

Community Access Program Helps Regional Library

Once again, the Community Access Program is enabling the Chinook Regional Library provide enhanced service to the public. The Industry Canada grant is helping the Province of Saskatchewan and the Regional Library meet their commitment to make available effective, convenient, and affordable public access to the internet.

This latest grant will enable the Chinook Regional Library to update all their computer hardware and software throughout the system to a level consistent with the standards expected in 2004. By reassigning existing computers within the system, all the older, less functional computers can now be replaced.

Funding will also be available to support the provision of internet service and to support the provision of library opening hours to enable better use of the library's public access to the internet.

"Public use of our library computers is significant," says Michael Keaschuk, regional librarian, "and we must be able to provide as good a service as possible. The Community Access Program allows us to provide a level of public service our operating budget simply would not allow."

Library patrons use the public access computers for many purposes. Many patrons start using the computers at the library because of the availability of free e-mail. Communicating with family, friends, and business associates through email is rapidly becoming as popular a means of staying in touch as the telephone has been for many years. Chat rooms are also very popular, particularly with the younger, more "wired-in" patrons.

It is a short step from e-mail to using the computer as a tool to gather information from the internet. Library catalogues can be rapidly searched for books and information available regionally, provincially, and beyond. The library also provides free access to many databases covering a multitude of topics and special interests. Information can also be gathered from the many web sites world-wide. With the help of the librarian, individuals can also gain the knowledge and skills needed to effectively use information and communications technologies.

Integrating the library and the world-wide web produces many benefits. The information available through the library's computers extends the information available in the local book collection and is often used by school-age patrons to find material for projects, term papers, and essays. Older patrons use the access to the internet to research their interests and hobbies, or to transact business, access bank accounts, contact government services and programs, and to become more informed on world affairs.

The Community Access Program allows the Chinook Regional Library, the Province of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada accelerate the widespread use of the internet to better serve the needs of the citizens of Saskatchewan and advance economic and social development. The Program continues to ensure that Saskatchewan and Canada maintain

PROFILE



Ben Wurtz
Sand Lake Colony
Val Marie, Saskatchewan

"I love to read," says 61 year-old Ben Wurtz. "I often read five or six books all at the same time, and the Chinook Regional Library helps me get the books I want."

Ben Wurtz is a member of the Hutterian Brethren and lives at the Sand Lake Colony near Val Marie, Saskatchewan.

Ben now has more time to read. After 35 years working with poultry, he resigned as the colony's poultry manager in 2002. "I haven't retired," he says, "I still work, only now I have fewer responsibilities." Ben's wife, Esther, has also resigned as the colony's head cook but still works in the colony kitchen.

At one time, Ben bought many books, but once read they were passed on to someone else. "The advantage of the library," he says, "is that I can pick up the books I want, read them, and give them back in exchange for more

books."

Ben usually borrows his books from Swift Current because, being in the City so often, it is more convenient and he likes to make his own selection of reading matter. Nevertheless, he still uses the local branches at Val Marie and Climax on occasion. He also uses the inter-library loan system to get books not available locally.

When he was managing the poultry operation, Ben used the Chinook Regional Library to get books to help him in his work, often obtaining them by interlibrary loan. He also used the library computers to search the internet for information, though he admits that he preferred reading books to reading a computer screen.

Recently, Ben has been reading mostly novels by authors such as Harold Robbins and Sidney Sheldon. He especially likes Sidney Sheldon and complains that he is waiting for a new book from the author. "He doesn't write fast enough," says Ben. Ben has also been reading biographies about famous people such as Elizabeth Taylor and Elvis Presley."

Sidney Sheldon is an author that grabs Ben's attention from the first page and holds it through the whole book. "If I get a Sidney Sheldon, I have to read it straight through," he says.

In addition to the books he borrows from the Regional Library, Ben reads newspapers and magazines delivered to the colony.

As a member of the Hutterian Brethren, Ben reads High German and has a collection of books in that language, including the Bible, hymn books, the Chronicle (history) book, and Testaments supplied to each family

by the colony.

Often the books borrowed by Ben are read by the whole family. Ben and Esther have a family of four children (two married and two single) and six grandchildren. Ben says that the children are better readers than he is and, as well as reading his books, they use the library to an even greater extent.

Another Library Cat

The famous library cat named L. C. (for Library Cat) died quietly in a private home in Escondido (Calif) last fall.

The nearly 11-year-old feisty cat, adopted in 1994 by the Escondido Public Library as a mascot, had been forced into early retirement after her attack on an assistance dog had sparked a \$1.5 million lawsuit against the city in 2001.

Deputy City Attorney Steve Nelson told the newspaper that L.C.'s death won't affect the case which he considers frivolous.

City Librarian Laura Mitchell said to the October 9, 2003 *San Diego Union-Tribune* that L.C. had suffered recently from seizures caused by tumours. "She had a lot of people who loved her," Mitchell said, "and she was really spoiled while she was here."

Need A Thesis?

You can now search the online catalogue at Library and archives Canada for all Canadian theses and dissertations in their collection at [Http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/thesis/canada/index-e.html](http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/thesis/canada/index-e.html)

Summer Reading Program

The Regional Library is working with the Saskatchewan Library Association and other Saskatchewan libraries to make sure that this year's reading program will provide a fun way of educating and stimulate children in how to use the library as an information source.

The theme for 2004 is "**Race to Adventure @ your library**" and will reflect a multicultural aspect. The poster will be designed as a board game featuring recognizable world sites, countries, and costumes. There will be two mascots, a bear and a prairie dog, both of which will be featured on the poster, ready to race.

Promotional material such as posters, bookmarks, etc. together with information on possible sub-themes and activities will be sent to branch librarians once the materials become available. The graphics, once completed, will be posted on the web at www.lib.sk.ca/sla/ and informational links will be available through the Chinook Regional Library web site in the spring.

The Summer Reading Program 2004 is a joint project of the Regional Library, the Provincial Library, the Saskatchewan Library Association, and participating branch libraries. Many local organizations work with the libraries to give a local relevance and the major sponsors, including SaskTel, the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspaper Association, and the Toronto-Dominion Bank, provide the province-wide continuity of features.

Branch Library of the Year



At the Fall Board Meeting, Cabri Branch Library received the third Annual Branch Library Award. The award was presented to librarian Joy Handwork (centre) and Marj Cator, library Board member (left) by Board Chairman Linda Linnen

Honourable Mention went to Tompkins Branch Library.

More Lost and Found

An anonymous Macedonian man has donated the world's oldest multiple-page book to the National Museum of History in Sofia, Bulgaria, *BBC News* reported last year.

Found by the donor in 1943 along the Struma River, the 2,500

year-old Etruscan book consists of six bound sheets of 24 carat gold, with illustrations of a horse-rider, a mermaid, a harp, and soldiers.

There are about 30 similar pages known but none in book form.

Book Delivery Service at Cabri

Every other week, Joy Handwork, the librarian at the Cabri Branch of the Chinook Regional Library, packs up a box of books and magazines for delivery to shut-in residents of Cabri.

"We started the service" says Joy, "because so many of our seniors couldn't get to the library, especially in the winter."

The selection of books, usually large print, is up to the librarian, but Joy knows from experience what her patrons want to read. One of the Cabri Library Board members, in rotation, then takes the books around to the patron's residence.

This mobile book service started in the summer of 2002 and delivers to the Cabri hospital and senior citizens in their homes. The number of patrons served varies with the season but usually 10 to 12 receive books. Shut-in patrons have been very appreciative of this service.

If the need is there then Joy says that the service can be extended to other shut-ins such as young mothers with small children who can't get out during library hours.

The service is entirely voluntary and continuity will depend upon the availability of the board members to deliver the books and magazines.

Other branches considering starting a similar service are advised to contact Joy Handwork at the Cabri Branch for more information.

New Resource

Library and Archives Canada has a new guide at its Canadian Genealogical Centre titled "Researching your Aboriginal Ancestors". The address is http://www.genealogic.ca/02/02051a_e.html

Communism is Dead

Twenty libraries in the Kaliningrad region, a Baltic enclave sandwiched between Lithuania and Poland, have discarded some 700,000 books on Marxist-Leninist ideology, according to a story filed by *Ananova*, October 29. Kaliningrad Library System Head Elena Alesandronets told the Rosbalt news agency, "No one's had any interest in them since the Soviet Union collapsed.

Bookmobiles Parked

Nearly 100 library bookmobiles that once made the rounds in Tokyo and the neighbouring prefectures have been retired because of strict clean-air standards that went into effect October 1. Faced with the cost of fitting them with emissions filters or replacing them with non-diesel models, local governments have decided to park them indefinitely, the Tokyo *Asahi Shimbun* reported October 31.

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:

Glen Bowles	Maple Creek Library Board
Sharon Coburn	Abbey Library Board
Susan Go ett	Maple Creek Library Board
Sylvia Lindquist	Central Butte Library Board
Barb Needham	Maple Creek Library Board
Rhonda Opheim	Hazlet Library Board
Henri Roberge	Chinook Regional Library representative R.M. of Auvergne #76; Ponteix Libr ary Board

Twenty Year Service Awards

See Fall 2003 edition of Update

Saskatchewan Libraries Conference

May 6 – 8, 2004

The SLA / SLTA AGM and Conference has changed its name to the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference to celebrate the contributions made by all of the libraries, library associations and library workers in the province. It will be held on May 6-8, 2004 at the Regina Inn, Regina

This year's theme, **Making Connections @ your library**, speaks to the many connections playing out in Saskatchewan libraries. Partnerships among libraries, relationships with patrons, and technological links are examples of the connections made by libraries and library workers every day.

The Mary Donaldson Memorial Lecture on the evening of Thursday, May 6th will feature a lecture by Tim Wynne-Jones entitled "This Place is Totally ... This Place - Libraries: Real Community in a Virtual World." The Keynote Address will be given on Friday morning by Wes Stevenson, Acting President, First Nations University of Canada. Awards will be presented at the Friday luncheon.

Library Bunny

In Ruidoso (N.M.) two bunnies living in the Public Library as part of a children's learning centre have been evicted. The library was asked to remove the rabbits by a patron because she said they are known allergy triggers. Attempts to work out an acceptable compromise between the library and the patron were unsuccessful reported the *Ruidoso News*, including a suggestion that the library staff take reading material for the patron's daughter to the adult section.

As has been the case in most other years, the workshops and other events are sponsored or provided by the Saskatchewan Library Association with the financial, in-kind, and shared expenses, assistance, and contributions of the Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association, the Provincial Library, the Multitype Library Board, and other related associations.

A feature of this year's conference will be a Conference Partners initiative where those new to a job, the profession, or the province, will be paired with more experienced members of the Saskatchewan library community. Both partners are expected to benefit from this fusion of enthusiasm and experience.

There will be a Pre-Conference

Workshop on Thursday on aboriginal awareness and protocol, ending with a discussion of education and delivery of library services in a culturally diverse environment. Library Board Chairs and Library Systems Directors will meet on Wednesday as will various working groups.

The 2004 conference will be an excellent opportunity to connect with library workers from around the province and the exciting array of speakers is sure to inspire every library type to come together to achieve common goals. To register or find out more about the conference, visit SLA's conference site at www.lib.sk.ca/sla/

Calendar of Coming Events

April 3	Chinook Regional Library Board Annual Meeting
April	National Poetry Month (www.poets.org/npm)
April 5 - 11	Information Rights Week
May 6 - 8	Saskatchewan Libraries Conference. Location: Regina Inn, Regina, Saskatchewan Theme: Making Connections @ your library
May 31	Branch Librarians' Workshop
June 3	Chinook Regional Library Book Sale Location: Swift Current
June 19 - 25	Joint CLA / BCLA Conference. Location: Victoria, B.C. Theme: Celebrating our Community
July-August	Summer Reading Program. Theme: "Race to Adventure @ your Library"

Treasure Returned

Last fall, Baghdad police recovered one of the most valuable items missing after the looting of the National Museum and Library following the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Captain Hazim Salih pulled the sculpture of a masked woman's face, known as the Lady of Warka, from a farmer's field. The farmer had buried the sculpture 6 feet deep after a debtor gave it to him a few days earlier.

Museum officials broke down in tears of joy when U.S. soldiers brought the 3,500-year-old Sumerian artifact to them, the *Chicago Tribune* reported on September 18.

The mesmerizing life-size alabaster sculpture is believed to be one of the earliest representations of the human race.

Too Much TV

An October, 2003 study from the Kaiser Family Foundation raises a red flag about the impact of television and computer games on children's reading skills.

In "Zero to Six: Electronic Media in the Lives of Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers", the Foundation reports that young children who have TVs in their bedrooms, or live in households where the TV is on at least half the time, spend significantly more time watching than other children do, are less likely to read every day, spend less time reading when they do read, and are less likely to be able to read at all.

However, despite the plethora of new media, reading continues to be a regular part of young children's lives.

Corner Library of the Year



At the Fall Board Meeting, Linda Linnen, Board Chairman, presented the second Corner Library Award to Luanne Hancock, library assistant, Cadillac Corner Library and Betty Moller, Clerk of the Village of Cadillac

NOTICE

Annual Board Meeting Saturday, April 3rd, 2004

- Place: Chinook Regional Library Headquarters
1240 Chaplin St. W
Swift Current
- Time: 12:30 pm - Registration
1:00 pm - Meeting
- Topics: 2003 Financial Statement
Election of Officers

**BE SURE YOUR COMMUNITY IS REPRESENTED
ON APRIL 3RD, 2004**