



### **Director's Report – submitted by Cathy Ching**

October was a wild month with interviews for the book sale and a photo op with Minister Cameron Friesen regarding the Rural Library Technology Sustainability Grant. I also met with two City of Morden staff members and a local developer regarding a future option for a new Morden Library site.

Preparing for the book sale was as chaotic as ever with many things only needing to be done during the week prior to the sale. The constant threat of a Covid crisis was always on our minds as we got the Morden Fire Department ready to move 38 pallets of books. Confirming numbers allowed in the Event Centre and planning for a safe sale took a great amount of time & energy. Once the sale started, the volunteers were amazing in keeping people following the rules. We had a few glitches at the start but once we reorganized a bit we were good to go. People were very appreciative about being able to buy books for the long winter ahead. Despite Covid, I feel the sale was very successful and we raised \$12,135.00 over the week. With cost & revenue sharing with the Morden Fire Department we won't have to pay all of the expenses but we will have to share some of the revenue. Either way, it was a win-win for everyone.

Thanks to everyone who helped throughout the sale. Some staff from all Branches were able to experience the it for the first time & it was great to have trained library people to help. Thanks to the Board members who were able to assist as well. We couldn't have done it without all of you.

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### **Cataloguing Technician Report – Office – submitted by Joanna Dueck**

In October we received over 35 boxes of new books from our fall order! I was very busy with unpacking, receiving, and cataloguing the incoming books so I didn't get much time to work on story kits.

I submitted the fall junior fiction standing order, which was the last of our fall Whitehots orders.

On Oct.22 I attended the "Cooperatively Cataloguing in a Consortium" webinar that Sitka hosted. Since our catalogue is a shared database with nearly 100 libraries across Canada, it's crucial that everyone follows the same cataloguing rules as any changes I make to a record affect all the other libraries using that record. I was able to learn some new info from the webinar and also confirm what I've been doing correctly.

We finished off the month with our annual book sale! I helped out on the Thursday and Friday morning of the sale and I thought it went well. The setup allowed everyone to browse safely and maintain a safe distance.

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### **Programmer Report – submitted by Tetiana Miminoshvili**

October was interesting, sometimes very busy, active, and full of events. I enjoyed working with patrons, providing help in book search, and explaining all procedures of becoming our Library members, informing patrons about upcoming Book Sale dates. I organized on my Instagram page a column where I am inviting all Russian, Ukrainian families to join us and tell them all the benefits of visiting a library. I hope the statistics of patron visits will change for the better (taking into account all COVID-19 precautions).

According to my programming assignments, I created some posts for ReadSquared, and I made a new brochure for our Winkler library. I translated the brochure into Russian, French, Ukrainian, and German languages. It took some time and effort and, as a result, a successful translation was complete. Taking into consideration the most popular and frequent questions patrons asked me and my colleagues, I included this information in a new brochure. I keep working with the rest of the brochures to alter, change, and add up-to-date data. I am planning to create a poster for The Power of Pj's event, as well.

Moreover, I met with Rachael to work together under ReadSquared Bingo results, counting patrons and library staff points and sending notifications to readers about prizes they won. I need to admit that I am impressed with reading activity and have to say, the information that Canada's literacy level is 90 % - certainly true.



### **Programmer Report – submitted by Tetiana Miminoshvili - Continued**

Regrettably, the recent statistics with COVID-19 cases seem morose and gloomy, but we have to be tolerant and follow all the restrictions and guidance. We must stay alert, not panic!

To sum up my report, I want to wish everyone to take care of themselves, stay healthy, and enjoy reading!

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### **Altona Branch Administrator’s Report – submitted by Rachael Friesen**

For October we really pushed patrons to join READSquared and participate in October is Library month. I wish we could have pushed this a bit more, we had low numbers but the patrons that did participate had a great time and logged many books!

Book sale dominated most of October; we were very busy in branch with donations coming in daily. The entire Altona branch took a Wednesday shift for book sale, it was nice to be able to do it as a branch together, it was great and very busy for our shift.

I spent some of October working with Tetiana in Winkler to teach her how to use READSquared, and set stuff up inside the app. We hope to have a “Winter Fun” program for patrons in December and we set the start of that up already. For November we will be putting up a Remembrance display.

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### **Manitou Branch Administrator’s Report – submitted by Angela Lovell**

During October we were busy with Library Month promotions including a ‘what are you thankful for’ tree and guess the number of candies in the jar draw. We also promoted the October Library Month ReadSquared program, but it appears that Manitou patrons (apart from a book club member and another patron) did not sign up online and we will have to increase our efforts to sign people up in-branch in the future.

Manitou also took on Miami in the Battle of the Branches, to see who could get the most items checked out in October. Miami was victorious – congratulations – we will get you next year!

A homeschoolers information evening was hosted on October 20 with 8 attending. Some of our area’s experienced homeschoolers were happy to share tips and information with parents who are homeschooling for the first time. It was very informative and this group has now made connections with each other. It was also helpful for the library to learn how we can support them with resources, and we have set up an email homeschool group and participants want us to continue sending them news about homeschool resources via this group in the future.

Six members attended the book club on October 22.

We also started to prepare for this year’s virtual, online NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) which we will participate in again this year throughout November.

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### **Miami Branch Administrator’s Report – submitted by Cherie Debreuil**

Miami Branch won the Battle of the Branches: Checkout Challenge with 1094 checkouts to Manitou’s 734. Fantastic numbers for both branches! Miami had a few young patrons that got quite competitive and took out a few more books than normal. They also asked for stat updates every time they visited the library! It was great to see young people so invested!

I gave an interview to Becca Myskiw of the Carman-Dufferin Standard about last month’s donation from MWM environmental. The article was published in October 15 issue (page 10)

[http://www.carmanstandard.ca/split\\_document.aspx?doc=Carman-DufferinStandard101520.pdf](http://www.carmanstandard.ca/split_document.aspx?doc=Carman-DufferinStandard101520.pdf)



### **Miami Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Cherie Debreuil - Continued**

Miami Branch was closed Friday October 30 so we could help at the booksale. We had 9 boxes of books pre-ordered from our branch and I was able to pick the items for my patrons. Patrons were very happy we provided this service and are wondering if it will always be available.

Alyssa has done an excellent job for her first month as our Library Page. With Covid and no volunteers she has a huge amount of shelving to do when she gets here.

Manitoba moving to Code Orange Pandemic Response hasn't brought many changes to Miami Branch. Masks have been required for some time and patron compliance has been excellent. I have not noticed a dip in the gate count or checkout stats.

I will be working on our annual Remembrance Display for the beginning of November. I have decided to shrink it slightly this year and only put out the display items that can go on the walls. I have plans to do daily facebook posts featuring portions of the display (I have digital copies of almost everything). I will also be inviting people to send digital copies of anyone they would like to honour on the wall this year.

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### **Morden Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Linda Funk**

After my first month as branch admin, I'm starting to feel a little more at home in Morden Branch. The staff has been very good with helping me to get oriented.

The Library Month activities had a mixed reception: there was quite a bit of participation in the Thanksgiving Leaves and the Guess The Candy items, but not a lot of signups for Reading Bingo. It probably didn't help that we were promoting the booksale at the same time, so there was a lot going on. We also have a Carol Burnett display that we're running in connection with Flatland Theater's show on November 5-8, and the Remembrance Day displays are also out.

I'm working with the Tablets-2-Go for Seniors program, and once one or two more things are settled, we should be ready to go. We've had a few inquiries about the program, as well as a patron who wanted to know if we can set up something similar on her iPad.

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### **Winkler Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Jess Martens**

October has gone fairly well, our main focus during the month was training the five new staff members we hired. So far everything is going quite well and the new staff members are quickly picking up our procedures. October was Library Month and we had quite a few patrons participate in the activities we had out and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The SCRL Book Sale also took place at the end of the month and all the staff worked at least one shift at the sale. For some it was a new experience and I think that it was a great learning experience for everyone and will really help when it comes to book sale promotion next year. So far the increased hours that we began in September have been well received by our patrons and the open evenings are gradually getting busier.

In November there are a few changes. Manitoba has moved to Code Orange and as a result the library will now be requiring patrons to wear masks. We will also be limiting the number of people in the building and resuming contact tracing. Other than that it should be a fairly quiet month in regards to programming. One of the projects that I am hoping to work on this month is weeding and evaluating the status of our collection. This preparation should come in handy next year when purchasing books, and will allow me to have a better grasp of where we need to add to our collection.

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