



Director's Report – submitted by Cathy Ching

Summer reading is running smoothly with excellent students in all of our branches. Comments from branch staff indicate how simple everything is with ReadSquared and we plan to continue using this program in the foreseeable future.

Kim and I met with representatives from the City of Morden, Hive Development & the Community Development Office to review the state of the Morden Library building and the adjacent city-owned building next door. A presentation will be made to the City of Morden Council in the fall.

I met with the Book Sale committee over lunch and we discussed the upcoming fall book sale and all the changes that will need to happen in order for it to run safely. The success will depend on volunteers and people adhering to our guidelines for physical distancing and sanitizing procedures. The dates will be October 28-31st.

It is with much concern that one of our staff will be on extended leave due to serious medical issues. We all hope for the best in her situation.

Cataloguing Assistant Report – Office – submitted by Joanna Dueck

Most of this month was spent receiving and cataloguing items that were ordered in June. Many shipments of new books from the spring/summer order arrived as well as a large quantity of audiobooks and playaways. Nearly all of the DVDs that I ordered last month have also arrived and been catalogued.

We also have 8 new tablets that will soon be available for Morden seniors wanting to borrow ebooks and digital audiobooks. They should be catalogued and ready to use in August.

Programs Clerk Report – submitted by Jess Martens

During the month of July, I continued working on the Summer Reading Club. This included answering questions from students, staff and patrons as we all became accustomed to using ReadSquared. Much of my time was also spent posting videos on the SCRL YouTube channel and setting up the videos and events on the SCRL and ReadSquared events calendars. I also spent some time filming videos in other branches, especially the branches that only had one Summer Reading student. Fortunately, we have so far been able to film 5 or 6 videos in one day, so we have been able to work several weeks ahead. We were also sent several story time videos from Peanut Butter Press This made doing story time videos easier because we then don't have to worry about copyright permissions from other publishers, or finding books in the public domain. Overall, Summer Reading Club this year has been very busy, but it has been going well.

In August I will be doing much of the same work for Summer Reading Club since the program goes till August 22nd. In addition to this I will also be working on getting some proper photos and film footage of each library which we can use in promotional materials. If the City of Winkler is once again creating an Activity Guide for Fall/Winter, I will also be spending sometime compiling materials for that. If I have some time after Summer Reading club is over, there will also be some time spent preparing materials for Library Month in October and the Book Sale promotion.



Altona Branch Librarian Report – submitted by Rachael Friesen

In July we have been very busy with patrons and we are happy to be able to have them come in and get reading materials.

Summer reading has been going strong, we currently have 93 children enrolled in the READsquared app for Altona that have read over 1200 hours and our programmers have been putting out a lot of online content to engage with the kids! They ran a story time outside the building but unfortunately most of the kids that signed up did not attend so they are now focusing on reaching out remotely to the children.

For August we plan on focusing on retraining our casual pages so they are prepared come September, having fun at the All Staff Party and staff holidays.

Manitou Branch Supervisor's Report – submitted by Angela Lovell

Usage at the Manitou Branch has steadily increased throughout July as more people are aware that we are open and adjusting to our new temporary hours. We have not had any requests for curbside pick-up this month, but continue to offer it as an option.

We have removed signage about person limits in the library (which had been 6 patrons, allowing for 4 staff in addition for maximum inside capacity of 10) and monitor numbers in the building, but rarely do we exceed the maximum except for large family groups.

We have 27 registered for the Summer Reading Program via ReadSquared and as of the end of July, participants have read a total of 16,630 minutes.

We offered two pre-registration outdoor programs in the Reading Garden in July but had only one person attend the first one. We held two outdoor programs specifically for the Community Daycare with COVID restrictions in place, and each child receiving individually bagged supplies which were sanitized and pre-quarantined. These were well attended and successful.

Teacher Laurie, with Summer Program Coordinator, Xander held four young adult book club sessions during July on Wednesday and Thursday evenings in the garden. Six kids participated and read the new e-book by Eric Walters – Don't Stand So Close to Me, which is about the current COVID-19 pandemic. It generated a lot of discussion and everyone enjoyed it a lot. Laurie shared with me that she had contacted Eric Walters who wrote back to say he is pleased that they chose to read his book for this club.

Our regular book club also met on July 18.

The Reading Garden is nearing completion of its next phase. The fence and pergola are built (we are just awaiting the kits for the large gates which are on back-order). Our student artist, Hailey has completed four of six the large murals for the garden, which are incredible, and they will be put in place shortly.



Miami Branch Supervisor Report – submitted by Cherie Debreuil

Miami Branch adjusted our hours last month and patrons seem to like the new hours more, we have been busier.

Summer Reading Club is going well so far with 56 members signed up so far. Participation has been pretty good, but definitely not as popular as normal. Miami Branch has started offering Summer Reading Club craft sessions in branch. We have tried to schedule most of them outside and have been maintaining social distancing rules. Signups are slower than most years with only 10 members signing up for the 6 sessions we have offered. We are hoping things pick up a bit as patrons get used to activities in public spaces again. Miami currently has 576 hours cashed in on the Readsquared app.

We have changed our quarantine procedures. We are now checking in items as they get returned and then sending them for quarantine. This should help with confusion for patrons (often they would get letters or temporary fees showing up in their account if the item went overdue in quarantine waiting to be checked in) Cathy was able to get the program adjusted for holds notifications to patrons and we are hoping this will help clear up some confusion.

I was interviewed by Becca for the Carman-Dufferin Standard on July 31 about our Summer Reading Club this year. I was nervous but she was very friendly and I felt the interview went well. I am not sure when the article will be published.

Morden Branch Librarian Report – submitted by Kim Van Vliet – No Report

Winkler Branch Librarian Report – submitted by Randall Klassen

By the end of July Winkler library has reached 305 participants for Summer Reading Club. With the programming being done online this year it has made for an interesting season but the community has still been excited to participate and be a part of our Summer Reading Club. It has made things a lot easier for staff this year using ReadSquared to keep track of everything and I think it's something we should definitely continue with next year.

Besides from Summer Reading Club happening the library has definitely seen a spike in use since we started our new hours in July. In July we had over 4000 visitors to the library, it's been busy but it has been really nice seeing all the kids and people from the community coming out and visiting us again. We are still not certain on how long the Covid-19 measures will last but it's nice to be open for 4 days a week at least. I have heard from many patrons about how happy they are that the library is returning to a somewhat normal state again.
