



Chinook Regional Library

Volume 22 , Number 1

Spring, 2005

Please write or call with your comments and ideas.

Michael Keaschuk, Director
Chinook Regional Library
1240 Chaplin St. W.
Swift Current, SK
S9H 0G8
Phone: (306) 773-3186
Fax: (306) 773-0434
E-mail:
mkeaschuk@chinook.lib.sk.ca

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

Regional Library Benefits from Community Access Program Again

The Community Access Program of Industry Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan continues to ensure that Saskatchewan and Canada maintain their international leadership as one of the world's most electronically connected societies and economies. This year (2004-2005) the program continued to support the same objectives but in a more focussed manner.

In 2004-2005, Industry Canada funded only one Community Access Program in a community. Where a locally formed Community Access group had applied for funding, they received preferential status. In those communities there is not a locally formed Community Access group, Industry Canada is channelling funding through the Regional Library.

Twenty-one branch libraries are the target of Community Access Program funding through the Regional Library in 2004-2005. Most of the money allocated to each of these 21 branches will be used to subsidize improved opening hours, making it easier for library patrons to access the computers that provide a window to the internet and the world. Any remaining funding will be used to improve the public's computer facilities through new chairs, networking equipment, and new computers for those branches that did not receive new computers under the 2003-2004 program.

"Public access computers in our branch libraries are being used more and more by our local patrons," says Michael Keaschuk, Regional Librarian, "We must continue to offer them a high quality of service to meet their needs. Industry Canada, through the Community Access Program, allows us to meet those needs at a level our operating budget simply could not provide. In 2003-2004 the Regional Library received \$122,800 under this program. This year the funding is a lot less but is still greatly appreciated."

Most library patrons use the computers initially to send and receive emails, maintaining contacts with family and friends, exchanging news and pictures. Travellers through the province also stop in at a local branch library to check their email and keep in touch. Younger library patrons make extensive use of chat programs like MSN Messenger for instant communications with their friends. For them, the library computer now often fills the role that the telephone had years ago.

Many library patrons have gone beyond using the computer as a telephone substitute. They use it as a tool to gather information from the internet. Many use it for job searches and to communicate with government departments. Others surf the net for business resources and opportunities, or to manage their banking. Younger patrons find information for school projects, term papers, and essays. Older patrons research their hobbies and interests. Genealogical research for many has been transformed by the vast amount of information available on the internet.

The library provides free access to many databases unavailable to the home computer user. These databases cover a multitude of topics and special interests. The library catalogue is also on-line to be rapidly searched for books and information available regionally, provincially, and beyond by interlibrary loan.

Effective, convenient, and affordable public access to the internet is being widely promoted throughout the Regional Library system in southwest Saskatchewan. In the past, the Community Access Program enabled the Regional Library to update all its computer hardware and software to present standards. The program continues to serve the needs of citizens of Saskatchewan by enabling the library system to enhance its service to the community and advance social and economic development.

Profile

Pat Palmer, Swift Current Branch



Pat Palmer

"Every day is different," says Pat Palmer, reference librarian at the Swift Current Branch. "The information requested is as diverse as the patrons. It might be genealogy, business research, helping find information for a term-paper, or just general interest information. It depends on the day."

Pat has worked at the Swift Current Branch for over 12 years. Born and raised in Vanguard, she moved to Swift Current after qualifying as a teacher at the University of Regina. Pat taught full time in the Swift Current school system until she and her husband, Barry, had children, after which she worked part-time as a substitute teacher until her three children were grown.

Pat joined the library as a page, and worked two years part-time. "People don't realise how important the work of a page is to the library," she says, "Pages put books back in the cor-

rect place on the shelf and keep the shelves straight. Without good pages the library becomes a mess." When things are quiet, Pat finds great satisfaction in reshelving and keeping the library tidy.

But quiet times are not common. In addition to her work as the reference librarian, Pat looks after the Children's Storytime, held three times a week in the library. She also conducts the Senior's Outreach program, taking books (mainly large print) and talking books to the six senior citizen's residences in the city.

In her own reading, Pat enjoys reading about Canadian history, especially the least publicized aspects of Canada's past. She also enjoys learning about Canadian geography through the Canadian Geographic magazine. For fictional reading, Pat turns to good Canadian authors such as Gayle Bowen for a relaxation.

Having a computer on her desk has had great impact on Pat's work. "The internet has changed the expectations of our patrons," she says. "It has quickened the availability of knowledge and having the catalogue on-line has increased our efficiency."

Pat had the advantage of being in the library when computers were introduced and, as she says, she grew with them. She believes the investment by Industry Canada in library computers has done Swift Current and the rural areas a great favour in giving them speedy and wider access to the world.

Branch of the Year



The 4th Library of the Year Award was presented to Maple Creek Branch Library at the Fall Board Meeting. The award was accepted by Harvey Pickett (left), delegate from the Town of Maple Creek and presented by the Board chairman Linda Linnen (right).

Mendham Corner Library received the 3rd Corner Library of the Year Award at the same meeting.

The Library of the Year Award and the Corner Library of the Year Awards are based upon the library's circulation, programming, appearance, and community involvement.

Door Prize Winner



Florence Sehn, R.M. of Enterprise #142 won the door prize of an internet ready computer, monitor, and keyboard at the Fall Board Meeting. A similar door prize of a computer will be won at the upcoming Annual Board Meeting

Calendar of Coming Events

April	National Poetry Month (www.poets.org/npm)
April 4-10	Information Rights Week
April 11-17	Young People's Poetry Week
April 16	Chinook Regional Library Board Annual Meeting
April 21-23	Saskatchewan Library Association Conference, Saskatoon Theme - Linking Communities: The next 100 Years
April 23	Canada Book Day
June 15-18	Canadian Library Association Conference, Calgary, Alberta Theme - Rediscover the Library Movement
July - August	Summer Reading Program Theme - Blast Off: Outer Space Exploration
September 13-17	4th International Indigenous Librarian's Forum, Regina

Summer Reading Program 2005

Since 1977, the Summer Reading Program has been an annual occurrence focused on motivating families to visit their library and read during the summer. For 2005, the Saskatchewan Libraries Association has joined forces with Libraries and Archives Canada and the majority of other provincial associations across the country to present the Toronto Dominion Bank Summer Reading Club.

The title of the program in 2005 is **Blast Off!** and the theme is **Outer Space Exploration**. Book lists and a staff manual with activity suggestions, examples, and theme linked images will be available in the spring.

A review of the TD Summer Reading Program program in 2004 concluded that not only did the program meet the required quality criteria, it also offered several important benefits:

The Summer Reading Program promotes the fun of reading with young Canadians and raises their attendance at libraries in the summer months;

It develops a reading culture with children and maintains the knowledge acquired from schools;

It has a simple, leisure, and creative approach that structures the child when reading and awards his or her personal achievements;

Its material is of high quality, is bilingual where required, is versatile and can be adapted to a wide and diversified range of libraries and communities;

It raises parents' and children's awareness of the importance of reading and its impact on literacy;

The program fosters the establishment of relationships between Canadian children, libraries, provinces,

and territories, and between various levels of government and the private sector.

The Saskatchewan Summer Reading Program is a joint project of each public library system, the Provincial Library, the Saskatchewan Libraries Association, and participating branch libraries. It is sponsored nationally by Toronto Dominion Bank and provincially the major sponsors are SaskTel and the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspaper Association. Many local sponsors work with the libraries to give the program a local relevance.

Saskatchewan Libraries Association convenes the Summer Reading Committee with library participants from around the province and provides financial support, and printed materials to all interested libraries.

Chinook Regional Library Service Awards

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

10 Year Certificates

Board Members:

Cindy Buscholl

June Evenson

Jo Ann Heeg-Williams

Henry Hildebrandt

Valerie Lowe

Louise Wickstrom

Janet Wilkinson

Prelate Library Board; Village of Prelate

Frontier Library Board; Village of Frontier

Pennant Library Board, former librarian, Village of Pennant

R.M. of Lac Pelletier #107

Climax Library Board; R.M. of Lone Tree#18

Tompkins Library Board

Frontier Library Board; Village of Frontier; SLTA Rep.

Staff Member:

Pamela Nairn

Lancer Corner Library; Bookmobile Asst. Lancer/Portreeve

20 Year Awards

Board Members:

Vivianne Calvin

Lynn Doell

Kincaid Library Board; Villages of Hazenmore & Meyronne

Chaplin Library Board; Village of Chaplin; R.M. of Chaplin #164

Staff Member:

New Librarian

A new Librarian, Manisha Khetarpal, has been appointed for the Swift Current Branch Library. She will take up her duties on May 1st 2005.

Manisha joins the Chinook Regional Library from the Slave Lake Municipal Library in Alberta where she has been working as librarian since graduating from Dalhousie University's Library and Information Studies program.

Manisha will be accompanied to Swift Current by her husband, a computer specialist, and her two children.

An Apple-a-Day



As part of an initiative to encourage creative uses of technology in education, Duke University in the USA gave Apple iPods to its 1,650 incoming freshmen last year.

The goal is to use the digital device to download faculty-approved course content, including language lessons, recorded lectures, and audio books.

Google Gets Degree

While internet search engines have improved greatly over the past few years, there are still issues with the quality and authoritativeness of information retrieved by a typical internet search.

Those smart folk over at Google recognized this trouble and have turned the searching power of Google onto the massive collections of scholarly information available in private databases and lesser known sources on the web and created Google Scholar at

(<http://scholar.google.com>).

Scholar is a different type of search tool because it doesn't just focus on free content, instead it offers access to both subscription content as well as free content from a variety of scholarly sources.

While Scholar is very young and its content does not yet rival offerings from more established library database vendors, it appears that Google has turned its eye toward this market and will likely become a very significant competitor for traditional library database vendors in the near future.

Brad Stephens in Nola Notes, Nola Regional Library System (OH), December 2004

More Google

Google has recently announced that they will digitize and make searchable a lot of out-of-copyright books from a number of the world's major libraries.

This does not mean, of course, that libraries and librarians are in danger of becoming obsolete. Librarian's will continue their increasing role in steering people to the right resources, and making newer, copyrighted material available to users in print and on-line.

Users will continue to use libraries in addition to their home computers to access information and especially to borrow materials.

Researchers in many fields, of course, will make use of the digitized collections as they become available in the next few decades.

Meanwhile, Google has scored a PR and marketing triumph - but libraries are not endangered.

Training



Doreen Roberts (left), from Chinook Regional Library HQ trains Karen Dietrle, librarian at Burstall Branch, on the effective use of RSS and HIP in searching for and ordering interlibrary loan materials.

The recent introduction of new library software into the Chinook Regional Library and the spread of high speed internet service throughout the region has meant greater training activity by headquarters and Provincial Library Staff.

Myra Leyshon, Assistant Director, and Doreen Roberts, Interlibrary Loans Supervisor, have been travelling to branches in the region to

train librarians and staff in RSS and HIP. They have also trained the automated libraries in Horizon, a circulation software package.

Pat Palmer, Swift Current Branch has also been trained on the Cochrane library database on health and on "Choosing and Using Government Documents and Information on the Web"

NOTICE

Annual Board Meeting Saturday, April 16th, 2005

Place: Chinook Regional Library Headquarters
1240 Chaplin St. W., Swift Current

Time: 12:30 pm - Registration
1:00 pm - Meeting

Topics: 2004 Financial Statement
Election of Officers

**BE SURE YOUR COMMUNITY IS REPRESENTED
ON APRIL 16TH, 2005**