



Director's Report – submitted by Cathy Ching

May was a whole new era for our libraries as we were given the unexpected okay from the Province to re-open. As we were caught off-guard, it has taken some time & effort to get our branches ready to welcome our patrons back although in much smaller numbers. Thanks to Marvin Plett for his quality work in installing our plexiglass shields at our circulation desks and welcome desks. They are well-designed and fitted according to staff preferences and needs. Also, while traveling to the branches, Marvin gave them advice about their physical spacing and I know the branch staff appreciated his input.

I have been trying to co-ordinate re-opening plans to ensure we are all complying with public health guidelines. Having our contactless holds pick-up service started before we opened in June took the pressure off for the patrons anxious to get into the library to pick up books. We will continue this service for those who don't feel comfortable coming into our buildings. I am looking forward to seeing patrons in our libraries again and I know, as we move forward safely, staff will be happy to see their regulars again.

Also, thanks to the media team from RRC, who spent 3 weeks working on promotional ideas & videos for SCRL. We have some new tools to use when we are planning to promote events in the future.

Cataloguing Assistant Report – Office – submitted by Joanna Dueck

Cataloguing continued as usual in May as deliveries resumed and we started ordering new items again. Holds were unsuspected to allow for contactless pickups as some of our branches so each week I had a long list of books with holds to catalogue.

I ordered junior fiction and beginner reader books for summer reading prizes.

Our library branches will be reopening in June so I expect an increase in the demand for new books. We will also be submitting our spring Whitehots orders next month.

Programs Clerk Report – submitted by Jess Martens

In May we had 9 Marketing students doing a three week practicum at the library. They were here from May 4th to May 22nd and worked on various projects. Due to the current situation and the fact that several of the students were not local, the students worked from home and we met via Zoom. The students were divided into three teams and each team then worked on different projects. The teams worked on creating posters, social media posts, videos and contacting local businesses to see if we could put up posters. The students primarily worked on promoting Summer Reading Club and the library book sale in fall; however the video team also created a few additional videos promoting the libraries. Overall, the practicum went fairly well and it was an interesting experience. In addition to working with the Marketing students I also continued to work on Summer Reading Club and adapting our previous program to something that patrons can do from home.

In June my focus will be primarily on Summer Reading Club. We have purchased READSquared, a program that should let us run the club virtually, so I will be working on creating a basic set of procedures to help train our summer reading club coordinators and volunteers. Since not all of our patrons have internet access, I will also be working on a physical version of the program so that everyone can join. Part of Summer Reading Club this year will also be creating virtual workshops, story times and other programs, so I will be working with the Coordinators to create those programs throughout the summer. This Summer Reading Club will be quite different to what we have done in previous years so I'm sure it will be an interesting experience.



Altona Branch Librarian Report – submitted by Rachael Friesen

For May we continue to provide online services and help over the phone or email, while also working on projects in branch. We also have started contactless holds pickups and patrons are really enjoying being able to get books.

Our water fountain is fully installed and ready to go, hopefully restrictions will ease at some point so we can make use of it.

We have been very busy during the month of May trying to finish up all our projects and get the branch ready to open. A lot of extra work has gone into making sure everything is ready to go. For June we will be opening our doors! We are very excited to see our patrons and feel like we have a very solid plan in place for re-opening.

Manitou Branch Supervisor's Report – submitted by Angela Lovell

With the news coming in early May that libraries could re-open as of June 1, staff have been busy preparing the library space to accommodate physical distancing and developing a plan for continued health and safety protocols and procedures.

Staff had a zoom meeting on May 5 to discuss phase one of the re-opening plan, and Manitou branch also began contactless holds pick up service on May 20 and resumed accepting returns, which are being quarantined for three days before checking in. Patron feedback about this service has been very positive. Updating our patrons via social media, newspaper write-ups, posters and email on our progress towards phase one and two re-opening has been an almost daily task, as well as answering their questions.

Xander, our summer reading programmer, joined us on May 19, and is working on preparing a plan for the summer reading program for Manitou. He is recording videos and other resources to be shared with the other branches.

Staff began to return to close to normal hours over the last two weeks of May to assist with preparations for opening to patrons, which will begin in Manitou on June 9.

Miami Branch Supervisor Report – submitted by Cherie Debreuil

Miami is losing two staff members and one volunteer. Barb and Joan have decided to retire and will not be coming back when we re-open. We will miss them; they have been a part of the library family since the beginning. Gloria has also decided to not return upon re-opening, she has been a huge asset, volunteering many hours, covering books, shelving, and doing the mail. She will be missed.

Miami branch has hired Tayah as our summer reading assistant; her first official day will be June 9. We very much enjoyed working with her the last time she was hired! We are currently looking for a second assistant to fill another position for the summer. We both attended a branch meeting to discuss summer reading and upcoming openings at the end of May.

Marvin came to Miami and installed plexi at our checkout stations and on the summer reading assistant's desk. The RM of Thompson has created a new back entrance and sidewalk for us to use until we are back to normal, it looks great!

Miami will start contactless holds pickups on June 2, and limited hours and access to the branch on June 9.



Morden Branch Librarian Report – submitted by Kim Van Vliet

We participated in “Quilts By The Yard” put on by the Barnswallow Quilters instead of their annual quilt show. We hung various quilts in our windows that have been donated to the library over the years by a number of community members.

Next we filled our windows with new books and invited people to put holds on them and pick up their books in our doorway. This was very successful and kept us busy.

We are now ready to open with limited hours next week, and we will still provide holds pick up for those who would rather not come in. We are looking forward to being open again and hope to gradually expand our hours and services.

Thank you to the board for supporting these efforts and to Marvin for the excellent shields.

Most of the Morden staff is back at work with the exception of Bonnah who is looking after vulnerable relatives. Dorothy has kept a steady stream of informative and entertaining social media posts and is developing a solid following.

Winkler Branch Librarian Report – submitted by Randall Klassen

This month we really started focusing on what our Summer Reading Club was going to look like. One of the things that happened here that was really beneficial was having a group from RRC come by to shoot some videos and work on some promotional materials for the library. This was a good opportunity to promote SCRL, Summer Reading Club and our book sale that will be happening this year in association with the Morden Fire Department.

Staff started returning to Winkler branch in May so that we could start phase 1 of re-opening and start preparing for phase 2. During phase one we were making holds available, as well as finishing up our organizing and cleaning of the library. We didn't know when phase 2 would actually start so we were busy trying to get things to the point where once it was announced that phase 2 would be starting we would already be prepared and not have to prolong phase 1 for longer than it needed to be. On May 22 we got the go ahead from the board that we would be okay to open our doors again at the start of June. We had lots of guidelines and measures that we needed to implement as well as figuring out a schedule of when we would be open, and what days we would have designated strictly for hold pickups.

It has been a busy month but we are excited to be entering phase 2 so that we can open our doors again to the public. We have been getting lots of phone calls with questions asking about when the library would be open again for browsing and it's nice to be able to let people know when we will be able to serve them again.
