinese in the 1950's, and most are either hand written or printed from wooden blocks.

## Summer Reading Program 2003

The Chinook Regional Library, together with other Saskatchewan Libraries is gearing up for another summer of fun and activity at the local branch library designed to stimulate and educate children in how to use the library as an information resource.

The theme for the 2003 Summer Reading Program is '**Camp Out @ your Library**'. The mascot for the program is a racoon. Some suggested sub themes that each Branch might consider include storytelling, star gazing, camping, outdoors, nature, folklore, ghost stories, dwellings, bugs, water, surviving, fishing, travel, Saskatchewan, a 'camping zone' in the library.

More information on the Summer Reading Program together with promotional material such as posters, bookmarks, etc. will be sent to branches by the Chinook Branch Supervisor. Informational links will also be placed on the Chinook Regional Library web site in the spring.

The Summer Reading Program is an annual event in the province of Saskatchewan. The program is geared to children of all ages and their families. It is a literacy-based program designed to encourage reading and library usage by providing fun activities related to a theme. This successful program has been held during July and August for 25 years, province-wide, in the public library systems.

The Summer Reading Program is a joint project of public libraries, the Saskatchewan Library Association, and the Provincial Library. The major sponsors in 2003 are the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspaper Association, SaskTel, and the Toronto-Dominion Bank. Many other local organizations work with libraries and branches to give the program a local relevance.

## SLA / SLTA AGM and SPRING SEMINARS

April 10 and 11, 2003

The Saskatchewan Library Association and the Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association will hold their spring workshops and Annual General Meetings on Friday, April 11, 2003 at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel in Saskatoon.

The SLTA Executive and the Chair/Directors will meet on Thursday, April 10 as will the cataloguing, interlibrary loans, and Dynex working groups. Friday morning, April 11, will consist of workshops and seminars on topics of interest to librarians and trustees.

The Mary Donaldson Memorial Lecture will be held at the luncheon on Friday, April 11, along with presentation of the Mary Donaldson Award of Merit, the SLA Frances Morrison Award, and the SLA Honourary Life Member Award. This ever-popular lecture, featuring speakers who have made significant library and/or cultural contributions, is free to the public.

Friday afternoon will be devoted to the Annual General Meetings of both groups.

To register or to find out more about the conference, visit the SLA's conference site at [www.lib.sk.ca/sla/](http://www.lib.sk.ca/sla/)

## CLA AND ALA JOINT CONFERENCE

In June of 2003 the Canadian Library Association will hold its annual conference in conjunction with the American Library Association (ALA) which is meeting in Toronto, Ontario, June 19-25, 2003. The conference programs and major social events will be planned jointly by the two Associations, with the hope of increasing knowledge about one another and the issues of the profession on both sides of the border.

### Calendar of Coming Events

March 22	Chinook Regional Library Board Annual Meeting.
April	National Poetry Month
April 6-12	Information Rights Week
April 10 - 11	SLA Annual Meeting and Spring Seminars. Location: Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Saskatoon
April 11	SLTA Annual Meeting
April 21-27	Canada Book Week 2003. Theme: "Literary Landscapes and Literary Sites"
May 26	Branch Librarians' Workshop. Theme: Aboriginal Cultural Awareness
June 19 - 25	Joint CLA/ALA Conference. Location: Toronto, Ontario
July-August	Summer Reading program. Theme: "Camping Out @ your Library"

## Flashbacks

### 30 Years Ago (1973)

—New branches opened in Tompkins and Simmie. Book deposits established in Piapot and Simmie.

### 25 Years Ago (1978)

—The RM's of Swift Current #137, Deer Forks #232, Happyland #231, and the town of Burstall joined the Chinook Regional Library system.

—60 years of library service in Swift Current was recognized in May. The Swift Current Library Board held its organizational meeting on March 12, 1918 and the Reading Rooms opened in City Hall on May 14, 1918.

### 20 Years Ago (1983)

—Val Marie Branch moved to larger, more attractive quarters on March 22nd —Fox Valley, Gull Lake, Tompkins, and Piapot received their first microfiche readers. By the end of the year, 22 of the 37 branches had micro-fiche readers.

### 15 Years Ago (1988)

—In honour of the National Book Festival, Swift Current Branch sponsored an Edible Canadian Literature Contest on April 22nd.

—The 70th anniversary of the Swift Current Branch was celebrated with readings by Writer-in-Residence Rick Hillis.

### 10 Years Ago (1993)

—Tompkins Library celebrated its 20th anniversary on February 2nd.  
—The annual used-book sale in Swift Current collected \$2,546.75.

### 5 Years Ago (1998)

—Construction began on a new building for the Gull Lake Library.  
—Glen Sorestad, poet, was at the Shaunavon Library on May 12th.

## Corner Library of the Year



*At the Fall Board Meeting, Richmond Corner Library received the first Corner Library of the Year Award. The Corner Library recently moved into a new building which it shares with the RM of Enterprise No. 142. Honourable Mention went to Cadillac Corner Library.*

## NOTICE

### Annual Board Meeting Saturday, March 22nd, 2003

- Place: Chinook Regional Library Headquarters  
1240 Chaplin St. W  
Swift Current
- Time: 12:30 pm - Registration  
1:00 pm - Meeting
- Topics: 2002 Financial Statement  
Election of Officers

**BE SURE YOUR COMMUNITY IS REPRESENTED  
ON MARCH 22ND, 2003**