



Director's Report – submitted by Cathy Ching

My April calendar looked so full and exciting when I turned to it but then when we started cancelling the many exciting events we had planned, it looked like a entire month of 'x's. So much for best laid plans...

I spent 2 weeks working from home due to some health concerns but it was nothing to worry about. The amount of time spent back and forth with the MB Libraries Group trying to sort out what programs libraries could apply for, what each library was doing about staff, projects, safety, etc. was extremely time-consuming. Trying to keep my staff well-informed and up-to-date was never-ending. Not knowing if we were going to be able to open or provide any sort of service to our patrons and it was a question I was asked daily. It has felt like constant overload trying to keep things sorted out while planning for an eventual re-opening. It was a relief not to have the book sale this spring and I am looking forward to holding it in the fall. Perhaps we will find it is a much more beneficial time to host the sale.

My staff are my biggest concern and I feel like I have not been able to properly communicate with some of them. It seems there are mixed messages and some hard feelings about some of them applying for the CERB program. Stomping out fires seems to be one of my duties I have added to my job description these days. I am sure we will come through this pandemic intact but I know we will look like a different library system in the future. It will be the new reality.

Cataloguing Assistant Report – Office – submitted by Joanna Dueck

April was a quiet month due to being closed to the public and having limited staff but I was still busy cataloguing. Just when I thought I might run out of materials to catalogue we received several large shipments of new books that had been delayed due to temporary closures in Ontario. There will be a wide variety of new books, DVDs, and audiobooks ready for patrons when we reopen.

I also used this time to fix some classification issues in Winkler's collection (changing incorrect call #'s, adding rating stickers to DVDs, moving junior graphic novels together, etc.).

Altona Branch Librarian Report – submitted by Rachael Friesen

For April we continue to provide online services and help over the phone or email, while also working on projects in branch.

We have gotten our water fountain installed, it just needs the electrical to be done then it is ready! We also painted one wall that needed to be painted.

We have been catching up on work that was very behind and checking in the various items that are being returned, plus shelving. At the end of the month we finally were able to start weeding.

I have been working on whitehots, organizing the office, answering emails, answering phones, coordinating workmen and staff to have the least amount of people in the building at a time as possible, and also working on various office duties.

For May we hope to do contactless holds pickups and we still have a large amount of weeding to do and cleaning to do, plus we have many repairs and new books that need to be processed.



Manitou Branch Supervisor's Report – submitted by Angela Lovell

Throughout April, staff have continued cleaning and sanitizing books, DVD's and Audio Books prioritizing the children's section, and cleaning surfaces and shelving, as well as completing the reorganization of the basement and program supplies inventory.

We continued to respond to patron questions and updated social media on a regular basis with any updates and promoted our online self-registration and other online and database services.

The library supervisor has also attended webinars and watched online discussions from other library systems about re-opening plans, how to do virtual programming and experiences with implementing self-service options for patrons. She also attended the SITKA webinar about the upgrade coming later in May and new features that will be available and other staff will also watch the recording.

We did a trial live stream of a virtual Story Hour via Facebook attended by other branch staff, to test the process and received valuable feedback that should help us all develop virtual programs in the future as we move towards the Summer Reading program.

We also received notification that our application for a student though Young Canada Works has been approved, so planning for the summer is well underway in consultation with our Director, branch librarian and program coordinator.

Miami Branch Supervisor Report – submitted by Cherie Debreuil

Staff at the Miami Branch have reduced their hours or have decided not to come into the library at all until further notice. As their shifts were very part-time, it has not affected the library much with no patrons coming in. Volunteer time has been eliminated for now so only paid staff can be in the building. Due to concerns with a shared space there has been very limited access to the R.M. building as safety is of utmost concern.

Morden Branch Librarian Report – submitted by Kim Van Vliet

April has been quiet to say the least, the painting has been mostly completed and we were able to put things back in place and find new places for others

Dorothy has continued to post to our social media platforms everyday with information, activities and useful links, she has also kept our windows active with information and inspirational decorations

We have had close to 30 people sign up for library cards using our online registration platform

We have put out our outdoor furniture suitably distanced so people can more comfortably make use of our Wifi connection

We have 3 staff who have been laid off due to family concerns and lack of hours

We continue to monitor and respond to phone calls and emails, collect the mail, empty the book return, clean and sanitize books and work on weeding and shelf reading

We are considering what protocols and safety measures can be put in place to enable us to open on a limited basis to the public



Winkler Branch Librarian Report – submitted by Randall Klassen

For the first half of April we had the majority of staff still coming in to work. We had lots of processing of new materials to handle but the main focus for the branch was cleaning, shifting shelves, shelf reading and weeding. The weeding and shelf reading is an extensive task that requires a lot of attention to detail, especially in our children's area. While we were doing this we were also still accepting returns so we had a lot of items still being brought back to the library and with the cleaning of all the items this could eat up a lot of time so we were lucky to still have an almost full staff in.

About halfway through the month we were informed that staff were being encouraged to take a temporary lay-off if they felt the need for it. All staff with the exception of one clerk decided to take the lay-off and while we had one clerk here she was on vacation which left just me in the library for a few weeks. I spent a large amount of my time here fielding questions from patrons, checking in returns and shelving. It was a tough time since every time I was able to shelve books, we had more come in, it was never ending and it was a struggle to just keep from falling behind here but with the help of Cathy we managed to not fall too far behind.
